

**September 13, 2026
10:00 AM**

**The Sixteenth Sunday
after Pentecost**

Morning Prayer



St. Stephen's in-the-Field Episcopal Church

7269 Santa Teresa Boulevard
San Jose, CA 95139
(408) 629-1836
www.ssitf.org

**We the people of Saint Stephen's in-the-Field
seek to know Christ, to share Christ, and to serve Christ,
recognizing his presence in all people,
and reaching out in love to each other and to the world around us.**

Opening Hymn

Opening Sentence

Officiant: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Confession

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
in thought word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
Have mercy on us and forgive us:
That we may delight in your will,
And walk in your ways,
To the glory of your Name. Amen**

Absolution

Officiant: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Opening Versicle (stand)

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Invitatory Psalm

Officiant: The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:

People: Come let us adore him.

Venite Psalm 95:1-7

Officiant and people

Come, let us sing to the Lord:*

Let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving*

And raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God,*

And a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth,*

And the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it,*

And his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,*

And kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.*

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Psalm:

Psalm 114

1 Hallelujah!

When Israel came out of Egypt, *

the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

2 Judah became God's sanctuary *

and Israel his dominion.

3 The sea beheld it and fled; *

Jordan turned and went back.

4 The mountains skipped like rams, *

and the little hills like young sheep.

5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *

O Jordan, that you turned back?

6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *

you little hills like young sheep?

7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

Officiant and people

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lessons (please be seated)

First Reading

Exodus 14:19-31

A reading from the Book of Exodus

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

All: The Word of the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 14:1-12

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

All: The Word of the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Gradual

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

The Apostles’ Creed *(please stand as you are able)*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,**

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Suffrages

Leader: Show us your mercy, O Lord;

People: And grant us your salvation.

Leader: Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

People: Let your people sing with joy.

Leader: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

People: For only in you can we live in safety.

Leader: Lord, keep this nation under your care;

People: And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Leader: Let your way be known upon earth;
People: **Your saving health among all nations.**
Leader: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
People: **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**
Leader: Create in us clean hearts, O God;
People: **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

Collect of the Day

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayers of the People (Form III)

Lector: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
People: **That we all may be one.**
Lector: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
People: **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**
Lector: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
People: **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**
Lector: *Calvary, Santa Cruz (9/14). For the Deanery meetings and all diocesan delegates as they begin this season of preparation for our Diocesan Convention. For our convention planning team.*
People: **That your presence may accompany them always.**
Lector: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
People: **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**
Lector: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
People: **That our works may find favor in your sight.**
Lector: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
People: **That they may be delivered from their distress.**
Lector: Give to the departed eternal rest;
People: **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**
Lector: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
People: **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Lector: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The People may add their own petitions:

Presider Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth:
Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do
your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

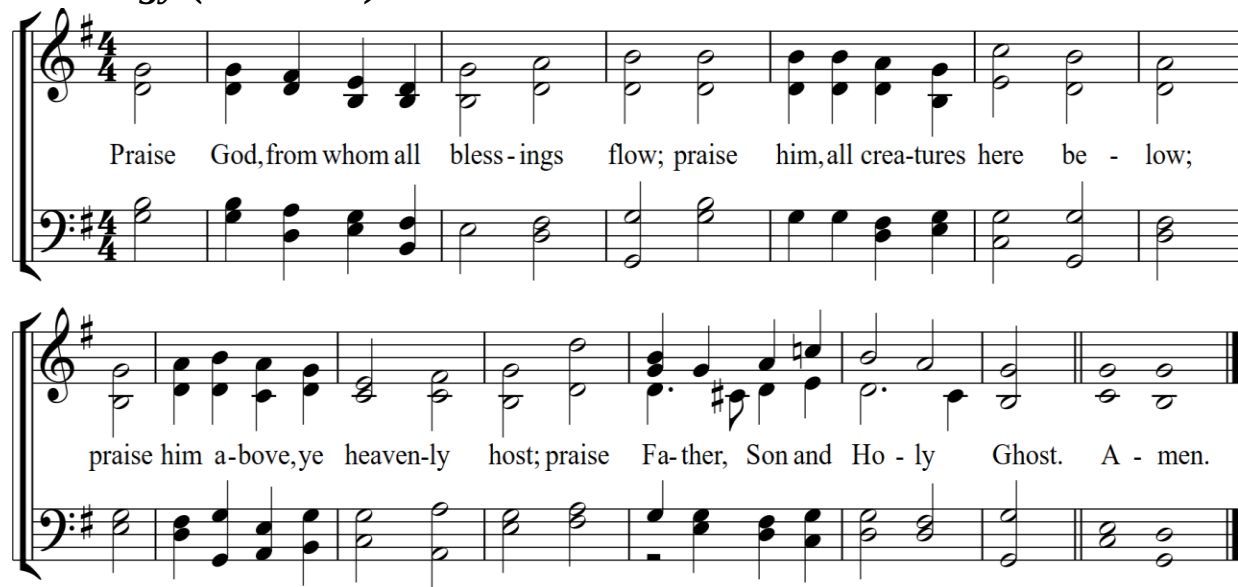
Officiant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Exchange peace.

Offertory:

Doxology (Old 100th):



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;
praise him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

The General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;

**for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

**Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make
our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-
beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you
will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as
may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in
the age to come life everlasting. Amen.**

Announcements (please be seated)

Prayers for Celebrations

**Loving Creator, You are the source of life and the source of love. We thank
you for all who celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and special events today.
Watch over them as their days increase, bless and guide them wherever they
may be. May your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of
their lives, and may your love for the world shine through them and the deep
relationships they cherish, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Please stand

Concluding Versicle and Response

***Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.**

***People* Thanks be to God.**

Concluding Sentence

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the
Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.**

Mission Song:

Mark Your Calendar

- Wednesday Book Group at St. John's, 10:00 am
- Sunday, September 20th – Holy Eucharist 10:00 am, Canon Katherine presiding
- Sunday September 27th – Morning Prayer 10:00 am, Susan Zaballos presiding
- Sunday, October 4th – Holy Eucharist 10:00, Fr. Ken presiding
- Sunday, October 11th – Morning Prayer 10:00 am, Janet Thorsrud presiding

Vestry Members

Janet Thorsrud, *Senior Warden* • Anthony Francis • Andy Lief, *Treasurer/Finance*