November 8, 2026
10:00 AM

The Twenty-fourth 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 78:1-7***

1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.
4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.
5 He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel, *
which he commanded them to teach their children;

6 That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn; *
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;
7 So that they might put their trust in God, *
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his commandments;

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 ***Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25***

A reading from the Book of Joshua.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins.

If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

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

Second Reading ***1 Thessalonians 4:13-18***

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

Please stand

Gospel Gradual

Gospel Reading *Matthew 25:1-13*

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and 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: For all who are discerning their call to ministry and our Commission on Ministry. For our postulants for holy orders. For all our diocesan Leadership Development programs.

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

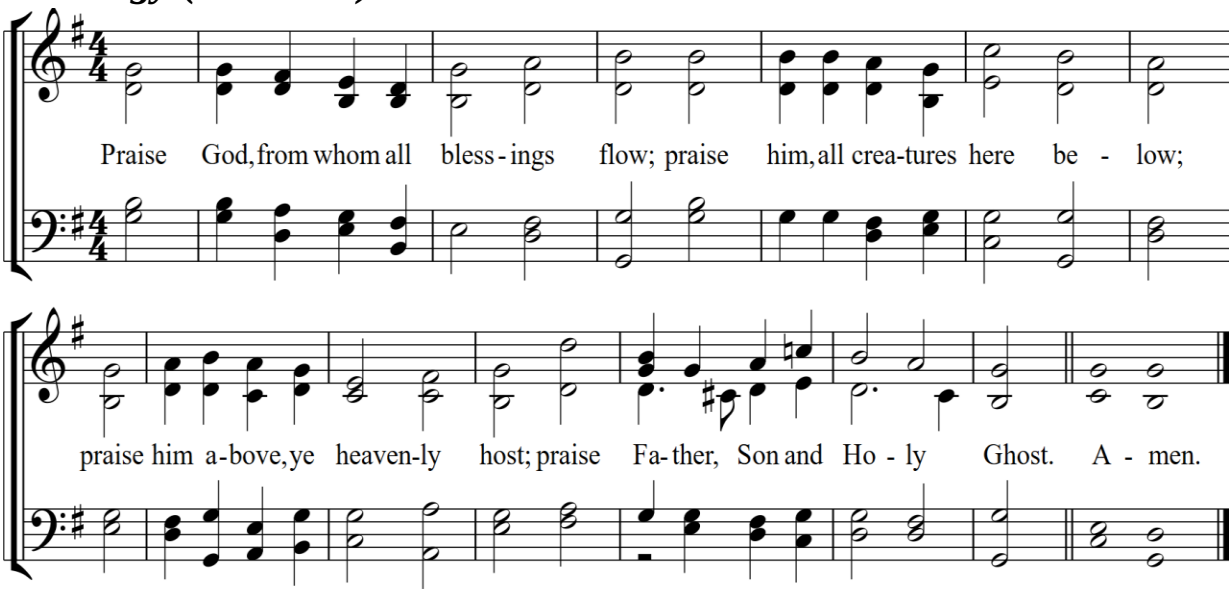
Officiant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Exchange peace.

Offertory:

Doxology (Old 100th):



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, November 15th – Holy Eucharist, 10 am, Rev. Peggy presiding
- Sunday, November 22nd – Morning Prayer, 10:00 am
- Sunday, November 29th – New Creation Church
- Sunday, December 6th – Final Service, ***4:00 pm***

Vestry Members

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