

# ST. STEPHEN'S

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## PROPER 27A November 8, 2020

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Welcome! We are excited to share in this service with you. You can see in our order of worship that you too can participate through presence and response.

To learn more about St. Stephen's, visit [ststephensth.org](http://ststephensth.org). For pastoral assistance, please call 812-232-5165.

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### The Word of God

Prelude

*Partita 1 on "Wake, awake, for night is flying"*

Johann Gottfried Walther (1684–1748)

*One* Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

*All* **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

### Glory to God

Hymn S280

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,**

**we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,**

**Lord God, Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,**

**you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,**

**in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

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### The Collect of the Day

*One* The Lord be with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

*One* Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*All* **Amen.**

## First Reading

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 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 God, \*  
and the wonderful works God has done.

5 God gave decrees to Jacob  
and established a law for Israel, \*  
which 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 the commandments.

Zimbabwe Alleluia  
Cantor

Andrew Miller,

*sing 3 times*



Al- le- lu- ia, Al- le-lu- ia. Al- le-lu- ia, Al- le- lu-ia.

## The Gospel *Standing*

Matthew 25:1-13

*One* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
*All* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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."

*One* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*All* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## The Response

The Rev. Drew Downs

## **The Nicene Creed**

*All* We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **Prayers of the People**

*Leader* Fixing our thoughts and desires on holy Wisdom,  
let us offer prayers to God for all the world.

*Leader* For Michael our presiding bishop, Jennifer our bishop,

Drew our priest, Deby our deacon, Joanna our postulant,  
for this holy gathering,  
and the people of God in every place,  
God of love,

*People*

**Hear our prayer.**

For the Church in the Province of the West Indies,  
the Dioceses of Brasilia, Haiti, and South Sudan,  
The Bishop and staff of the Diocese of Indianapolis,  
and for our 7th Street neighbors,  
God of love,

*People*

**Hear our prayer.**

For mercy, justice, and peace among all peoples,  
And for candidates for public office,  
God of love,

**Hear our prayer.**

For good weather, abundant fruits of the earth, and peaceful times,  
God of love,

**Hear our prayer.**

For our city and those who live in it,  
and for our families, companions, and all we love:

Remember Lucy Marie Bayles, born October 30,  
and parents Andrea and Jordan,  
and Sam Bryan, born November 2,  
and parents Emily and James,

those celebrating birthdays,

especially Geoffrey Wayton (11/09), Robin Willis (11/10),  
and Theresa Jackson (11/2),

those celebrating confirmation anniversaries,

especially Linda Airhart (11/10), Diann McKee (11/10),  
and Bill Hughes (11/13),

God of love,

**Hear our prayer.**

For all those in danger and need: the sick and the suffering,  
especially persons affected by Covid-19,  
prisoners, captives, and their families,  
the hungry, homeless, and oppressed.

God of love,

**Hear our prayer.**

For those who have asked our prayers:

Sheila Carl, Sally Newlin, Ray Snyder,  
Linda Hegedus, Robin Rolt, Megan (MEE-gun) Price,  
Richard Hillier, Jonnee Western, Terry Persinger,  
John Bonner, Lane Clark, Martha Hafner,  
Ellie Thomas, Joe Kuhn, Justin Mendoza,  
Aaron Campbell, Kay Griswold, Patrick Murphy,  
Martha Layton, Don Layton, and Jeff Vicars,

God of love,

**Hear our prayer.**

For those who rest in Christ and for all the dead,

God of love,

**Hear our prayer.**

Lifting our voices with all creation,  
with the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints,  
let us offer ourselves and one another  
to the living God through Christ.

**To you, O Lord.**

*Presider* God whose Son died and rose again, hear the prayers we offer this day and bring all your people to the wedding banquet of your Son in the kingdom of heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **Confession of Sin**

*One* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*All* **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.**

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

## **The Peace** *Standing*

*One* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

## **Hymn 68**

1. **Rejoice! rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear!**  
The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.  
The Bridegroom is arising, and soon he will draw nigh;  
up, watch in expectation! at midnight comes the cry.
2. **See that your lamps are burning, replenish them with oil;**  
look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil.  
The marriage-feast is waiting, the gates wide open stand;  
rise up, ye heirs of glory, the Bridegroom is at hand!
3. **Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;**  
arise, thou Sun so longed for, above this darkened sphere!  
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption, and ever be with thee!

Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660–1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823–1907), alt.  
Music: Llangloffan, melody from Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Eglwys yng Nghymru, 1865  
Words and Music are in the Public Domain

## Spiritual Communion

*One* Let us pray as one:

*All* **My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as I proclaim your resurrection.**

**I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come.**

**Amen.**

– From Washington National Cathedral; material adapted from Prayer of St. Alphonsus de Liguori (1696-1787) and *A Prayer Book for the Armed Services 2007*

## **Lord's Prayer**

*One* As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*All* **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Post-communion Prayer** *Said by all*

*One* Lord of the Feast,  
*All* **we thank you for gathering us as your people. We call to remembrance the many times we have been fed at your table and we lament our distance now. Be present Lord Jesus as you were present with your disciples, be known to us in the breaking of the bread, and may your Holy Spirit sustain us and all your Church until we can gather together again. We ask this for the sake of your love. Amen.**

**Blessing** *The Celebrant blesses the people*

God's Blessing be with you,  
Christ's peace be with you,  
the Spirit's outpouring be with you,  
now and always. Amen.

(source: Celtic)

**Dismissal**

*One* Alleluia, Alleluia, Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!  
*All* **Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Postlude *Partita 2 on "Wake, awake, for night is flying"*

Johann Gottfried Walther (1684–1748)



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Worship Online: Sunday 10 am | Thursday 12 Noon