

# ST. STEPHEN'S

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## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 17, 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

*One*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*All*

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

#### Pascha nostrum



Christ our Passover has been sacri-ficed for us; \*  
therefore let us keep the feast,  
Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, \*  
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

*Alleluia!*

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; \*  
death no longer has do-min-ion over him.  
The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; \*  
but the life he lives, he lives to God.  
So also consider yourselves dead to sin, \*  
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Alleluia!*

Christ has been raised from the dead, \*  
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.  
For since by a man came death, \*  
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.  
For as in Adam all die, \*  
so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

*Alleluia. Two Times.*

## **The Collect of the Day**

*One* The Lord be with you.

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

*One* Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*All* **Amen.**

## **First Reading**

Acts 17:22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we too are his offspring.'

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm** *Said Together*

66:7-8,14-18

- 7 Bless our God, you peoples; \*  
make the voice of his praise to be heard;  
8 Who holds our souls in life, \*  
and will not allow our feet to slip.  
14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, \*  
and I will tell you what he has done for me.  
15 I called out to him with my mouth, \*  
and his praise was on my tongue.  
16 If I had found evil in my heart, \*  
the Lord would not have heard me;  
17 But in truth God has heard me; \*  
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.  
18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, \*  
nor withheld his love from me.

**The Gospel** *Standing*

John 14:15-21

*One* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*All* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

*One* The Gospel of the Lord.

*All* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Response**

The Rev. Drew Downs

**Prayers of the People during Global Pandemic**

Created and offered at Washington National Cathedral on March 15, 2020

Concluding Collect from Gloucester Cathedral

O God, our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble; in this challenging and uncertain time of global pandemic and public health crisis, we come before you offering our prayers on behalf of those in need, the Church and the world.

For the Church, that it may not grow weary of proclaiming the gospel of Christ and serve as beacon of hope to a suffering world. We pray for Michael, the Presiding Bishop, \_\_\_ our Bishop(s), and all who minister in your name. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For all affected by coronavirus around the world. For the leaders of the nations that they may work together for the common good as the outbreak spreads. May barriers that divide be brought down that bonds of trust may be strengthened to benefit the entire human family. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Grant public health and government officials in our nation the strength and will to act swiftly and decisively, with wisdom and compassion in service to all. We pray especially for Donald, President of the United States, the Congress, Governors, and elected officials in local municipalities. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they have access to medical care and regain their strength and health; grant them your healing grace. Give strength to all who are caring for loved ones. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For healthcare workers who, with hearts of service, stand on the front lines of providing care. Grant them courage and protection as they put the needs of public safety before their own. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless scientists and researchers around the world as they combat the virus, that their work may yield knowledge to develop a vaccine, treatments, and improved measures to reduce its spread. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For the safety and well-being of all who travel and those who remain quarantined. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Remove the presence of fear and anxiety from our hearts, that confident in your providence we may be generous in sharing our resources. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Grant that our churches and communities of faith may reflect your love, as they minister to the most vulnerable among us; fill them with your Holy Spirit as they work to be your healing hands and feet to all in need. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For those who have already lost loved ones to the virus and those who will yet suffer such loss, that they may know the consolation of your love. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal. We pray especially for \_\_\_\_\_. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer**—Pray for all members of the Anglican Communion around the world; For the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby, and all primates and bishops; For members of the Anglican Consultative Council; For the Secretary General, The Most Revd Dr Josiah Idowu-Fearon; For the staff at the Anglican Communion Office in London and the UN offices in Geneva and New York

**Diocese**—St. John’s, Washington, The Rev. Dennis Latta; Dioceses of Brasilia, Haiti, and South Sudan

**Our parish neighbors**—Centenary United Methodist Church, Central Presbyterian Church, United Campus Ministries, Second Christian Church

**Birthday**—Nicholas Fagg

**Baptismal Anniversaries**—Ann Murphy, Gene England, Elizabeth Buchanan

**Confirmation Anniversaries**—Leah Myers, Sally Newlin, Leona Taylen, Barbara Vogel, Margaret Bruning, Barbara Burns, Patricia Armstrong, Jordan Bayles, Gene England, John Hegedus, Kathryn Hillier, Pamela Reed, Peter Reed, Deby Veach, Geoff Wayton, Bill Streeter

**Marriage Anniversaries**—Diann & Craig McKee, Rose & Drew Downs, Joanna Benskin & Brian Koczan

**Postulant**—Joanna Benskin

**Those who have asked our prayers**—Sheila Carl, Sally Newlin, Ray Snyder, Linda Hegedus, Robin Rolt, Megan Price, Richard Hillier, Jonnee Western, Terry Persinger, John Bonner, Lane Clark, Martha Hafner, Ellie Thomas, Mike Hayden, Jason Paradowski, Ashley Richey, Joe Kuhn, Justin Mendoza

**Concluding Collect**

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Amen.**

**The Peace** *Standing*

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

All

**And also with you.**

## Hymn

179

- 2      Maker and Redeemer, life and health of all,  
thou, from heav'n beholding human nature's fall,  
of the Father's Godhead true and only Son,  
manhood to deliver, manhood didst put on.  
        "Welcome, happy morning!" age to age shall say.
- 3      Thou, of life the author, death didst undergo,  
tread the path of darkness, saving strength to show;  
come then, True and Faithful, now fulfil thy word,  
'tis thine own third morning; rise, O buried Lord.  
        "Welcome, happy morning!" age to age shall say.

## 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*

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

**Dismissal**

*One* Alleluia, Alleluia, Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!

*All* **Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!**



## St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

215 North Seventh Street  
Terre Haute, Indiana 47807-3103

812-232-5165

[www.ststephensth.org](http://www.ststephensth.org)

Worship times: Sunday at 8 & 10 am | Thursday at 12 Noon