

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1805 West Alabama Street | Houston, Texas



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST THE HOLY EUCHARIST

October 1, 2023 | 8:30 a.m.

This Liturgy is taken from *The Book of Common Prayer*.

WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH!

We are glad you are with us! St. Stephen's is an inclusive, nurturing, and healing community that seeks and invites all to practice the transformational and empowering work of Jesus Christ among us and in the world. We welcome everyone to join us for worship and life together—no exceptions!

NEW TO ST. STEPHEN'S?

Follow this QR code to our website and complete the online welcome card.



ALL ARE WELCOME TO WORSHIP WITH US!

During worship, all are invited to come forward for Holy Communion. If you would like to receive Communion but cannot come to the altar, please let an usher know so the sacrament can be brought to you.

In addition to bread, you may receive wine by intinction (dipping your wafer into the chalice) or drinking directly from the chalice. You may choose to receive the bread only. If you prefer a blessing, indicate by crossing your arms in front of you. After church, please join us for hospitality!

CHILDREN

Children are welcome in the church and all parts of worship. You are welcome to make use of the dedicated area with books, art, and seasonal activities in the front right of the nave. Nursery care is also available from 8:30 a.m. to noon. During the readings and sermon portion of the 10:30 a.m. service, we offer a Children's Chapel led by trusted and trained volunteers.

RESTROOMS

Restrooms are available adjacent to the Gathering Area. All are welcome to use the restroom consistent with their gender identity.

PARKING

Parking is available off West Alabama in the lot in front of the church. Additional lots are available on the other side of the block at Woodhead and on both sides of Sul Ross. If you have a St. Stephen's magnet, please display it.

COVID PROTOCOLS

St. Stephen's is focused on keeping everyone safe in church. People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.

FIRST SUNDAY MEET-UP TODAY AFTER THE 10:30 AM SERVICE



Join new and long-time St. Stephen's parishioners TODAY for a relaxed, after-church lunch at Jason's Deli. We meet right outside the Nave and head out to Jason's. Look for the sign with the 1st Sunday logo.

YOUTH DUNGEONS & DRAGONS WITH CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN THIS WEDNESDAY



We get that students need space to decompress and play and foster friendships in the midst of their week. The classic role playing game that has seen a huge comeback in popularity gives us a chance to relax, be creative and try on different parts of our identity. Friends are totally welcome. Wednesday, October 4, 6:30 pm, Havens.

DRUM CIRCLE RETURNS!



At 11:45am on Sundays in the Gathering Area, all are invited to join in HAND DRUMMING in traditional African and Caribbean styles! No prior experience is necessary. If you have a drum, please bring it. If you do not, we will provide one for you. Drumming is both fun and soulful. Please join us!

OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL) BEGINS THIS WEEK

Youth Group Program: Beginning tonight (October 1), our Youth Group will gather over dinner on rotating Sundays and move through the OWL curriculum along with youth from Palmer Episcopal Church. OWL provides accurate, developmentally appropriate information about a range of topics, including relationships, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, sexual health, and cultural influences on sexuality. Our kick off is tonight from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's, featuring a parent orientation and ice cream social for the youth.

Parent Education Program:



Beginning this Wednesday (October 4), in collaboration with Palmer Episcopal Church, we are offering a 10-session OWL program for parents on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. at Palmer or online. We will explore many of the topics from the youth program and how these areas intersect with spirituality and faith. Childcare or reimbursement for childcare will be offered to in-person participants. You can even come early and join in the on-site potluck at 5:30 p.m. each week. The focus on the material will be 4th-6th grade students, but the sessions are open to parents and caregivers with children of any age. Facilitators include Christina Lovely, Rev. Ryan Hawthorne, and Rev. Ashley Dellagiacoma. Please scan QR code to let us know you are interested. Dates: 10/4, 10/11, 10/18, 10/25, 11/1, 11/8, 11/15, 11/29, 12/6, 12/13

TEXT TO GIVE

Text the word **CURIOUS** to the phone number **73256**. Then follow the prompts.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



OCTOBER 8, 2023, 2 PM
MANDELL PARK
4399 MANDELL STREET

BRING YOUR PETS
OR THEIR PHOTO

THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE

Andante from Concerto Op.4 No.5 in F major, HWV 293 George Frideric Handel

OPENING ACCLAMATION *All stand.*

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA

Robert Powell



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you

take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy

on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -

ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,

you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most

High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant God be with you.
 People **And also with you.**
 Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity:
 Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may
 become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who
 lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR STEWARDSHIP AND CONNECTION

Ever present God of Light, you reveal yourself in Christ and you bring us together as beloved. Help us to generously offer you our gifts and resources. Develop in each of us courage to connect and build community in witness to your transforming love and grace through the Beloved, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.

THE LESSONS *Please be seated.*

FIRST READING: PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

A reading from the Letter to the Philippians.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Reader	The Word of the Lord.
People	Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM: PSALM 78:1-4, 12-16 *Refrain sung by a cantor first, then by all.*



from Gradual Psalms for the RCL, ed. Bruce E. Ford, Church Publishing Incorporated

Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times. ***Refrain.***

That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.
We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, *
and the wonderful works he has done. ***Refrain.***

He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls. ***Refrain.***

He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.
He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.
He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers. ***Refrain.***

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:23-32 *Please stand.*

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

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things,

and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Priest	The Gospel of the Lord.
People	Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON *Please be seated.*

Silence may follow.

THE NICENE CREED *Please stand.*

**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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
 and was made man.
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 and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The minister and people pray responsively. Particular intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered before any section.

Periods of silence may be kept.

Blessed are you eternal God,
to be praised and glorified for ever.

Heavenly Father, hear us as we pray for the unity of the Church.
May we all be one that the world may believe.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you,
that the life of Christ may be revealed in us.

We remember those who have died.

Father, into your hands we commend them. (*Remembering N*)

We praise you for all your saints who have entered your eternal glory.
May we also come to share your heavenly kingdom.

Have compassion on those who suffer from sickness, grief or trouble.
In your presence may they find strength.

Look with your kindness on our homes and families.
Grant that your love may grow in our hearts.

Make us alive to the needs of our community.
Help us to share one another's joys and burdens.

Inspire and lead those who hold authority in the nations of the world.
Guide us and all people in the way of justice and peace.

Strengthen all who minister in Christ's name.
Give us courage to proclaim your Gospel.

We pray in silence for our own needs...

Celebrant: Thanksgiving, blessing and praise be yours, God of the incarnation;
because you care for us and for our prayer. May our love for you and our likeness to
you be strengthened every time we pray. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

**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 our Savior
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.**

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

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

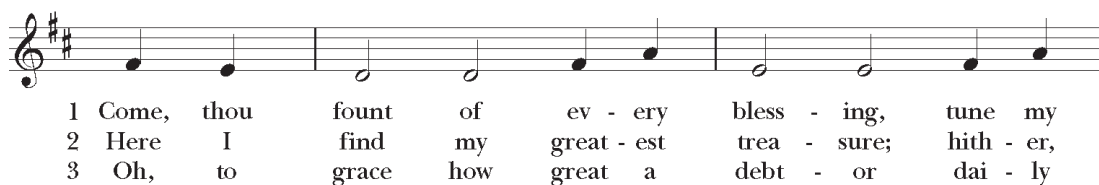
OFFERTORY

To make an offering, text the word CURIOUS to the phone number 73256 and follow the prompts. The system will “remember” your information, allowing you to make gifts quickly and easily each Sunday. To make a pledge to the stewardship campaign or to make a one-time gift to St. Stephen’s, please scan the QR Code.



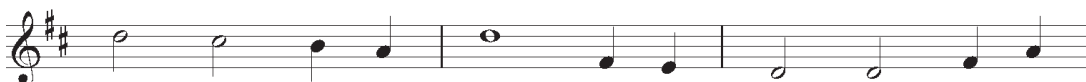
HYMN

Nettleton

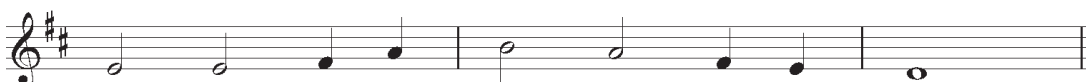




Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by
Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger wan - dering
prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to



flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the mount! Oh, fix me
from the fold of God; he, to res - cue me from
leave the God I love; here's my heart, oh, take and



on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est._____

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you:

This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

As Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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,

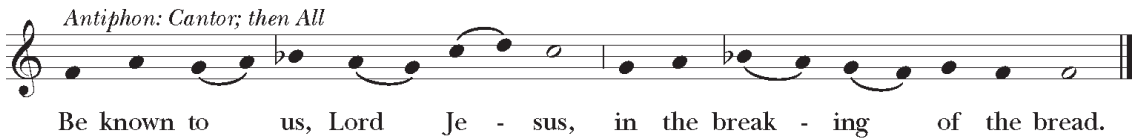
and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

FRACTION ANTHEM



Cantor sings the verses.

1. The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ.

Antiphon.

2. One body are we, alleluia, for though many we share one bread. ***Antiphon.***

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

COMMUNION

ANTHEM

“Lord, Make Me an Instrument”

Howard Helvey

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, let there be pardon; where there is doubt, let there be faith;
where there is anguish, let there be hope; where there is darkness, let there be light;
where there is sadness, let there be joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we
receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born into
eternal life. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in
the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and
grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness
of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

HYMN

Engelberg



1 All praise to thee, for thou, O King di - vine, _____
2 Thou cam'st to us in low - li - ness of thought; _____
3 Let this mind be in us which was in thee, _____
4 Where - fore, by God's e - ter - nal pur - pose, thou _____
5 Let ev - ery tongue con - fess with one ac - cord _____



1 didst yield the glo - ry that of right was thine, _____
2 by thee the out - cast and the poor were sought; _____
3 who wast a ser - vant that we might be free, _____
4 art high ex - alt - ed o'er all crea - tures now, _____
5 in heaven and earth that Je - sus Christ is Lord; _____



1 that in our dark - ened hearts thy grace might shine. _____
2 and by thy death was God's sal - va - tion wrought. _____
3 hum - bling thy - self to death on Cal - va - ry. _____
4 and given the Name to which all knees shall bow. _____
5 and God the Fa - ther be by all a - dored. _____



Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Allegro from Concerto Op.4 No.5 in F major, HWV 293 George Frideric Handel

PERSONS ASSISTING IN TODAY'S SERVICES

Altar Guild: Mark Edge, Ademian Pinder

8:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

Reader:

Usher: Gail Creech

Hospitality: Eric Brown

10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

Readers:

Usher: Sam Marsh

Hospitality: Carla Gerardino

Counting: Chris Kulesza, Christina Lovely

Tech/Sound System: Andrea Barbee

Oblationer: Christina Lovely

Chalice Bearer: Keveney Avanne Avila

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH VESTRY

Steve Bretthauer

Lucy Cockrum

Gail Creech

Michael Hawes, Jr. Warden

David Kelley

Cassandra Khatri

Christina Lovely

Dave Morrell

Emily Paul

Susan Raine, Sr. Warden

John Rovell

Julia Wolf

ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Rev. Lisa Hunt, President

Jaime Espinoza, Vice President

Sam Marsh, Secretary

Nikki Payne, Treasurer

Aaron Davis

Aly Dossa

Ryan Hackney

Nick Jones

Robert Little

Paula Patterson

Tamala Singleton

Tyler Swanson

Esteban Tirado

Lucie Tredennick

Rebecca Udden

Julia Wolf, Vestry Liaison

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Visit ststephenshouston.org/this-week/ or scan the QR code on the right for links to online content.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist Service – In-person

9:30 a.m. – Sunday Forum – In-person and on Zoom

10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist Service – In-person & YouTube Channel

11:45 a.m. – 1st Sunday Meet-Up

2:30 p.m. – Presence Group – on Zoom only

5:00 pm. – OWL Kick-Off Meeting

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2

Noon – Bible Study on Zoom

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3

6:30 p.m. – Bible Study in the Gathering Area, *Book of Acts*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4

6:30 p.m. – Faith & Justice Group – on Zoom only

6:30 p.m. – OWL for Parents, Palmer Episcopal Church

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

8:00 a.m. – Rosary Group – on Zoom only

ST. STEPHEN'S STAFF

Rector: The Reverend Lisa Hunt

lhunt@ststephenshouston.org

Associate Rector: The Reverend Ashley Dellagiacoma

adellagiacoma@ststephenshouston.org

Director of Music: Grace Sung

hsung@ststephenshouston.org

Director of Communications and Marketing: Brent Fogt

bfogt@ststephenshouston.org

Main Campus Administrator: Whitney Corson

wcorsen@ststephenshouston.org

Parish Accounting Administrator: Hugo Banda

hbanda@ststephenshouston.org



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