

**November 5, 2023
10:00 AM**

**The Twenty-third 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: Bind Us Together – YSB page 6

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 of the Day:

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37

1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
and his mercy endures for ever.

2 Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed proclaim *
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.

3 He gathered them out of the lands; *
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

4 Some wandered in desert wastes; *
they found no way to a city where they might dwell.

5 They were hungry and thirsty; *
their spirits languished within them.

6 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.

7 He put their feet on a straight path *
to go to a city where they might dwell.
33 The LORD changed rivers into deserts, *
and water-springs into thirsty ground,
34 A fruitful land into salt flats, *
because of the wickedness of those who dwell there.
35 He changed deserts into pools of water *
and dry land into water-springs.
36 He settled the hungry there, *
and they founded a city to dwell in.
37 They sowed fields, and planted vineyards, *
and brought in a fruitful harvest.

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 3:7-17

A reading from the book of Joshua

The LORD said to Joshua, "This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, so that they may know that I will be with you as I was with Moses. You are the one who shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, 'When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.'" Joshua then said to the Israelites, "Draw near and hear the words of the LORD your God." Joshua said, "By this you shall know that among you is the living God who without fail will drive out from before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites: the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is going to pass before you into the Jordan. So now select twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. When the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan flowing from above shall be cut off; they shall stand in a single heap."

When the people set out from their tents to cross over the Jordan, the priests bearing the ark of the covenant were in front of the people. Now the Jordan

overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest. So when those who bore the ark had come to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the edge of the water, the waters flowing from above stood still, rising up in a single heap far off at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, while those flowing toward the sea of the Arabah, the Dead Sea, were wholly cut off. Then the people crossed over opposite Jericho. While all Israel were crossing over on dry ground, the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, until the entire nation finished crossing over the Jordan.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians

You remember our labor and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was toward you believers. As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Gradual: Alleluia – YSB page 3

Gospel Reading

Matthew 23:1-12

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling

to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father-- the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon: *A Call to Faithful Living*, by Kirk Alan Kubicek

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

Father in heaven, in whose eyes there are no favourites only beloved children: cure our quest for sacred power and status symbols; give us grace to live as learners and servants of your word; through Jesus Christ, who was abased that we might rise.

Amen.

Prayers of the People (please stand as you are able)

Leader: Friends, all who humble themselves will be exalted. So let us appeal to God, praying,

We cry to you, O Lord;

People: **Good Lord, deliver us.**

Leader: Humbly we adore you, good Lord. Give to your Church humility. May our lives be pure, upright and blameless; may we, in word and deed, proclaim your gospel. In the diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for All Saints of Carmel; All Saints of Palo Alto; All Saints/Cristo Rey of Watsonville; and Holy Family of San Jose.

Silence

We cry to you, O Lord;

People: **Good Lord, deliver us.**

Leader: Humbly we adore you, good Lord. Give to this nation humility. May we find our greatness not in status or self-exaltation, but in service to others.

Silence

We cry to you, O Lord;

People: **Good Lord, deliver us.**

Leader: Humbly we adore you, good Lord. Teach us to handle your creation with humility. Bless the soil to bring forth a fruitful harvest for the hungry. Bless the springs to give drink for the thirsty.

Silence

We cry to you, O Lord;

People: **Good Lord, deliver us.**

Leader: Humbly we adore you, good Lord. Give to our city humility. You have blessed us with a good place in which to dwell. Renew the spirits of our languishing. Put songs of thanksgiving in our mouths.

(Please add your thanksgivings either silently or aloud.)

Silence

We cry to you, O Lord;

People: **Good Lord, deliver us.**

Leader: Humbly we adore you, good Lord. Give healing and strength to those who call to you from humble hearts. Lift the burdens of those who are heavy laden. Encourage the sick and sorrowful with your love.

(Please add your own petitions either silently or aloud.)

Silence

We cry to you, O Lord;

People: Good Lord, deliver us.

Leader: Humbly we adore you, good Lord. Your mercy endures forever. Bring those who have walked through the waters of baptism into that place of eternal life and promise.

Silence

We cry to you, O Lord;

People: Good Lord, deliver us.

All: Creator God, you call us to love and serve you with body, mind, and spirit through loving your creation and all people. Open our hearts in compassion and receive these petitions on behalf of the needs of the church and the world.

People: Amen.

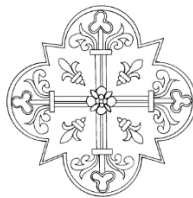
The Peace

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

People: And also with you.

Exchange peace.

Offertory: Glorify Thy Name – YSB page 16



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: Pass It On – YSB page 14

Mark your calendar

- Wednesday Book Group, every Wednesday morning at St. John's, 11am

Vestry Members

Susan Zaballos, *Senior Warden* • Rob van der Molen, *Junior Warden* •
Andy Lief, *Treasurer/Finance* • Jill Vaughn, *Clerk* • Rowena Dizon-Burger •
Anthony Francis • Jessica Dickinson Goodman • Janet Thorsrud