

**November 12, 2023
10:00 AM**

**The Twenty-fourth Sunday
after Pentecost**

Holy Eucharist



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.**

WORD OF GOD

Opening Hymn:

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

LLANGLOFFEN

Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722)
tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907)

H #68

fr. *Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth*
yr Eglwys yng Nghymru, 1865

1. Re - joice! re - joice, be - lie - vers, and let your lights ap - pear!
2. See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple - nish them with oil;

The eve - ning is ad - van - cing, and dark - er night is near.
look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.

The Bridegroom is a - ri - sing, and soon he will draw nigh;
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing, the gates wide op - en stand;

up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.
rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bridegroom is at hand!

Opening Acclamation

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

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

Collect for Purity

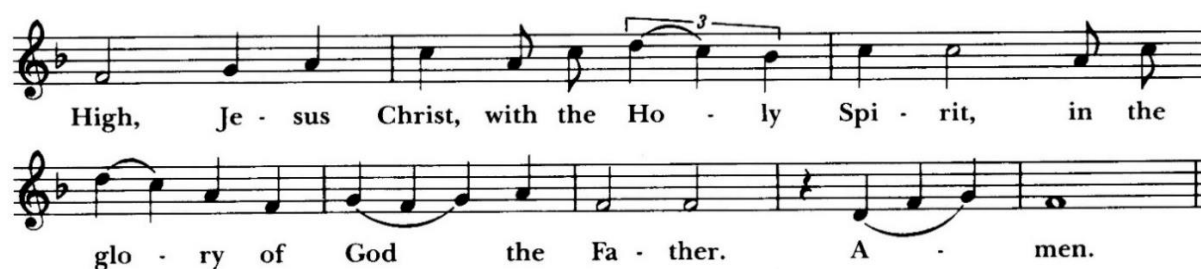
All

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



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



Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Holy God, whose fire of love never goes out: free us from the fear of scarcity that keeps us out of love's own feast; renew our trust in your abundance which knows no death and keeps no count; through Jesus Christ, the oil of gladness. **Amen.**

The Lessons

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.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

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;

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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:

A Long Obedience is Asked

Michael Hudson, 2004

Songs for the Cycle, p. 57

THE EIGHTH TUNE
Thomas Tallis (1505? - 1585)

1. A long o - be - di - ence is asked of those who choose the way of God;
2. And sometimes in the plod-ding night as ea - ger hearts a - wait re-newal,
3. Yet it is here, through ma - ny time of fail - ing lamps and wan - ing sight,

each pas - agethrough the soul's dark night re - quires a wil - ling - ness to plod.
we find that in our watch - ful - ness we burn our last re - serve of fuel.
we come to see the Realm of God be - tween its once and fu - ture light.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:1-13

Celebrant: 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."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Nicene Creed

**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.**

Prayers of the People

Leader: Gather us together, O God, that we might share the prayers, intentions, and thanksgivings of our community.

We are generous with our gifts,

People: **Because we are Rooted in Abundance.**

Leader: I ask your prayers for the Church, for all who worship God this day. For our clergy, our diocesan leaders, and for our congregation. In the diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for all who engage in mission; and our Missional Grants Committee. We pray especially for this season in which we celebrate our stories of leadership and our support for mission...

Silence

We are generous with our gifts of leadership,

People: **Because we are Rooted in Abundance.**

Leader: I ask your prayers for our Nation and all nations; for refugees fleeing climate change and war; for conflicts of resources and land; for lawmakers, peacekeepers, and informed citizens. We pray for a distribution of wealth that helps the poor and the marginalized ...

Silence

We are generous with our gifts of peace,

People: **Because we are Rooted in Abundance.**

Leader: I ask your prayers for the sick, the lonely, the lost, and those who grieve. We remember those on our parish prayer list, and those we name now in silence or aloud ...

Silence

We are generous with our gifts of healing,

People: **Because we are Rooted in Abundance.**

Leader: I ask your prayers for those who have died, those who are dying, and those who mourn. For those on our parish list, and for those we name now in silence or aloud ...

Silence

We are generous with our gifts of support,

People: **Because we are Rooted in Abundance.**

Leader: I ask for your remembrances of thanksgivings and blessings, for we are given time, talent, and treasure to share with the world ...

Silence

We are generous with our gratitude,

People: **Because we are Rooted in Abundance.**

Celebrant: Hear the prayers of your people, Creator God. May we who are blessed by so much wealth and wisdom, share our works with a world in need.

People: **Amen.**

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(There will be a moment of silence)

People: **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

Celebrant: 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

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

People: **And also with you.**

Exchange peace.

Offertory:

Lord, What a Cloud of Witnesses

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. 2000

Songs of Glory #55

MARYTON

Henry Percy Smith (1825-1898)

1. Lord, what a cloud of wit - ness - es sur-rounds us as we work and pray!
2. We live in towns that oth - ers made; we har - vest what we did not sow -
3. Your Spi-rit gives us mem - o - ry; now give your church clear vis - ion, too.

Their faith - ful, lov - ing ser - vice is an in - spi - ra - tion ev - ery day.
and oth - ers sweat - ed, la - bored, prayed to build Christ's church in which we grow.
Re - formed, re - form - ing, may we be a church that seeks to fol - low you.

Doxology (Old 100th):

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;
praise him a - bove, ye heav - en - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

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.**

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

People: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant: 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.

People: **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Celebrant: 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.

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

Celebrant: 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.

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

Celebrant: 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:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord *Sanctus*

S130

Setting from *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert, arr. Richard Proulx

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,___

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,____

hea - ven and earth are full, full____ of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. 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, 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,

People

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

The Celebrant continues

Lord God of our fathers and mothers: God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rachael, Jacob and Leah; 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.

People

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

The Celebrant continues

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.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

People and Celebrant

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Hymns:

Let All Mortal Flesh

Liturgy of St. James

para. Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885)

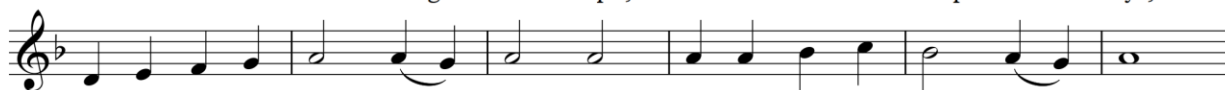
H #324

PICARDY

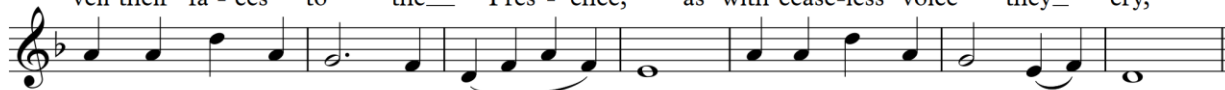
17th century French carol



1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep_ si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
2. King of kings, yet born of_ Ma - ry, as of old on earth he_ stood,
3. Rank on rank the host of_ hea - ven spreads its van-guard on the_ way,
4. At his feet the six - wing ed ser - aph; cher - u - bim with sleep - less_ eye,



pon-der no-thing earth - ly_ mind - ed, for with bless-ing in his_ hand
Lord of lords in hu - man_ ves - ture, in the Bo - dy and the_ Blood
as the Light of Light de - scend - eth from the realms of end - less_ day,
veil their fa - ces to the_ Pres - ence, as with cease-less voice they_ cry,



Christ our God to earth de- scend - eth, our full hom-age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heaven - ly_ food.
that the powers of hell may van - quish as the dark-ness clears a - way.
"Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"



There is a Redeemer

Renew! #232

Words & music by
Keith Green

1. There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son,
 2. Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names,
 3. When I stand in glo - ry I will see His face, and
 pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah, Ho - ly One.
 pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes si - ah, hope for sin - ners slain.
 there I'll serve my King, for - ev - er, in that ho - ly place.
 Thank you, O my Fa - ther, for giv - ing us your Son; and
 leav - ing your Spi - rit 'til the work on earth is done.

Post Communion Prayer

Please stand

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**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**

Announcements

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

Birthday Blessing: Watch over your birthday *children*, O Lord; as *their* days increase; bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if *they* fall; and in *their* hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anniversary Blessing: O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Mission Song:

Jerusalem, My Happy Home

F. B. P. (ca. 16th cent.)

H #620

LAND OF REST, American Folk Hymn
adapt. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983)

$\text{♩} = 50$

The musical score is written for two staves, treble and bass clef, in a key with one flat (B-flat). It consists of two systems of music. The first system has two verses of lyrics. The second system continues the melody and harmony. The music is a simple, folk-style hymn with a steady rhythm.

1. Je - ru - sa - lem, my hap - py home, when shall I come to thee?____
2. Thy saints are crowned with glo - ry great; they see God face_ to face;____

When shall my sor - rows have an end?_ Thy joys when shall I see?____
they tri - umph still, they still re- joice_ in that most hap - py place.____

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.



Mark your calendar

- Wednesday Book Group, every Wednesday morning at St. John's, 11am
- Sunday, November 19th – Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving at St. Stephen's in Gilroy, 3-4pm
- Friday, December 8th – Labyrinth walk with Christmas carols at St. Stephen's, 7pm
- Sunday, December 24th – Lessons and Carols at St. John's, 10am
- Sunday, December 24th – Christmas Eve Service at St. Stephen's, 4:30pm

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