

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SANTA CLARITA
THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - PROPER 6
10:00 A.M.
JUNE 13, 2021

The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God.

Prayer of Meditation

Before the service begins, we encourage you to use the following for meditation.

How important it is to name our fears, to challenge the inner voices that are urging us to run away, or to hide, or to freeze and try to blend in with our surroundings until the trouble has gone by. When Jesus rises up to confront the storm, he offers us an example to imitate. Engage your deepest fears. Name them, confront them, push back at them. -Br. David Vryhof, SSJE

Prelude

Songs Without Words Op. 19 No. 1

Mendelssohn

THE WORD OF GOD

Priest: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

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

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.**

Priest and People:

**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.**

The Collect of the Day

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Priest: Let us pray.

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

The First Reading 1 Samuel 15:34—16:13

Reader: John Nelson

A Reading from the First Book of Samuel.

Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel. The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 20

Reader: Richard Holdredge

- 1 May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble, *
the Name of the God of Jacob defend you;
- 2 Send you help from his holy place *
and strengthen you out of Zion;

- 3 Remember all your offerings *
and accept your burnt sacrifice;
- 4 Grant you your heart's desire *
and prosper all your plans.
- 5 We will shout for joy at your victory
and triumph in the Name of our God; *
may the Lord grant all your requests.
- 6 Now I know that the Lord gives victory to his anointed; *
he will answer him out of his holy heaven,
with the victorious strength of his right hand.
- 7 Some put their trust in chariots and some in horses, *
but we will call upon the Name of the Lord our God.
- 8 They collapse and fall down, *
but we will arise and stand upright.
- 9 O Lord, give victory to the king *
and answer us when we call.

The Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:6-17

Reader: Richard Holdredge

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

We are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord-- for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn #524

"I love thy kingdom, Lord"

St. Thomas (Williams)



1. I love thy king - dom, Lord, the house of _ thine a - bode, the
2. For her my tears shall fall; for her my pray'rs a - scend; to
3. Be - yond my high - est _ joy I _ prize her heav'n - ly ways, her
4. Je - sus, thou friend di - vine, our Sa - vior and our King, thy
5. Sure as thy truth shall last, to _ Zi - on _ shall be giv'n the
Church our blest Re - deem - er _ saved with his own pre - cious blood.
her my cares and toils be _ giv'n, till toils and cares shall end.
sweet com - mun - ion, so - lemn vows, her hymns of _ love and praise.
hand from ev - ery snare and foe shall great de - liv - 'rance bring.
bright - est glo - ries earth can yield, and bright - er _ bliss of heav'n.

The Gospel Reading Mark 4:26-34

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come." He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Christopher Montella
Rector

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

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

Reader: Shari Schlaman

We walk by faith, not by sight. Trusting that God hears our prayers, let us cry to God, saying, “We call upon your Name, O God! Answer us when we call.”

We call to you, O God: hear our prayers for the Church. Keep us steadfast in faith and love, that we may proclaim your truth with boldness and minister your justice with compassion.

Silence

Intercessor: We call upon your Name, O God!

People: Answer us when we call.

We call to you, O God: hear our prayers for the world. For love, your Son Jesus died for all. We pray that all the people of the world come to know that love.

Silence

Intercessor: We call upon your Name, O God!

People: Answer us when we call.

We call to you, O God: hear our prayers for all creation. Bless seeds to produce. Bless fields to yield their crop. Bless those who plant and those who gather. May all be blessed by the harvest.

Silence

Intercessor: We call upon your Name, O God!

People: Answer us when we call.

We call to you, O God: hear our prayers for all artists, poets, dancers and musicians. Remember their offerings of beauty and inspiration and prosper their plans. We thank you for the blessed gift of creativity.

The congregation may add their own thanksgivings.

Silence

Intercessor: We call upon your Name, O God!

People: Answer us when we call.

We call to you, O God: hear our prayers for those in need, especially Kathy, Nick, Andrew, Mark, Eric C., Lee, Lois, Dennis, Barbara and Meghan L. Answer them in their day of trouble. Send them help and strengthen them to stand.

The congregation may add their own petitions.

Silence

Intercessor: We call upon your Name, O God!

People: Answer us when we call.

We call to you, O God: hear our prayers for the dying and the dead, especially Jeanette Campbell and Abe Simon. Raise those who have died in the body to newness of life. Grant them a home with you forever.

Silence

Intercessor: We call upon your Name, O God!

People: Answer us when we call.

Priest:

God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss. Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire. Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world: a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit. Wherever and however we gather, unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession

Let us confess our sins to God.

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Absolution

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

The Peace

Priest: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Members of the congregation who are joining us via livestream are encouraged to post "Peace be with you" in the comments or to use the "like" or "love" reaction button to take part in the virtual exchange of God's peace with the rest of the congregation at this time.

Graduate Recognition

Bianca Tinoco
Annabella Cario
Collin O'Leary
Will Johnson
Claire Schlaman
Eleanor Nold
Issey Foley

God of journeys, endings, and new beginnings, through the highs and lows, the twists and turns these students have faced along the way, we have faith that your love has guided them from the moment they began up to graduation day.

We give you thanks and praise for the goodness that shines in the relationships formed, knowledge learned, and memories made through their educational experiences.

Bless the body, mind, and soul of every graduate, that they may celebrate your glory in themselves and all creation and use their education to build your realm of peace. **Amen.**

Welcome and Announcements

We are pleased to celebrate the following birthdays: Roseann Zarasua on June 8th, Collin O'Leary on June 13th, Robert Zarasua on June 15th, Douglas Aston and Mark Bridgeford on June 17th, Jason O'Leary on June 19th.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Setting of the Table

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures, here below.

Praise God, you hosts in heaven above; Praise God the Trinity of Love. Amen.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

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

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God 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:

Priest and people say together:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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 all 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 and Mothers; God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and Jacob and Rachel 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.

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.**

And now, as our Savior 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 for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Priest: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The church teaches that temporal isolation cannot constrain the sacrament's ineffable power. Calling us to "massive, corporate, spiritual communion,"

The Invitation to Holy Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

Priest and People say together:

O Jesus Christ, you have instituted for us a great sacrament in your promise of life and love, which we remember now as we hear your words again: "This is my body; this is my blood — given for you." Feed us in our hearts with faith and trust, draw us closer to you and to each other, and strengthen us for service to our neighbor. We come before you now, with hearts you have fed all our lives with the promise that you have given yourself for us. Keep us strong in that faith until we can meet at your table again. Amen.

Those present, please remain standing as the priest moves about the congregation to distribute the consecrated bread.

*All are welcome to receive communion. The table we set belongs to God.
Wherever you find yourself on your spiritual journey you are welcome to receive the Bread made holy.*

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

**Gracious God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Offertory Prayer

Loving God, you alone are the source of every good gift. Everything we have, and all that we are, comes from you. Now, as we go about our lives, help us to be grateful, accountable, and, with praise and thanksgiving, to give of ourselves generously, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

May God give you grace never to sell yourself short;
Grace to risk something big for something good;
Grace to remember that the world is too dangerous
for anything but truth, and too small for anything but Love.
And the blessing of God Almighty, the one, holy and
undivided Trinity be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Priest: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn #481

“Rejoice, the Lord is King!”

Gopsal



1. Re - joice, the Lord is King!	Your Lord and King a - dore!
2. The Lord the Sa - vior reigns,	the God of truth and love:
3. His king - dom can - not fail;	he rules o'er earth and heaven;
4. Re - joice in glo - rious hope!	Our Lord the Judge shall come,



Mor - tals, give thanks and sing,	and tri - umph ev - er - more.
when he had purged our stains,	he took his seat a - bove.
the keys of death and hell	to Christ the Lord are given.
and take his ser - vants up	to their e - ter - nal home.

Refrain



Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice! Re-joice! A - gain I say, re-joice!

From *The Hymnal*, 1984: #524 “I love thy kingdom, Lord”, Words Timothy Dwight (1725–1817). Music: *St. Thomas (Williams)*, melody Aaron Williams (1731–1776); harm. Lowell Mason (1792–1872). #481 “Rejoice, the Lord is King! Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788), alt. Music: *Gopsal*, George Frideric Handel (1685–1759); arr. John Wilson (1905–1992). Copyright: Music: By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: Arrangement by permission of Oxford University Press.
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