



The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
September 5, 2021

9:30am - Rite II

*"Before the service, speak silently to God.  
During the service, let God speak to you.  
After the service, speak to one another."*

***A Warm Welcome** to all visitors to our parish today, and we hope that you will find St. Stephen's a spiritual home! Take a moment to introduce yourself to the clergy and greeters.*

Communion is a sign of the unity of the Church that Christ envisioned when he prayed "that they may become completely one" (John 17:23). Therefore, all baptized Christians may receive communion at the altar. Visitors who are not baptized are welcome to come forward during the Sacrament to receive a blessing. Fold your arms over your chest as indication to the priest.

Your prayers are asked for our parish, Byron Burgess, Tiger Warfield, Dave Brown, Louis George, Jim Duguid, Charles, Ann Gerald, Mead Parsons, Cheryl Fairchild, Issac, Larry, Joan Parsons, Jack, Carver, Marianne, Kathy & Samuel Evans, Roberta Proffitt, Katie, Romana, Jeremy, Martha Rucker, Laura Finley, Chris McGraw, Linda Kay, Angie, Stephanie Morton, Phyllis Gross, , Mariah Patterson, Jaxon Minetti, Randal Hurst, Kim Muncy, Richard Klein, and Patricia Meadows, Scarlett, Jane Morton.

**For those celebrating birthdays;** Lori Midkiff, Sacha Reid, Rachel Hopkins, Julie Midkiff, and Clarence Meador

**For those celebrating anniversaries;**

**In the Anglican cycle of prayer:** The Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan.

**In the Diocesan cycle of prayer:** Diocesan Trustees, Council, and Standing Committee.

**For those serving in the armed forces especially:** Jayson Morton, Nate Willard, Ben Sulwer, and Andrew Khalil.

**For first responders, especially:** Sam Tuttle and Lee Price

SERVING TODAY

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Dr. Susan Q. Claytor
Lector	Matthew Elder
Music	Donna Burnside
Choir Director	Robert Burnside
Soloist	Jason Hogie
Altar Guild	TBA
Eucharistic Minister	Doug Willis

# HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

**8:00 A.M.**

## The Word of God

Salutation **page 323** in the *Book of Common Prayer*

Gloria **page 324** in the *Book of Common Prayer*

## The Collect of the Day

Grant us, O Lord, we pray thee, to trust in thee with all our heart; seeing that, as thou dost alway resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so thou dost not forsake those who make their boast of thy mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## The Lessons

The First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a

The Response: Psalm 125

The Epistle: James 2:1-17

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ: Mark 7:24-37

## Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Susan Claytor

## The Nicene Creed

**page 326** in the *Book of Common Prayer*

## The Prayers of the People

**page 328** in the *Book of Common Prayer*

## Confession of Sin

**page 330** in the *Book of Common Prayer*

## The Peace

**page 332** in the *Book of Common Prayer*

## The Holy Communion

### The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer I

**page 333** in the *Book of Common Prayer*

The Sanctus (*spoken*)

**page 334** in the *Book of Common Prayer*

The Lord's Prayer

**page 336** in the *Book of Common Prayer*

The Breaking of the Bread and Communion of the People

Post Communion Prayer

**page 339** in the *Book of Common Prayer*

## Blessing and Dismissal

**Important News/Announcements are at the end of the bulletin following the 9:30 am service.**

## HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

### Prelude

Opening Hymn: "The God of Abraham praise,..." Hymnal page 401

### The Word of God

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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.*

### The Gloria Hymnal page S278

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.

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

### **The Collect of the Day**

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
*Amen.*

### **A Reading from: Isaiah 35:4-7a**

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
    ‘Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.  
    He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
    He will come and save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
    and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
    and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
    and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
    and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
    the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

The Word of the Lord... **Thanks be to God**

## Psalm 125

- 1 Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, \*  
which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.
- 2 The hills stand about Jerusalem; \*  
so does the LORD stand round about his people,  
from this time forth for evermore.
- 3 The scepter of the wicked shall not hold sway over the  
land allotted to the just, \*  
so that the just shall not put their hands to evil.
- 4 Show your goodness, O LORD, to those who are good \*  
and to those who are true of heart.
- 5 As for those who turn aside to crooked ways,  
the LORD will lead them away with the evildoers; \*  
but peace be upon Israel.

## EPISTLE: James 2:1-17

My

brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, 'You shall not commit adultery', also said, 'You shall not murder.' Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgement will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

The Word of the Lord... **Thanks be to God**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Mark 7:24-37**

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

The Gospel of the Lord.... **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

**The Sermon**

### The 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 Form III

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
*That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and  
humbly serve you;  
*That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and  
Sacraments.*

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations  
of the world;  
*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*



## The Holy Communion

### Eucharistic Prayer B

*In this prayer, the lines in italics are spoken by the People.*

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

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 him thanks and praise.

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfillment of his true promise, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith, and giving to your Church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood, and to preach the Gospel to all nations.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*

### Sanctus Hymnal page S125

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.

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling

of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you,  
O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this  
bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all your

saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

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

**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**

[Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
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.

#### **Spiritual Communion Prayer**

**My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present  
in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.  
I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
come spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you;  
never permit me to be separated from you.  
Amen**

*After communion*

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.

### The Blessing

Closing Hymn: "Spread, O spread, thou mighty word,..."

Hymnal page 530

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

Just a reminder that the office will be closed on Labor Day, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>.

The Vestry will meet September 8th at 6pm in the library.

DOK is meeting again! September 15th at 5pm in the library will be their next gathering.

The Bishop's walk about has been cancelled, and there are flyers posted with the updated info on how that will proceed virtually.

**Help St. Stephen's stay involved with the community!** The City of Beckley's Kid's Fair will be September 11th and we would like some volunteers to represent the church. The space we reserved will be set up from 10am to 2pm and we will be giving out books and puzzles.

St. Luke will have their annual rummage sale on September 16, 17, & 18, so mark it on your calendar!

The Episcopal Relief & Development Organization is currently taking donations for the earthquake victims in Haiti. You can make donations several different ways:  
website [www.episcopalrelief.org](http://www.episcopalrelief.org)

phone 1.855.312.4325

by mail: Episcopal Relief & Development  
P.O. Box 7058  
Merrifield, VA 22116-7058

*\*If you donate by mail, please be sure to specify Haiti Relief Efforts in the memo*

What is your Spiritual type? If you wonder how to best grow spiritually you might want to sign up for a free online workshop offered by Sandscreech Retreat & Conference Center. The September 15<sup>th</sup> workshop "***Your Spiritual Type***" uses an experience-based process which gives insight into your spirituality type and provides a clear direction to spiritual practices that help you grow spiritually. The hour-long workshop begins on Zoom at 7 pm. Materials and the Zoom link for the workshop will be sent to you. To register for the workshop email [sandscreech.director@wvdiocese.org](mailto:sandscreech.director@wvdiocese.org).