

23 after Pentecost, Proper 28

November 16, 2014



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
1512 Willow
Blytheville, AR 72315

The Rt. Rev. Larry Benfield, Bishop of Arkansas
Fr. John Scott Trotter

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Opening Rites

BCP 78

Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling. *Psalm 43:3*

Confession of Sin

Officiant Let us confess our sins to God.

The people kneel as they are able.

A period of silence is kept.

All say together

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

The Deacon or Lay Leader then says

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.*

The people stand as they are able.

Invitatory and Psalter

Invitatory

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People *And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

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. Alleluia.

The earth is the Lord's for he made it: O come, let us adore him.

The Invitatory

Venite Psalm 95:1-7; 96:9, 13

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!

The people sit.

Psalm 123

BCP p. 780

Ad te levavi oculos meos

I To you I lift up my eyes, *

to you enthroned in the heavens.

- 2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, *
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
- 3 So our eyes look to the LORD our God, *
until he show us his mercy.
- 4 Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy, *
for we have had more than enough of contempt,
- 5 Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, *
and of the derision of the proud.

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 Liturgy of the Word

1st Reading

A reading from The Book of Judges (4:1-7).

¹The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. ²So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. ³Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years. ⁴At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. ⁵She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. ⁶She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. ⁷I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi

Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.' ”

The Word of the Lord
People
Thanks be to God

A period of silence is kept.

The Second Song of Isaiah

Canticle 10

BCP p. 86

Isaiah 55:6-11

Canticle 10

The Second Song of Isaiah

Quaerite Dominum

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; *
 call upon him when he draws near.
Let the wicked forsake their ways *
 and the evil ones their thoughts;
And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion, *
 and to our God, for he will richly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts, *
 nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, *
 so are my ways higher than your ways,
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as rain and snow fall from the heavens *
 and return not again, but water the earth,
Bringing forth life and giving growth, *
 seed for sowing and bread for eating,
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; *
 it will not return to me empty;
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, *
 and prosper in that for which I sent it.

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.

2nd Reading

A reading from The First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians (5:1-11).

¹ Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴ But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵ for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶ So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷ for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord
People
Thanks be to God

A period of silence is kept.

The Hymnal 1982 #551 - Rise up ye saints of God

Gospel

The Gospel according to Matthew (:14-30).

¹⁴ "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he

went away. ¹⁶ The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶ But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰ As for this

worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

The Word of the Lord

People

Thanks be to God

Sermon

The people stand as they are able.

The Apostles' Creed

All say together

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the
Virgin Mary.

He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.

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.

**Officiant and
People**

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.

Sufferages B

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;
R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.
V. Day by day we bless you;
R. We praise your Name for ever.
V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;
R. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;
R. For we put our trust in you.
V. In you, Lord, is our hope;
R. And we shall never hope in vain.

Collect

BCP 394

Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Collect of the Day

BCP 236

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus

Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Collect

BCP 98

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Collect

BCP 100

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayer for Mission

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #680 - O God our help in ages past

Prayers of the People

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop(s) _____; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed [especially _____]. Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Members of the congregation may ask the prayers or the thanksgivings of those present I ask your prayers for _____ .
I ask your thanksgiving for _____ .

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored [especially _____ whom we remember today]. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Collect

BCP 394

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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.

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.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Closing Sentence

BCP 126

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Romans 15:13

Prayer List

Joe, Billy, Mary, Dale, Randy, Joyce, Eaton, April Hise, Blake, Londa, Sara and Rey, Anita, Charlotte, Pat, Lori & Reyan, Bryant family, Charles, Carolyn, Caden, "E" Angie, Marcel, Ginny, Tri and Lucca; Michelle, Russell, Drace and Lilly; the Nelson family, Barbara Dale and Dale, Frances, Randy, The Burnett and Stallings family, Linda, Debbie W, Matthew, Desire, Buddy, Kathy and her family, Robin Moore and family, the Wilder family, the Keller family, Tony, the Meadows family, those suffering from seasonal storms, meals on wheels, making better men of young men, those serving our country, those traveling, and for those we now name...

Calendar

11/16 **23 after Pentecost, Proper 28**

9:00 am Worship

10:00 am Fellowship

11/18 6:00 pm Al Anon

11/21 6:00 pm Friday Families

11/23 **Christ the King**

Commitment Sunday

9:00 am Worship

10:00 am Vestry

5:00 pm Community Thanks Giving Service

Announcements

We are refreshing our prayer list. Please give Fr. Scott the names of those you St. Stephen's to pray for; names on the current list will not be carried over.. (Drop a note on the desk, mail or text) The refreshed list will begin November 30, 1st Sunday of Advent.

The Blytheville High School Rotary/ Interact Club is holding a coat drive. Those interested in donating may bring their new or gently used coats to Room 501 or 402 at Blytheville High school, or give them

to Fr. Scott, Mary Gay

Boxes of Love

Ignite Christmas Boxes of Love - \$25 family - one box of food, one box of hygiene products and also one box of supplement items. Make Checks payable to St Stephen's and put Ignite in the for line

ECW Fall Gathering

November 7–8, at Trinity, Pine Bluff

Arkansas ECW annual fall retreat will be hosted by Trinity Episcopal Church in Pine Bluff and will feature several workshops on prayer, including a Lectio Divina workshop led by Jeannie McCabe, an art and prayer workshop led by Grace Henderson, and a poetry and prayer workshop led by Kaki Roberts and Peggy Cromwell. For more information and to register, download a flyer.

Benedictine Advent Retreat

December 4-7, at Camp Mitchell

A time for centering, quiet, reflection, and rest during the mad rush of the holidays. Led by the Revs. Lisa Hlass, Virginia Chase, and Helen Hargreaves, the retreat will begin Thursday evening, with an optional quiet day Thursday. It will follow a Benedictine rhythm with the Daily Office, community sessions for study and reflection, silence, and optional time to devote to creative endeavors, spiritual disciplines, and rest. The retreat will conclude with Holy Eucharist Sunday morning. For more information, email the Rev. Lisa or call 501-224-1442.

Worship Leaders

| Date | Proper | Service | Eucharistic Minister | Reader | Intercessor |
|-------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 11/16 | 23 Pen, Proper 28 | MP | Liz | Kathryn | Beth |
| 11/23 | Christ the King | | Beth | | Corbet |
| 11/30 | First Advent | | Kathryn | Corbet | Beth |

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