

# Pentecost 18, Proper 21

September 30, 2012



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
1512 Willow  
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Rt. Rev. Larry Benfield, Bishop Arkansas  
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# Entrance Rites

*The people stand as they are able.*

## Opening Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #546 - Awake my soul, stretch every nerve

## Opening Acclamation

**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.*

## Song of Praise

The First Song of Isaiah *Ecce, Deus*



Surely, it is God who saves me; \*  
I will trust in him and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \*  
and he will be my Savior.  
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \*  
from the springs of salvation.  
And on that day you shall say, \*  
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;  
Make his deeds known among the peoples; \*  
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.  
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \*  
and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \*  
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

### **Collect of the Day**

**Celebrant**           The Lord be with you.

**People**               *And also with you.*

**Celebrant**           Let us pray.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

### **The Word of God**

*The people sit.*

### **First Reading**

A reading from The Book of Esther.

<sup>1</sup>The king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. <sup>2</sup>On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, “What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.” <sup>3</sup>Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. <sup>4</sup>For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.” <sup>5</sup>Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?” <sup>6</sup>

Esther said, “A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!” Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. <sup>9</sup> Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, “Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman’s house, fifty cubits high.” And the king said, “Hang him on that.” <sup>10</sup> So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated. <sup>20</sup> Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, <sup>21</sup> enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, <sup>22</sup> as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Reader  
The Word of the Lord  
People  
Thanks be to God

*A period of silence is kept.*

**Psalm 124**

*BCP p. 781*

*Nisi quia Dominus*

- I If the LORD had not been on our side, \*  
let Israel now say;
- 2 If the LORD had not been on our side, \*  
when enemies rose up against us;
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive \*  
in their fierce anger toward us;
- 4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us \*  
and the torrent gone over us;

- 5 Then would the raging waters \*  
have gone right over us.
- 6 Blessed be the LORD! \*  
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
- 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; \*  
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
- 8 Our help is in the Name of the LORD, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.

*A period of silence is kept.*

## **Second Reading**

A reading from The Letter of James.

<sup>13</sup> Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup> Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. <sup>17</sup> Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup> Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. <sup>19</sup> My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, <sup>20</sup> you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Reader

The Word of the Lord

People

Thanks be to God

*A period of silence is kept.*

*The people stand as they are able.*

## **Sequence Hymn**

The Hymnal 1982 #482 - Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy

## **Gospel**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.  
Glory to you, Lord Christ

<sup>38</sup> John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." <sup>39</sup> But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup> Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup> For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. <sup>42</sup> "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup> If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup> And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell, <sup>47</sup> And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup> where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. <sup>49</sup> "For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup> Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

The Gospel of the Lord  
People

Praise to you, Lord Christ

*A period of silence is kept.*

*The people sit.*

## **Sermon**

*The people stand as they are able.*

## **The Nicene Creed**

*All say together*

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.

*The people stand or kneel, as they are able*

## **Prayers of the People**

BCP 385

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.

*A period of silence is kept.*

**Collect**

BCP 259

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**Confession of Sin**

**Penitential Sentence**

*The Presider then says*

Jesus said, “The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.” *Mark 12:29-31*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*The people kneel as they are able.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

## **Confession of Sin**

*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**

*Bishop or Priest*

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.*

*The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## **The Holy Communion**

*The people sit.*

## **Announcements**

*The Priest says*

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to  
the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*

## Offertory Hymn

*Hymnal 1982 #389, vs # 3*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

## 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 him thanks and praise.*

*Celebrant*

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:

*The Hymnal 1982, Service Music #129*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.\_\_\_\_\_

*Celebrant*

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,

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

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; 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

## **Lord's Prayer**

**Celebrant**                      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.

*A period of silence is kept.*

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*Therefore let us keep the feast.*

*The Priest invites the people to Communion*

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.

*All are invited to receive communion. Come to the rail, extend your  
hands one over the other, the minister will place bread in your palm,  
which you consume; to receive wine raise your hands, the minister will  
offer you the chalice, please guide it to your lips and sip. If you choose  
not to receive you may receive a blessing; cross your arms over your  
chest and the priest will bless you. You may choose to remain seated.*

## **Communion Hymn**

The Hymnal 1982 #324 - Let all mortal flesh keep silence

*The people stand as they are able.*

## **Postcommunion Prayer**

*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.

## **Blessing**

*The Bishop or Priest says*

Holy eternal Majesty, Holy incarnate Word, Holy abiding Spirit,  
Bless you for evermore. *Amen.*

## **Going forth Hymn**

The Hymnal 1982 #521 - Put forth, O God, thy Spirit's might

## **Dismissal**

**Deacon**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People**

*Thanks be to God.*

## **Prayers**

Buzz, Dale, Angie, Marcel, Rob, Josephine, Meredith, Taj, Mary - Gay, Jene, Bob, Oscar, Amy, Beth, Debra, Steve & Flo, Charles, Kathy, the Tickle family, Leann, Natalie and Chris, Charlotte Deaton, The Redden and Alt families, Mississippi County Senior Centers and meals on Wheels, making better men of young men, those suffering from the summer weather, those traveling, those serving our country and community, and those we now name ...

## **Calendar**

9/30

8:30 am Eucharist

9:30 am Fellowship

no evening church events this week

10/2 Fr. Scott Jonesboro - Convocation

10/5 6:00 pm Friday Family

10/6 10:00 am Cleanup Day

10/7

8:30 am Eucharist

9:30 am Fellowship

2:00 pm Blessing of the Pets - see Web site / Facebook

no evening church events this week

10/9 Calvary

10/10 6:00 pm Vestry

10/13 Health Screening - see Web site of Facebook

## **Announcements**

Blessing of the Pets

Help support Making better men of Young men; bring PB&J.

Help support our goal of \$300.00 for meals on Wheels.

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