

# St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

## THE TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 25, 2020, 8:00 and 10:00 am Worship Services



*The Pharisees Question Jesus*

**Our Mission** is  
to be one with God  
and humanity in Christ  
by living the Gospel  
with love and compassion.



**Our Vision** is  
to become comfortable  
with Jesus Christ  
and boldly proclaim Him.

***WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN’S!*** It is a joy to have you worship with us today. We believe everyone who worships with us is sent to us by God, even if they are in their cars or golf carts. So, welcome.

On the first Sunday of each month a flag is raised and flies until the next month. The flag that is flying for the month of October is raised in honor and in loving memory of my father, S. Porcher Smith, Sr., Seaman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class USN 1941—1946, and my brother, S. Porcher Smith, Jr., Corporal USA 1961—1965. Thank you for your service.

*Gordon L. Smith*

**Please tune your radio to 89.3 FM to hear the service.**

***✝ This symbol represents the point at which we sign ourselves with the sign of the cross during worship.***

Prelude

***Wondrous Love***

C. Phillips

## **The Word of God**

*The Celebrant says*

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

***People And blessed be his Kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***

*The Celebrant and People say*

**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—The Celebrant and People say,*

***Glory to God: Gloria in excelsis***

**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 for The Twenty First Sunday After Pentecost**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

***People* Amen.**

*When the Gospel is being announced, a cross is made,*

✝ *(on the forehead) in my mind to understand it,*

✝ *(on the lips) on my lips to proclaim it, and*

✝ *(over the heart) in my heart to live it.*

*The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 22:34–46*  
**People      *Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet”’? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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

❖ Sermon      Wilmot T. Merchant, II      ❖

*Please use this time to silently reflect on what the Lord has spoken to you.*

## **The Prayers of the People**

*The Celebrant and People pray responsively*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;

***People*** ***That we all may be one.***

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

***People*** ***That your Name may be glorified by all people.***

We pray for Justin, The Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, Henry our Visiting Bishop, Wilmot our priest, and for all bishops and other ministers;

***People*** ***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, for Donald our President, Henry our Governor, and Marilyn our Mayor;

***People*** ***That there may be justice and peace on the earth.***

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake, especially during these difficult times;

***People*** ***That our works may find favor in your sight.***

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

***People*** ***That they may be delivered from their distress.***

Give to the departed eternal rest, especially Dottie Nelson;

***People*** ***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

***People*** ***May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.***

Let us pray for our own needs and those of our loved ones and others, for the men and women who are serving in the armed forces, health care workers and professionals, and all others who serve to preserve and protect lives, and those who have asked us to remember them in our prayers, especially our families, friends, and loved ones.

Lord in your mercy

**People      *Hear our prayer.***

Let us pray for the people in disaster and troubled areas and those affected by acts of violence here at home and all around the world. Let us also pray for the many volunteers who are working to assist our brothers and sisters in those areas that have been devastated either by man-made or natural disaster.

Lord, in your mercy.

**People      *Hear our prayer.***

Let us pray for God's people throughout the world, especially the Anglican Communion, The Episcopal Church, and The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina. Today we are praying for:

Lord, in your mercy.

**People      *Hear our prayer.***

*\*Additional Prayers*

***\*For the election of a Bishop for The Diocese of South Carolina.***

***HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:*** Nancy Fellenz (10/27), Betty Berginski (10/28), Babs Raley (10/28), Larry Fillian (10/31), Jesse Patterson (10/31).

***HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:***

***LET US PRAY FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY.***

**INTERCESSORY AND THANKSGIVING PRAYER.** As we continue to hold one another up in prayer in this parish, especially during this difficult time of our life. This week we are praying for: **Holly, James, Mark, & Luke Uzun, Dorothy Waite, Donna Walsh, Ed Walton, Barbara Ward, Dick & Frances Warner, Maggie Warren, Blanche & Chris Welborn, Alice Welsh, George & Julieann Wertheimer, & Kelley.**

*Celebrant and People*

**Gracious and most loving God, we join them in committing to you whatever concerns they may have, asking you to let your will be done for them. We also join them in giving you thanks, for your many blessings bestowed upon them and their loved ones. We praise you and thank you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Confession of Sin**

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

*Celebrant and 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.**

*The Celebrant says*

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.

**People** *Amen.*

## **The Peace**

Jesus said, *Peace I leave with you; my Peace I give to you . . .* John 14:27

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

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

*At the conclusion of the peace the Celebrant says*

*Celebrant* God is Good!

**People** *All the Time!*



## The Holy Communion

Offertory

**O Love**

E. Hagenberg

*Pam Morrill, soloist*

## The Great Thanksgiving and Sanctus Eucharistic Prayer A

*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.***

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where 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 on this day 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 say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People* to be said

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**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.**

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.



He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.

**People      Amen.**

And now, let us sing in thanksgiving the prayer our Savior Christ taught us,

*Celebrant and People*

**Our Father, which 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 debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever. *Amen.***



## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*Celebrant and People*

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

*The Celebrant says the following Invitation*

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.

*After Communion, the Celebrant says: Let us pray.*

**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 Celebrant gives the blessing*

The God of peace, who has exalted our Lord Jesus Christ, give you his Spirit to lead you into all truth, and boldness to confess that Jesus is Lord; and through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and your loved ones far and near and remain with all of you for ever.

**People      Amen.**

~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

*The Celebrant dismisses the people.*

*Celebrant*    We are called to be one with God and each other in Christ.

**People      *By living the Gospel with love and compassion.***

*Celebrant*    Alleluia. Alleluia. Let us go in peace to love and serve God and one another.

**People      *Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.***

**Benediction**    *to be sung*

**God be with you till we meet again;  
By His counsels guide, uphold you,  
With His sheep securely fold you,  
God be with you till we meet again.**



*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve the neighbors  
we have from you.*

Neighbors are rich and poor,  
neighbors are black and white,  
neighbors are near and far away.

*Refrain*

Loving puts us on our knees,  
serving as though we are slaves,  
this is the way we should live with you.

*Refrain*

**THE WORSHIP HAS ENDED. LET THE SERVICE BEGIN.**

“... what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)

*God is good! All the time!*

*The Rev. Canon Dr. Wilmot T. Merchant II, Rector*

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Cover image via The Brooklyn Museum “*The Pharisees Question Jesus*, 1886–1894, James Tissot (1836–1902).