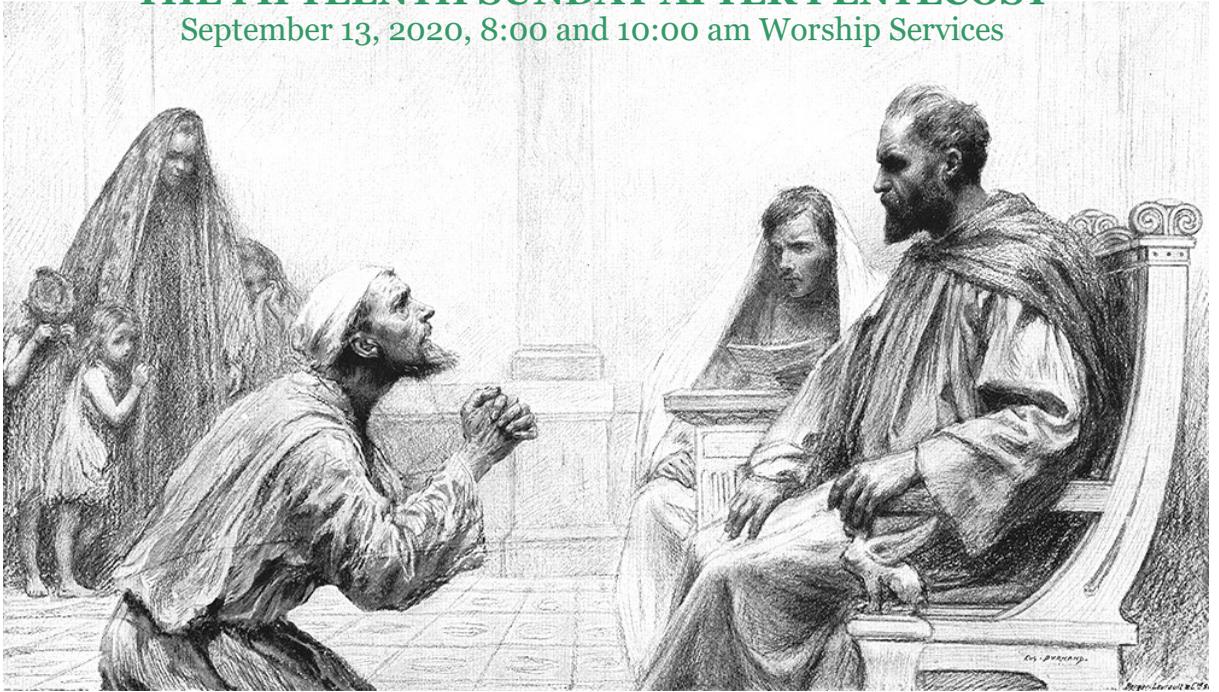


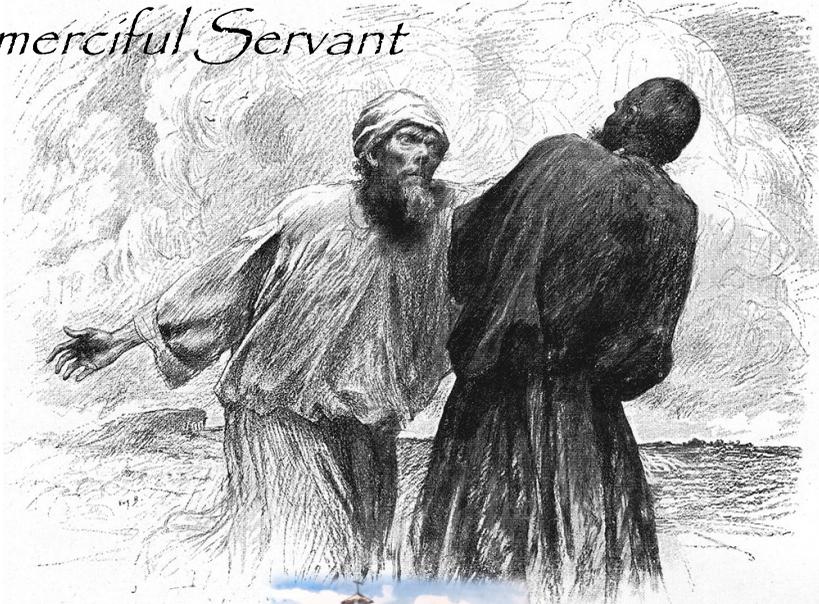
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 13, 2020, 8:00 and 10:00 am Worship Services



The Unmerciful Servant



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 September is raised by Eloise Perry, in loving memory and in honor of her husband, Arthur Perry for his service in the Navy during the Korean Conflict; in loving memory and honor of her father, Samuel R. Steward, for his service in the Army during World War I in France; and in honor of her son, Lester Pullen, who served in the Navy during Desert Storm.

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 ***My Song is Love Unknown*** D. Wood

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 Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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 18:21–35
People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

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;

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.

Lord, in your mercy.

People Hear our prayer.

**Additional Prayers*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: Gerry Gosselin (9/13), Sue Crouch (9/16), Joni Holderman (9/16), Victoria Molnar (9/16), Michael Baker (9/17), Barbara Marsh (9/18), Sally Davis (9/19), Lynn Lundmark (9/19).

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO: Tom & Sandy Richmond (9/14), Laura & David Robertson (9/16).

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: **Jo McEachern, Stan & Donna McElveen, Hazen & Mary McLaren, Jr., BJ & Denny Mills, Jackie Mills & Joe Earnhardt, Tommy & Gayle Mizell, Kip & Victoria Molnar, Pam Morrill & Dee Dee Pickering, Marylou Morse, Bud & Dottie Nelson.**

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

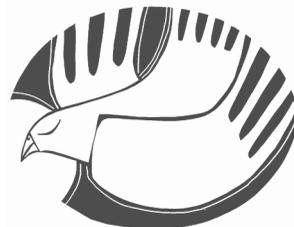
Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

The Lord is My Shepherd

H. Goodall

Ron Hall, 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

S129

**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.**



Closing Hymn *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* Hymnal 657

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Postlude

Psalm Nineteen

B. Marcello

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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