The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2020

We welcome you to St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, a house of prayer for all people.

The Reverend Dr. Adam J. Shoemaker, Rector
The Reverend Courtney Davis-Shoemaker, Assistant Priest
The Reverend Greg Smith, Deacon
Wayne Helmly, Organist & Choirmaster
OPENING HYMN 518

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the Church in one;
 holy Zion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.

All that dedicated city,
dearly loved of God on high,
in exultant jubilation
pours perpetual melody;
God the One in Three adoring
in glad hymns eternally.

To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
with thy wonted loving-kindness
hear thy servants as they pray,
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls alway.

Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
what they ask of thee to gain;
what they gain from thee, for ever
with the blesséd to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory
evermore with thee to reign.

A LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Officiant says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Officiant says

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 following is sung

1. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. 2. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. 3. 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; 5. you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. 6. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, 7. you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.
THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LESSONS

FIRST READING: Exodus 1:8—2:10

8Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. 9He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. 10Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” 11Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. 12But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. 13The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, 14and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them. 15The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, 16“When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.” 17But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. 18So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?” 19The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” 20So God dealt well with the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?” 21The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” 22Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.” 23Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. 24The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. 25When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. 26His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. 27The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. 28When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. “This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,” she said. 29Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” 30Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Yes.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. 31Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.” 32So the woman took the child and nursed it. 33When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, “because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.
PSALM 124

1 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 over/whelmed 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.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. 3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. 4 For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. 6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; 7 ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; 8 the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.
GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” 17 And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” 20 Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

THE SERMON The Reverend Dr. Adam Shoemaker

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 II

I ask your prayers for God’s people throughout the world; for Bishop Curry and Bishop Parsley; 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. Pray for those who have died.

Silence

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

Silence

The Officiant adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESSION

The Deacon says

Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

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 Priest stands and 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. Amen.

The Officiant concludes with an absolution.

“WE ARE THE LORD’S” Londonderry Air, arr. Roland Martin
Laura Ball, soprano and Damien Kremer, cello

   We are the Lord’s; His all sufficient merit,  
   Sealed on the cross, to us this grace accords.  
   We are the Lord’s and all things shall inherit;  
   Whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s.  
   We are the Lord’s; then let us gladly tender  
   Our souls to Him in deeds, not empty words.  
   Let heart and tongue and life combine to render  
   No doubtful witness that we are the Lord’s.
We are the Lord’s; no darkness bro’ o’er us
Can make us tremble while this star affords
A steady light along the path before us—
Faith’s full assurance that we are the Lord’s.

We are the Lord’s; no evil can befall us
In the dread hour of life’s fast lo’osing cords;
No pangs of death shall even then appall us.
Death we shall vanquish, for we are the Lord’s.

THE SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

The Officiant leads the People in reciting Psalm 63.

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a barren and dry land where there is no water. Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory. For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise. So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your Name. My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips, When I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches. For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

People and Officiant, led by St. Stephen’s Children and Youth

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 Officiant says

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

In union, O Lord, with faithful eucharistic people throughout the world, we offer you our thanks and praise. We present to you our souls and bodies, earnestly desiring that we may always be united with you. You promise, O Christ, to be present with us in the sacrament of your body and blood, so with confidence we claim your presence among us during this eucharistic fast. Come into our hearts and unite us with you and one another. May your healing grace abound. Let nothing ever separate you from us. May we live in you and you live in us, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Officiant and People

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.
The Officiant concludes with the following:

BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people.

People  Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN 525

The Church’s one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word:
from heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation,
yet one o’er all the earth,
her charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy Name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder
men see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed;
yet saints their watch are keeping,
their cry goes up, ‘How long?’
and soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blessed,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.
Yet she on earth hath union with God, the Three in One, and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won. O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: “A PAEAN OF PRAISE”

Adapted from the Rite for Spiritual Communion by the Order of Julian of Norwich.

The worship is over. Now the service begins.

SERVING TODAY:
The Reverend Dr. Adam J. Shoemaker (Officiant & Preacher)
The Reverend Gregory L. Smith (Deacon)
Wayne Helmy (Choirmaster & Organist)
Chris Frisby (First Lesson Reader)
Grace Nevin (Second Lesson Reader)
Greg Garvan (Intercessor)
Anne Morrison (Soprano)
Laura ball (Soprano)
Damien Kremer (Cello)

LORD’S PRAYER:
Loflin Sakran
Marley Sanders
Aubrey Shoemaker
Malcolm Shoemaker
Hannah Shoemaker
  Silas Gesin
  Titus Gesin
  Bret Nettles
  Aoife Fischer
  Cotton Fischer