



St. Luke's Episcopal Church – Stephenville, TX

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6th, 2026

8:00 am & 10:00 am & 5:30 pm

Coffee Hour to follow at 11:00

To All Who Are Joyful And Thankful, To All Who Mourn And Need Comfort
To All Who Are Weary And Need Rest, To All Who Are Friendless And Wish Friendship
To All Who Pray And Who Do Not But Ought, To All Who Sin And Need A Savior.
And To Whoever Will, The Church Opens Wide The Door
And In The Name Of Christ, The Lord Says Welcome.

The Processional Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #174 At the Lamb's High Feast

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

People

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

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 Gloria

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music - #280 Canticle 20, Glory to God: Gloria in excelsis

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the



The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Readings

All are seated.

A reading from the Book of Exodus (Exodus 12:1-14).

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

People The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 149 *Cantate Domino* (Read responsively by half verse, breaking at the asterisk)

1 Hallelujah!

Sing to the LORD a new song; *

sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.

2 Let Israel rejoice in his Maker; *

let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

3 Let them praise his Name in the dance; *

let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.

4 For the LORD takes pleasure in his people *

and adorns the poor with victory.

5 Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; *

let them be joyful on their beds.

6 Let the praises of God be in their throat *

and a two-edged sword in their hand;

7 To wreak vengeance on the nations *

and punishment on the peoples;

8 To bind their kings in chains *

and their nobles with links of iron;

9 To inflict on them the judgment decreed; *

this is glory for all his faithful people.

Hallelujah!

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans. (Romans 13:8-14)

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

People The Word of the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

All stand as are able.

Gradual Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #336 Come with us, O Blessed Jesus

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

(Matthew 18:15-20)

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Mark Witte

A brief time of reflection follows the sermon

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.

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor

With confidence in God's love, and trusting that Christ is present wherever two or three are gathered in his name, let us pray for the Church and for the world.

For your Church throughout the world; for Sean our Presiding Bishop, for Andy, Jeff, Kai, Hector, and Brian our bishops, and all the clergy; for St. Luke's and for all who gather here in Christ's name: that we may put on the armor of light, clothing ourselves in compassion, patience, forgiveness, and love.

We pray to you, O Lord. **Hear our prayer.**

For communities divided by anger, suspicion, or old wounds: that your Church may be a place where reconciliation is sought, the truth is spoken in love, and those who have been separated may find a way toward one another.

We pray to you, O Lord. **Hear our prayer.**

For the nations of the world, and especially for those places where violence, injustice, and hatred have taken root: that leaders may seek peace rather than vengeance, and that peoples divided against one another may discover the courage to pursue reconciliation.

We pray to you, O Lord. **Hear our prayer.**

For all who exercise authority, and for those whose decisions affect the lives of others: that they may remember that love of neighbor is the fulfillment of the law, and govern with justice, humility, and mercy.

We pray to you, O Lord. **Hear our prayer.**

For Stephenville and for all who live and work here: for our schools, our businesses, our farms and places of labor; for those who employ others and those who seek employment; for those whose work is secure and those whose work is uncertain; that all may receive the dignity, rest, and just reward that every worker deserves.

We pray to you, O Lord. **Hear our prayer.**

At this time, let us pray together the Collect for Labor Day:

Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we have and all we do affect, for good or ill, all other lives. So guide us in the just and faithful use of the resources of this world, that we may be good stewards of your creation, and faithful workers in your kingdom; through him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For our neighbors, especially those who are lonely or estranged, and for all who long to be reconciled with family, friends, or community: that we may be attentive to one another's burdens and willing to take the first step toward peace.

We pray to you, O Lord. **Hear our prayer.**

For all who are suffering, especially those who are grieving, afraid, homeless, hungry, or alone; and for those whose needs are known only to you: that they may know the nearness of Christ, and find healing, comfort, and companions along the way.

We pray to you, O Lord. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray especially for the sick and those in any need, especially *[those on the St. Luke's prayer list]*.

We pray to you, O Lord. **Hear our prayer.**

For those who have died, especially *[names on the St. Luke's prayer list]*, and for all whom we love but see no longer: that, having finished their course in faith, they may rest in your eternal peace; and that we, who remain, may be strengthened by the hope of resurrection.

We pray to you, O Lord. **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant

Almighty God, you have made us members of one body in Christ and called us to love one another as you have loved us. Hear the prayers of your people, and give us grace to live not for ourselves alone, but for the good of our neighbors and the healing of your world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

**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. **Amen.**

The Peace

All stand as are able.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Announcements

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Karl Aho (7th), Diane Stokes (9th), Tom Mulloy (10th), Stephen Burge (12th)

Celebrant and People

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may the peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant

If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. *Matthew 5:23, 24*

*Gifts may be placed in the offering plate, given by text by sending an amount to (254) 282-0706, or given online.
Mailed checks may be sent to the address printed at the end of the bulletin.*

The Offertory Hymn

Lift Every Voice and Sing #74 Jesu, Jesu

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

us how to serve the neigh - bors we have from you. **Fine**

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
2. Neigh - bors are rich and poor, neigh - bors are black and
3. These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
4. Lov - ing puts us on our knees, serv - ing as though we are
5. Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their

1. feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
2. white, neigh - bors are near and far a - way.
3. love; all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
4. slaves, this is the way we should live with you.
5. feet, this is the way we should live with you. **D.C.**

Doxology (sung to *The Hymnal* 380)

*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. Amen.*

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer B

The people remain standing, as are able. The Celebrant says

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.**

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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.

The musical score is written on four staves in G-clef and 4/4 time. It features a melody with various note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' and a bracket) over the words 'might, hea - ven', 'Bless - ed', and 'comes in'. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The people stand or kneel, as are able.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have

delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary, Luke, Constance and her companions, Alexander, John Henry, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

***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 Breaking of the Bread

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

Facing the people, 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.

The Distribution of Holy Communion

Concerning Holy Communion

“This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.

It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more.

*So come, you who have much faith, and you who have little,
you who have been here often and you who have not been here long,
you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.*

Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.

It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.”



If you do not wish to receive the sacrament, we invite you to come forward for a blessing.

Simply cross your arms over your chest and the priest will bless you.



Gluten free wafers are available upon request.



If after receiving Communion or a blessing you would like special prayers for healing, you are invited to go to the votive stand at the rear of the church where someone will pray with you.

Communion Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #674 Forgive our Sins as we Forgive

After Communion, the Celebrant says
Let us pray.

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.**

The Priest gives the blessing

Blessing

May God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Processional

The Hymnal 1982 #376 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

The Dismissal

People Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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From the Calendar of Saints

September 9 Constance and her Companions *Nuns, 1878*

Commonly called “The Martyrs of Memphis,” Constance, six fellow sisters of St. Mary’s Convent, two Episcopal priests, the sisters’ two matrons, and several volunteers from New York labored to nurse patients stricken with deadly Yellow Fever. All but two died among themselves along with the 5,000 victims of the August epidemic.

September 10 Alexander Crummell *Priest, Missionary, and Educator, 1898*

For more than half a century, on three continents, Alexander Crummell worked on behalf of African-Americans, aiding them in building institutions to serve them and provide opportunities for leadership and creativity. He is considered a pioneer in African- American worship, education, and social service.

September 12 John Henry Hobart *Bishop of New York, 1830*

With his consuming energy and missionary zeal, Bishop Hobart planted a church in almost every major New York town and inaugurated missionary work among the Oneida Indians.

One of the founders of General Theological Seminary and reviver of the college later named for him, he also established the Bible and Common Prayer Book Society of New York

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

PO Box 2506
595 N. McIlhaney Street
Stephenville, TX 76401
(254) 968-6949

stlukesstephenville@gmail.com

www.stlukesstephenville.org

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Clergy

The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche – Rector
The Rev. Mark Witte – Curate
The Rev. Leslie Guinn – Assisting

Staff

Kara Barnes – Parish Administrator
Duncan McMahan – Organist
Gail Johnson & Kelly Barbee – Altar Guild Directresses
The Rev. Mark Witte – ECM Missioner
Neely Carter – Vestry Secretary
Emma Gomez – Technology Minister

Vestry

Term Ending 2026 – Kelly Barbee, Malcolm Cross
Term Ending 2027 – Doug McLemore & Allison Haynes
Term Ending 2028 – Gail Johnson & Dylan Dowell

God loves you.
No exceptions.
The Episcopal Church welcomes you.

