



St. Luke's Episcopal Church – Stephenville, TX
The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 19th, 2026
8:00 am & 10:00 am

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 #365 Come, thou, almighty King

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

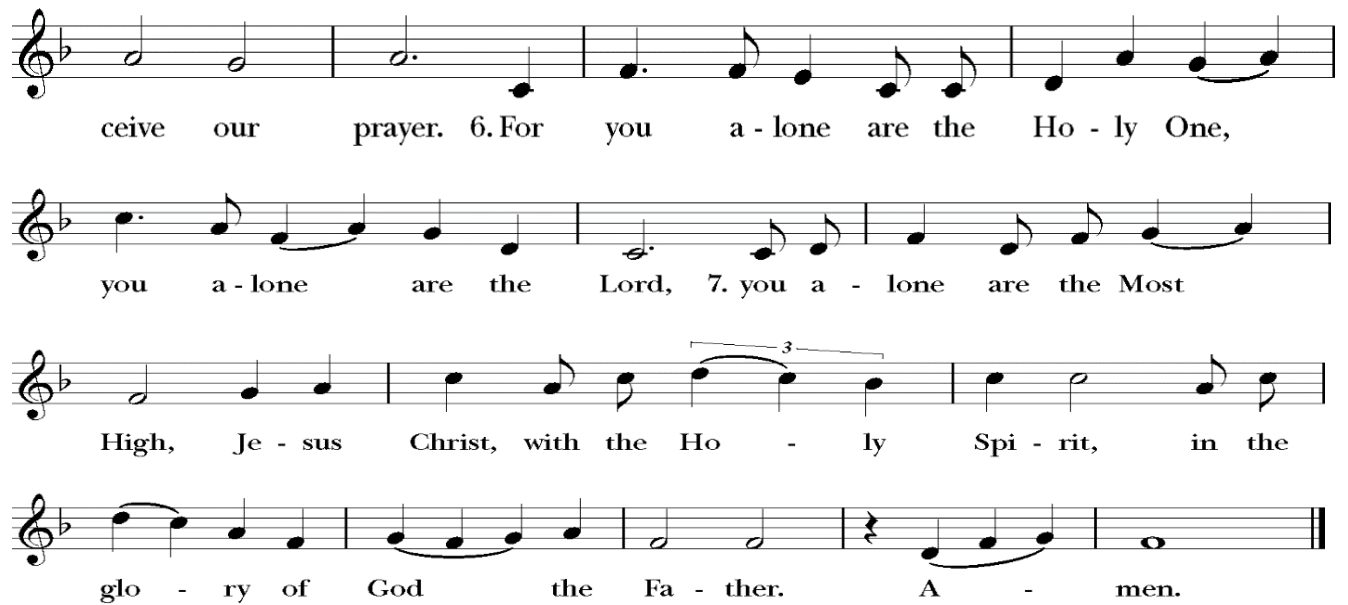
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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 -



The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son 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 Genesis. (Genesis 28:10-19a)

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 139: 1-11, 22-23 *Domine, probasti* (Read responsively by half verse)

- 1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me;
**you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.**
- 2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You press upon me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 6 Where can I go then from your Spirit?
where can I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand will lead me
and your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me,
and the light around me turn to night,"
- 11 Darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day;
darkness and light to you are both alike.
- 22 Search me out, O God, and know my heart;
try me and know my restless thoughts.
- 23 Look well whether there be any wickedness in me
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans. (Romans 8:12-25)

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand as are able.

Gradual Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #423 Immortal, invisible God only wise

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels,

and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

The Gospel of the Lord.
People **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 all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "*Lord, have mercy.*"

For the peace of the world; for the welfare of the holy Church of God; and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for Andy, Kai, Hector, Jeff, and Brian our Bishops; and for all the household of God, that we may faithfully proclaim the coming of God's kingdom with patience, humility, and hope, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, that they may seek justice, restrain evil, and govern with wisdom for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this city and community of Stephenville; for every place where people labor and learn; and

for all who seek to serve their neighbors, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth that longs for its redemption; for favorable weather; for fruitful harvests; and for the grace to be faithful stewards of all that God has entrusted to us, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed; for the unemployed and the destitute; for prisoners and captives; and for all who remember today that nothing can separate us from the love of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who are sick or suffering, especially [*those on St. Luke's prayer list*]; for those who are anxious or afraid; and for all who seek the assurance of God's abiding presence, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who have died, especially [*those on St. Luke's prayer list*]; and for all who await with hope the fullness of the redemption promised in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of Mary, Luke, and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

Celebrant:

O Lord our God, whose Son taught us to trust your judgment and to await the harvest of your kingdom with patience: Search us and know our hearts, and strengthen us by your Spirit to live as children of the light, until the day when all creation is set free and your righteous shine like the sun in your kingdom; 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

Carter Cole (21st)

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

But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. *Hebrews 13:15, 16*

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

The Hymnal 1982 #536 Open your ears, o faithful people

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

People The Lord be with you.
Celebrant **And also with you.**
People Lift up your hearts.
Celebrant **We lift them to the Lord.**
People Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
Celebrant **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 - #S125 Holy, holy, holy (Proulx)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, 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, Macrina, Elizabeth, Amelia, Sojourner, Maria, Mary Magdalene, Cassian, Thomas, James 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 #302 Father, we thank thee who has planted

After Communion, the Celebrant says
Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. 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 #344 Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing

The Dismissal

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

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From the Calendar of Saints

July 19 Macrina of Caesarea *Monastic and Teacher, 379*

Macrina the younger (340–379) was a monastic, theologian, and teacher. She is described as having lived a “philosophical life” and she founded one of the earliest Christian monastic communities in the Cappadocian countryside, on the crossroad of Annisa. Macrina left no writings; we know of her through the works of her brother, Gregory of Nyssa.

Gregory credits Macrina with being the spiritual and theological intelligence behind her brothers’ notable leadership in the church. Notably, although Gregory became a bishop, in Gregory’s writings it is Macrina who is portrayed saying a priestly, and thoroughly liturgical, prayer.

July 20 Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Amelia Bloomer, and Sojourner Truth *Social Reformers, 1902, 1894, and 1883*

Stanton dedicated her life to righting the wrongs perpetrated upon women by the church and society. Bloomer invented the comfortable article of women's clothing named for her, as part of her efforts to emancipate women from societal and spiritual restraints. Sojourner Truth, a slave, was named the "Miriam of the Later Exodus" for her strenuous support of women's rights.

July 21 Maria Skobtsova *Monastic and Martyr, 1945*

As a nun, when the Nazis took Paris in 1940, Maria began to provide a safe haven for Jewish Parisians. Many came to her hoping to receive baptismal certificates, which they believed would prevent their deportation. Her chaplain, Father Dimitri, gladly provided them. As the occupation became more dangerous, her community hid more Jewish people, providing shelter and helping many to escape. Eventually, Maria, was taken into custody and sent to the concentration camp in Ravensbrück, Germany.

While imprisoned, she encouraged the other inmates. Her faith was strengthened by her claim that "each person is the very icon of God incarnate in the world." On Holy Saturday, March 31, 1945, Mother Maria was taken to the gas chamber and entered eternal life. It is suggested that she took the place of a Jewish woman who had been selected for death.

July 22 Saint Mary Magdalene

Healed by Jesus of "seven demons," Mary Magdalene became his devoted follower, witnessed his crucifixion, and was the first person to whom he revealed himself after his resurrection. She is revered as the Apostle to the Apostles. In the Eastern Church she is venerated as the equal of an apostle, and is the patron saint of several monasteries in Greece.

July 23 John Cassian *Monastic and Theologian, 435*

In about 415, Cassian founded a house in Marseilles for monks, and later a house for nuns. Though Cassian's goal, like that of his desert mentors, was the perfection of the individual soul, he insisted that no one should embark on a monastic vocation alone. One should enter a house where others are pursuing the same goal, live according to a time-tested rule, and thereby gain the guidance and companionship of the community. Though Cassian remained committed to the desert ideal of individual perfection, his insistence on the necessity of Christian community and loving moderation was the basis for Benedictine monasticism.

July 24 Thomas a Kempis *Priest, 1471*

Thomas a Kempis is the author of perhaps the best known and most cherished Christian spiritual work, *The Imitation of Christ*. His masterpiece has been translated into more languages than any book other than the Bible.

July 25 Saint James the Apostle

James was the brother of John, also a disciple of Jesus, and son of a prosperous Galilean fisherman, Zebedee. Nicknamed with John a "Son of Thunder" by Jesus, James was the first of Christ's followers to die for him, martyred by King Herod.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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Clergy

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

Staff

Lexi McLemore – 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, & Ian Wilson
Term Ending 2027 – Doug McLemore & Allison Haynes
Term Ending 2028 – Gail Johnson & Dylan Dowell

God loves you.
No exceptions.

The Episcopal Church welcomes you.

