



St. Luke's Episcopal Church – Stephenville, TX

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 4th, 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 #518, Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

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

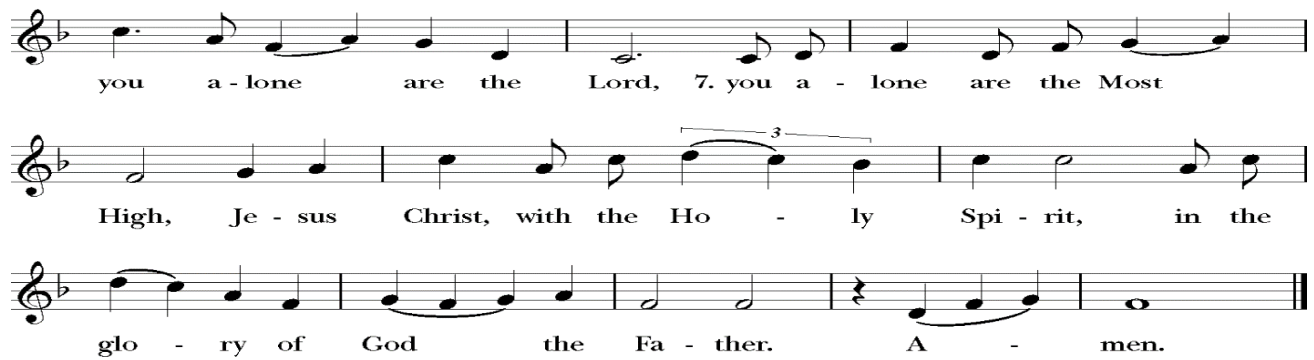
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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,



The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Readings

All are seated.

A reading from the Book of Exodus. (Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20)

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labor and do all your work.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses,

“You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die.” Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin.”

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

Psalm 19 *Caeli enarrant* (Read responsively by whole verse)

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, *
 and the firmament shows his handiwork.
- 2 One day tells its tale to another, ***
 and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- 3 Although they have no words or language, *
 and their voices are not heard,
- 4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, ***
 and their message to the ends of the world.
- 5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
 it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
 it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- 6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens**
 and runs about to the end of it again; *
 nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect
 and revives the soul; *
 the testimony of the Lord is sure
 and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8 The statutes of the Lord are just**
 and rejoice the heart; *
 the commandment of the Lord is clear
 and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the Lord is clean
 and endures for ever; *
 the judgments of the Lord are true
 and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,**
 more than much fine gold, *
 sweeter far than honey,
 than honey in the comb.
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, *
 and in keeping them there is great reward.

12 Who can tell how often he offends? *

cleanse me from my secret faults.

13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;

let them not get dominion over me; *

then shall I be whole and sound,

and innocent of a great offense.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my

heart be acceptable in your sight, *

O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians. (Philippians 3:4b-14)

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand as are able.

Gradual Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #448 (vs. 1-3, 6), O Love How Deep

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

(Matthew 21:33-46)

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes?'

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

The intercessor and people pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy and universal Church;
That we may bear the fruits of your kingdom.

Grant that we may be faithful servants in the vineyard of your world;
That our lives may proclaim the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus as Lord.

We pray for all bishops, priests, deacons, those in discernment, and lay ministers;
That they may encourage and strengthen your people in the proclamation of your Gospel.

We pray for those who lead our communities and our nation;
That they may labor for the good of all and seek what is just and true.

Give us grace to press on toward the goal and the prize of your heavenly call in Christ Jesus;
That, forgetting what lies behind and straining toward what lies ahead, we may know Christ and the power of his resurrection.

Pour out your love on those suffering from grief or trouble, especially *[those on St. Luke's prayer list]*;
That they may know your strength and grace, and find comfort in your presence.

Grant to the departed eternal rest, especially *[those on St. Luke's prayer list]*;
That, having shared in Christ's death, they may rest in his peace and rise with him to eternal life.

We give you thanks for all your saints who have entered into joy;
May we, with them, come to share in the glory of your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

Celebrant

Almighty and merciful God, whose Son is the cornerstone of your Church and the true vine from whom all life proceeds: give us grace to abide in him, that we may faithfully labor in your vineyard, bear fruit worthy of your kingdom, and rejoice in the hope of resurrection; 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

Matt Blackburn (4th), Jan Wilson (6th)

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 #99, My Hope is Built on Nothing Else

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

1. My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus' blood and
2. When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on His un -
3. His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood, Sup - port me in the
4. When He shall come with trum - pet sound, O may I then in

1. right - eous - ness; I dare not trust the sweet - est frame, But
2. chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and storm - y gale, My
3. whelm - ing flood; When all a - round my soul gives way, he
4. Him be found; Dressed in His right - eous - ness a - lone, Fault -

1. whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
2. an - chorholds with - in the veil. On Christ, the so - lid Rock, I stand, All
3. then is all my hope and stay.
4. less to stand be - fore the throne.

oth - er ground is sink - ing sand, All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

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, Francis, William, Brigitta, Robert, Vida 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 #314, Humbly I Adore Thee

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 #552, Fight the Good Fight

The Dismissal

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

Hymns printed by permission of Rite Song, a one-time use reprint license for congregational use.



From the Calendar of Saints

October 4 Francis of Assisi *Friar, 1226*

Universally loved and admired, Francis' total identification with the poverty and suffering of Christ is unique even among the saints. He's also known for his love and care of animals. Founder of the Order of Friars Minor, he received the stigmata in his hands and feet and side shortly before his death.

October 6 William Tyndale *Priest, 1536*

After translating the New Testament and portions of the Old Testament into English--his life's passion--Tyndale was strangled at the stake and his body burned when he was betrayed into the hands of Henry VIII and Cardinal Wolsey. Some 80% of his version survived into later translations, including the King James Version.

October 7 Birgitta Birgersdotter of Sweden *Mystic, 1373*

From childhood, Birgitta experienced visions of Christ, Mary, and the saints. She shared their messages which were increasingly political. Birgitta, as nobly born, advised popes and rulers throughout Europe, and criticized the extravagant lifestyles of the clergy, monastic orders, and laity. She also tried to persuade rulers of England and France to negotiate peace and end the Hundred Years' War. After her husband's death, she devoted herself to the religious life and lived a cloistered life in Rome, ministering to both rich and poor.

October 9 Robert Grosseteste Bishop of *Lincoln, 1253*

Grosseteste was an efficient and conscientious bishop, "obligated to visit the sheep committed to me with all diligence," as he put it. He actively opposed royal or papal infringements on church liberties.

October 10 Vida Dutton Scudder *Educator, 1954*

Vida Dutton Scudder exemplifies the marriage of contemplation and action. She served as a champion for peace, social action, and women. Born to congregationalist missionary parents in India, she eventually joined the Episcopal Church along with her mother in the 1870's. She taught at Wellsley College. She also helped found Denison House in Boston to serve immigrants and the poor. In 1911, she helped found the Episcopal Church Socialist League. By the end of WWI, she was a devoted pacifist and authored 16 books on religious and political subjects. She wrote, "there is one sure way of directly helping the Kingdom of God. That way is prayer."

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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

stlukesstephenville@gmail.com

www.stlukesstephenville.org

*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from
ONE LICENSE with license #A-719502. All rights reserved.*

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.

