



St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

SEEK SERVE SHARE

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Year C

September 7, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Celebrant
Deacon
Family Minister
Seminarians
Music

The Rev. Alyssa Stebbing
The Rev. Vicki Knipp
Lyssa Williford, Director
Christina Allen and Casey Clough
Ann Vail, Director of Music
Michael Davis, Piano
John Cotten, Guitar

Visitors

Welcome! We are so glad you've joined us for worship today. If you would like more information about getting connected at St. Christopher's, we invite you to fill out a **Connect** card, or contact our office. **Childcare** is available for Formation and Worship.

Restrooms (non-gendered)

In the Church, a restroom is located near the Nursery. Two restrooms are located to the right as you enter the Parish Hall.

Fellowship

Please join us immediately following the service for conversation and treats in the Parish Hall.



wifi network: St. Christopher | **wifi password:** StChristophers8724



Phones are welcome, **please silence**. We hope you will share your visit with friends.

Ways to Give

Support the life and ministry of St. Christopher's. Contact the office for more information.

St. Christopher's clergy and staff will never ask for an urgent favor, purchase of gift cards, or other financial items, or your personal info via email or text. Please delete these without responding.



In Person



Automatic
Giving



Online
Banking



Online



Mobile



Text

Please remember to enter **pledge** on the memo line and choose **Operating Pledge** online.

Worship Schedule

Acolyte
Avery

Altar Guild
Kathy and Ann

Bell Ringer
Gabbi

Epistoler
Tilly

Eucharistic Minister
Joyce

Fellowship
Fellowship Fair

Flowers
Kathy

Godly Play
Lyssa

Lector
Michael

Nursery
Athena

Ushers
Chris and Beau

Vestry of the Day
Jean and Kathy

Sunday | 9a Nursery | 9a Adult Form. | 10a Children's Form. | 10a Holy Eucharist, Rite II | 11a Fellowship

Monday | 9a Morning Prayer **Wednesday** | noon House of Prayer **Friday** | 7p Online Compline

Office | Mon-Thu: 9:30am – 2:30pm | 512.288.0128 | office@stchrisatx.org

Prayer Requests

Please complete a prayer card and drop it in the offering plate, or contact our office by phone, email, or on our website.



The Connection newsletter

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact the office or scan the QR code with your phone.



THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 18

As the Prelude begins we invite you to you to finish conversations and find a place in the nave to prepare for worship.

PRELUDE

Michael Davis, piano

WELCOME

(Please kneel as you are able)

A MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

(Please stand as you are able and join in singing.)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Hymnal 1982, # 372

Praise to the Living God!

1 Praise to the living God!
All praised be his Name
who was, and is, and is to be
for ay the same.
The one eternal God
ere aught that now appears:
the first, the last, beyond all thought
his timeless years!

2 Formless, all lovely forms
declare his loveliness;
holy, no holiness of earth
can his express.
Lo, he is Lord of all.
Creation speaks his praise,
and everywhere above, below,
his will obeys.

3 His Spirit floweth free,
high surging where it will:
in prophet's word he spoke of old;
he speaketh still.
Established is his law,
and changeless it shall stand,
deep writ upon the human heart,
on sea, on land.

4 Eternal life hath he
implanted in the soul;
his love shall be our strength and stay
while ages roll.
Praise to the living God!
All praised be his Name
who was, and is, and is to be,
for ay the same.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OPENING SENTENCES

BCP, p. 355

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP, p. 355

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**

During the singing of the Gloria the children will follow the cross and return at the Peace

GLORIA

Hymnal 1982, # S280

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 Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray

COLLECT FOR THE PROPER 18

BCP, p. 224

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.**

(Please be seated for the lessons)

THE FIRST LESSON:

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.

Moses said to all Israel the words which the Lord commanded him, "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving

the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

RESPONSE

Psalm 1

The psalm appointed for today is from Psalm 1, please read responsively by whole verse.

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

**2 Their delight is in the law of the LORD, *
and on this law they meditate day and night.**

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.

**4 It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.**

EPISTLE:

Philemon 1-21

A reading from the letter of Paul to Philemon.

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love-- and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus,

whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother-- especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able and join in singing.)

SEQUENCE HYMN

Hymnal 1982, # 512

Come, Gracious Spirit

1 Come, gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove,
with light and comfort from above;
be thou our guardian, thou our guide;
o'er every thought and step preside.

2 The light of truth to us display,
and make us know and choose thy way;
plant holy fear in every heart,
that we from thee may ne'er depart.

GOSPEL:

Luke 14:25-33

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Christ

SEQUENCE HYMN

Hymnal 1982, # 512

Come, Gracious Spirit

3 Lead us to Christ, the living Way,
nor let us from his precepts stray;
lead us to holiness, the road
that we must take to dwell with God.

4 Lead us to heaven, that we may share
fullness of joy for ever there;
lead us to God, our final rest,
to be with him for ever blest.

(Please be seated for the sermon.)

SERMON

The Rev Alyssa Stebbing

(Please stand as you are able)

THE NICENE CREED

BCP, p. 358

The Deacon says,

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection, let us proclaim our faith in the words of 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.**

(Please kneel or stand as you are able)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Deacon

Most loving and glorious God, hear us we implore you and act speedily to answer our prayers as we say, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

The Leader and People pray responsively

You have blessed your church across time with leaders of true faith, grant your church today wisdom and discernment that we might effectively share the good news of Jesus.

We pray for the whole Anglican Communion.

We pray for own church, for Sean our Presiding Bishop, for Andy, Kai, Jeff, Brian, and Hector our bishops, and for our whole diocese.

We pray for our parish, for Alyssa our priest; Vicki our deacon, our lay leaders, and ministers.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Give us wisdom to choose leaders of integrity, and also the courage and resolve to hold them accountable to their responsibility to build a nation where all people might thrive and know their dignity as God's created children.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

All our truest needs are provided by you. Open our minds and hearts to see the abundance of your creation and to boldly embrace policies that ensure no basic human needs go unmet.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Fill our hearts with the love of one another as brothers and sisters in Christ and to see and be inspired by the Christ which dwells in each of us, so that together we might boldly be Christ's loving body in a hurting world.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We ask healing for all who suffer, and we ask that we might be people of healing and reconciliation to those in need in our lives.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We are surrounded by the great cloud of witnesses who have been the lights of the world in their time. Grant us to follow in their example and welcome us into your eternal loving presence when it is our time to leave this earth.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Silence

The Deacon concludes with Intercessions

Celebrant

Most gracious Father, from the beginning you have sought to lead us into the joy possible to us through life in you. Aid us and be present with us that we might walk in the path of Jesus and live into his example. All these we offer through Christ, our Lord and highest allegiance, who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and reign always and forever. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of Jesus Christ.

(Please be seated for the announcements)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSING

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

BCP, p. 376

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Lift Every Voice, # 136

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

(Please stand or kneel as you are able)

1 I have decided to follow Jesus; 3X
No turning back, no turning back.

3 The world behind me, the cross before me; 3X
No turning back, no turning back.

2 Though none go join me,
still I will follow; 3X
No turning back, no turning back.

DOXOLOGY

Hymnal 1982, # 380

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;**

**Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

(Please remain standing.)

SURSUM CORDA

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, but chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us 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:

(Please stand or kneel as you are able)

SANCTUS

Hymnal 1982, # S130

**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.

The Celebrant continues

(Please stand or kneel as you are able)

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.

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 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 say together.

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. **AMEN.**

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP, p. 364

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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Hymnal 1982, # S 164

Jesus, Lamb of God:
Have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world:
Give us your peace.

Jesus, bearer of our sins:
Have mercy on us.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

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.

Please follow the guidance of the ushers to approach the altar to receive communion. Gluten free wafers are available. If you would prefer you may receive a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest. Please ask an usher if you need communion brought to you.

(Please sit or kneel as you prefer after receiving Holy Communion)

Communion Hymn

Hymnal 1982, # 325

Let Us Break Bread Together

1 Let us break bread together on our knees;
when I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

3 Let us praise God together on our knees;
when I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;
when I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Communion Praise Song

More Precious than Silver

Lynn DeShazzo

Lord You are
More precious than silver
Lord You are
More costly than gold

Lord You are
More beautiful than diamonds
And nothing I desire
Compares with You

Communion Praise Song

Alleluia

Jerry Sinclair

1 Alleluia 5X
2 How I love him 5X
3 Blessed Jesus 5X

4 My redeemer 5X
5 Jesus is Lord 5X
6 Alleluia 5X

(Please kneel or stand as you are able)

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

BCP, p. 366

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.

BLESSING

(Please stand as you are able and join in singing)

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Hymnal 1982, # 594

God of Grace

1 God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient Church's story;
bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour.

2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise:
grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days.

3 Cure thy children's warring madness,
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

4 Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of thy salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore. Amen.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Michael Davis, piano

Thank you for joining us in worship today.

Please know that your participation with us has been a blessing

Prayers of the People are from Hear Our Prayer, Church Pub Inc. Kindle
Psalm is from Psalter for the Christian People, Liturgical Press. Kindle
The music in today's service was reproduced under OneLicense.net #A-7368,
CCLI Copyright #1104703 , CCLI Streaming # 21874931
Cover Artwork: Christ Carrying the Cross, by Sir Stanley Spencer

Large print bulletins are available in the narthex.
Digital bulletins are on the home page of the website
stchristophersaustin.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

Your help is needed in keeping our Prayer List current. Please send any updates for the Prayer List to the office at office@stchristophersaustin.org

Prayers for healing, comfort, and peace Sally, Mike, Elizabeth, Bob, George, Finn, Hailey, Judy, Ian, Elena, Mary, Paula, Bobby, Mary, Caroline, Alison, Ward, Mary, MJ, Erin, Robert, Pam, Joe, Hank, Cheryl, Fraser, Mark, Ray, Gillian, Michael, Rose Mary, Nick, Linda, Nancy, Samuel, Wendy, Annunciation students, staff, families, and friends, Patrice's family, Nicholas

Prayers for God's Protection: Kenyon, Daniel, Cale, Joshua, Drew, Joyce

Prayers for Expectant Mothers: Molly

Prayers for the Departed: Annunciation students and staff, Patrice

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sts. Francis & Clare Pet Blessing Service and Baptism | Sun, Oct 5 @ 10a

Bring your pets and your friends.

Fall Festival | Sat, Oct 11, 4-6p

Ministry Fair | Sun, Oct 26

ANOUNCEMENTS

Check out the Connection for more information.

Day of Fellowship | TODAY

Fellowship is at the heart of our life together as a church and St Christopher's. Gathering in friendship and love strengthens our bonds as the Body of Christ. In sharing our stories, joys, and burdens, we reflect God's love to one another and grow in faith.

Fellowship volunteers are needed to help with setting up, serving, cleaning, and, most importantly, welcoming folks into the parish hall after Sunday service. Fellowship volunteers also help with special events as needed from time to time. Volunteers are grouped into teams so no one is on their own.

If you are interested in joining this critical ministry, please contact Linda Velasquez.

Meander Through the Bible | Weds, Sep 10 - Oct 29, 5:30 - 7p

Sessions begin with a quick potluck supper then lessons at 6:00pm. Your presence is welcome at one or all six sessions. Our first session will be on the Torah (1st five books of the Bible). No meeting on 9/17

From Altar to Table | Sep 11, Oct 9, Nov 6 @ 2-3p

The "From Altar to Table" spiritual direction group bridges Sunday worship with daily life. Contact the office if you wish to participate.

Migration with Dignity Prayer Vigil | Wed, Sep 17 @ 6:30p @ St David's

Interfaith prayer vigil for refugees, asylum seekers, and other immigrants at St. David's (301 E 8th). Parking is free. There will be no Meander Through the Bible meeting.

September Gathering | Sat , Sep 27

All ages are invited to join us at the El Buen Community Garden. Please contact Lyssa if you have questions.

TRY THIS
ON FOR
SIZE.

THIS IS NOT
WHAT I SIGNED
UP FOR.

