

# St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Santa Clarita

## The Fourth Sunday of Pentecost — Proper 7

### 10:30 AM — June 21, 2026

*The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God.*

*Before the service begins, we encourage you to use the following for meditation.*

While tomorrow may indeed be another day, it is today that we are being called to be a people filled with the Spirit, pouring out upon the world and this nation the love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control they so desperately need. God's call to us is urgent, and we need to respond—not tomorrow, but today. Br. James Koester, SSJE

\*\*\*\*\*

*-Generally, we stand to give praise, sit to listen (to scripture and sermon), and stand or kneel to pray. These postures help us stay focused on the worship, but there are no strict rules and you should take whatever posture is appropriate to your needs.-*

### Prelude

*Faith of Our Fathers*

Frederick William Faber

*-Processions have long been an important part of liturgical worship. At the beginning of the service they signify an intention to move toward the altar and into direct relationship to worship God. Those who wish to may bow in reverence as the cross passes to acknowledge Christ's sacrifice upon it.-*

### Entrance Hymn #537

"Christ for the world we sing"

*Moscow*

1. Christ for the world we sing! The world to Christ we bring with lov-ing zeal;  
 2. Christ for the world we sing! The world to Christ we bring with fer-vent prayer;  
 3. Christ for the world we sing! The world to Christ we bring with one ac-cord;  
 4. Christ for the world we sing! The world to Christ we bring with joy-ful song;

the poor, and them that mourn, the faint and o-ver-borne,  
 the way-ward and the lost, by rest-less pas-sions tossed,  
 with us the work to share, with us re-proach to dare,  
 the new-born souls, whose days, re-claimed from er-ror's ways,  
 sin-sick and sor-row worn, whom Christ doth heal.  
 re-deemed at count-less cost from dark des-pair.  
 with us the cross to bear, for Christ our Lord.  
 in-spired with hope and praise, to Christ be-long.

*-The liturgy is God's community gathered to actively share the Word and the Eucharist. We invite and encourage your participation in this community. Please join in the spoken responses and hymns shown in the service bulletin.-*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*-The opening acclamation is the greeting of the people by the presider and their response, which begins the service. Its purpose is to bring the congregation corporately into dialogue with the presider and set a tone for the celebration.-*

Priest: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.  
 People: Glory to God for ever and ever.

# 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 Savior. **Amen.**

## Gloria

Baity

*Refrain*

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, glo-ry to God! Glo-ry to God in the high-est, glo-ry to God! And peace to His peo-ple on earth, peace to His peo-ple on earth. Glo - ry, glo-ry to God!

*Verse 1*

Lord God, our heav'n-ly King, al-might-y God the Fa - ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks. We praise you Lord, We praise you Lord, We praise you for your glo - ry.

*Verse 2*

Je - sus Christ, the Son, the Lamb, you take a - way our sin. Lord God have mer - cy up - on us. You have the seat *To Refrain* at God's right hand, re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.

*Verse 3*

You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are Lord, For you a lone are the Most High! Lord Je-sus Christ, Lord Je-sus Christ,

with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of our  
 Fa - ther, in the glo - ry of our God the Fa - ther.

*Refrain*  
 Glo-ry to God in the high-est, glo-ry to God! Glo-ry to God in the  
 high-est, glo-ry to God! And peace to His peo-ple on earth,  
 peace to His peo-ple on earth. Glo - ry!  
 Glo - ry! Glo - ry! glo-ry to God!

-A Collect is a short prayer with a specific structure. Its purpose is to gather into one the individual prayers of the People. The Collect of the Day is a specific prayer that reflects upon the lectionary readings for the given day of the liturgical year:-

### The Collect of the Day

Priest: God be with you.  
 People: **And also with you.**  
 Priest: Let us pray.

O God, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*  
**THE LESSONS**

### The First Reading Jeremiah 20:7-13

Reader: Fred Chavez

A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me. For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. "Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him,

and take our revenge on him." But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause. Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*-The Book of Common Prayer has always placed great importance on the Psalms in worship. They are sung or said in every service of the church, and their words make up the petitions and language of our liturgy. —*

## Psalm 69: 8-11, 12-20

Reader: Marv Aardahl

- 8 Surely, for your sake have I suffered reproach, \*  
and shame has covered my face.
- 9 I have become a stranger to my own kindred, \*  
an alien to my mother's children.
- 10 Zeal for your house has eaten me up; \*  
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.
- 11 I humbled myself with fasting, \*  
but that was turned to my reproach.
- 12 I put on sack-cloth also, \*  
and became a byword among them.
- 13 Those who sit at the gate murmur against me, \*  
and the drunkards make songs about me.
- 14 But as for me, this is my prayer to you, \*  
at the time you have set, O Lord:
- 15 "In your great mercy, O God, \*  
answer me with your unfailing help.
- 16 Save me from the mire; do not let me sink; \*  
let me be rescued from those who hate me  
and out of the deep waters.
- 17 Let not the torrent of waters wash over me,  
neither let the deep swallow me up; \*  
do not let the Pit shut its mouth upon me.
- 18 Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind; \*  
in your great compassion, turn to me.'
- 19 "Hide not your face from your servant; \*  
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.
- 20 Draw near to me and redeem me; \*  
because of my enemies deliver me.

## The Second Reading Romans 6:1b-11

Reader: Marv Aardahl

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

*-The Gospel procession moves into the congregation as a liturgical reminder that Jesus walked among us.-*

*Please stand as you are able.*

### Gradual LEVAS #136

*I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

Indian Folk Melody

1. I have de - cid - ed \_\_\_\_\_ to fol - low Je - sus, \_\_\_\_\_ I have de - cid - ed \_\_\_\_\_  
2. Though no one join me, \_\_\_\_\_ still I will fol - low, \_\_\_\_\_ Though no one join me, \_\_\_\_\_  
3. The world be - hind me, \_\_\_\_\_ the cross be - fore me, \_\_\_\_\_ The world be - hind me, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ to fol - low Je - sus, \_\_\_\_\_ I have de - cid - ed \_\_\_\_\_ to fol - low  
\_\_\_\_\_ still I will fol - low, \_\_\_\_\_ Though no one join me, \_\_\_\_\_ still I will  
\_\_\_\_\_ the cross be - fore me, \_\_\_\_\_ The world be - hind me, \_\_\_\_\_ the cross be -

Je - sus, \_\_\_\_\_ No turn - ing back, \_\_\_\_\_ no turn - ing back! \_\_\_\_\_  
fol - low, \_\_\_\_\_ No turn - ing back, \_\_\_\_\_ no turn - ing back! \_\_\_\_\_  
fore me, \_\_\_\_\_ No turn - ing back, \_\_\_\_\_ no turn - ing back! \_\_\_\_\_

*-The Gospel is comprised primarily of the words Christ himself spoke, and so we stand out of reverence for the good news that has been brought for us and all people.*

*Those who wish, make the sign of the cross with the right-thumb on the forehead, the lips, and the heart when the Gospel is announced, praying silently, God be in my head and in my thinking. God be in my lips and in my speaking. God be in my heart and my departing.-*

## The Gospel Reading Matthew 10:24-39

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, O Christ.**

Jesus said to the twelve disciples, "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! "So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. "Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

Priest: The Gospel of the Savior.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

*-The Sermon or Homily helps us apply the words of the early prophets and Christ in our lives.-*

## The Sermon

The Very Rev. Christopher Montella  
Rector

*A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.*

*-The Nicene Creed is the statement of what we believe. It is one of the most ancient and corporate confession of our faith, having been adopted by the first ecumenical council in the year 325. When we recite this creed we are joining a great heritage of the holy universal Church through the centuries.*

*Some people may choose to bow their heads at the verse, For us and for our salvation...and was made man. This gesture marks the mystery of the Incarnation as the central Christian message of God's love for the world.-*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## 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.

*-Prayer is offered for the Universal Church, the Nation and all in authority, the welfare of the world, concerns of the local community, for those who suffer or who are in any trouble, and for the departed.-*

## The Prayers of the People

Reader: Sally Drake

Children of God, praise be! Our God is faithful and hears our prayers, so let us pray, "In your great mercy, O God, answer us with your unfailing help."

To the baptized, O God, grant newness of life. Strengthen us to follow in the footsteps of your Son.

*Silence*

Intercessor: In your great mercy, O God,

**People: Answer us with your unfailing help.**

To the nations of earth, O God of hosts, grant freedom and peace. Deliver the lives of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

*Silence*

Intercessor: In your great mercy, O God,

**People: Answer us with your unfailing help.**

To your created order, O God, grant your help. May the waters, soil, and air be made clean and healthy again.

*The congregation may add their own thanksgivings.*

*Silence*

Intercessor: In your great mercy, O God,

**People: Answer us with your unfailing help.**

To this city, O God, grant your deliverance. Set us free from violence and destruction. Make safe our streets.

*Silence*

Intercessor: In your great mercy, O God,

**People: Answer us with your unfailing help.**

To those who feel the deep about to swallow them, O God, grant your salvation. In your great compassion, turn to all those in need. We pray for all those on the prayer list.

*The congregation may add their own petitions.*

*Silence*

Intercessor: In your great mercy, O God,

People: **Answer us with your unfailing help.**

To the dead, O God, grant life eternal with Christ. May all those who have been baptized into the death of Christ be united with him in his resurrection.

*Silence*

Intercessor: In your great mercy, O God,

People: **Answer us with your unfailing help.**

## A Prayer for Father's Day

*Priest:*

Loving God, we thank you for fathers. We thank you for biological fathers, adopted fathers, and fathers in spirit. We pray for the fathers that are living and those who have passed away; for those that love us and for those who fell short of loving us fully. We thank you for fathers who work hard every day to help fulfill the needs of their families, who fix broken things and teach us how to do it ourselves, who embrace us and guide us, who love us even when they don't understand us. We know they reflect and embody your love for us as our heavenly Father. Comfort those of us who miss our fathers this day, and strengthen and bless those fathers who work so hard to love, protect, and nurture their families this day and every day. **Amen.**

*Priest:*

O Gracious God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, the one, holy and undivided Trinity; God, Son & Spirit now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Confession

Let us confess our sins to God.

God of all mercy,

we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.

We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.

We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. **Amen.**

## Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

*-The Peace is an extension of Christian greeting and teaching to love our neighbor as ourselves. It symbolizes our intent to forgive as we are forgiven, to live in peace with all people. Members are encouraged to greet one another with a sign of God's peace with the clasp of hands, a reverential bow, a hug, or a peace sign.-*

## The Peace

Priest: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*Members of the congregation who are joining us via livestream are encouraged to post "Peace be with you" in the comments or to use the "like" or "love" reaction button to take part in the virtual exchange of God's peace with the rest of the congregation at this time.*

*Please be seated.*

## Welcome and Announcements

We are pleased to celebrate the following birthdays: Erick Castro on June 19<sup>th</sup>, Erick Castro-Gaeta on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Audrey Rieckhoff on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Bella Cario on June 26<sup>th</sup>. We also celebrate the wedding anniversaries of Lynn & David Jay on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Grace & Kevin Fulleman, Laura & Jeremy Hunt, and Cinda & John Noonan all on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## Offertory Prayer

*The People remain seated and say together:*

Loving God, you alone are the source of every good gift. Everything we have, and all that we are, comes from you. Now, help us to be grateful, accountable, and, with praise and thanksgiving, to give of ourselves generously, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

# THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

## Offertory

*This is My Father's World*  
St. Stephen's Parish Choir

arr. Paul Christiansen

*-A Sacrament is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace given unto us, ordained by Christ himself. For Anglicans there are two great sacraments: Eucharist and Baptism.*

*As continuation of thousands of years of spiritual practice, talent, treasure, and oblations are offered before the altar in our response to God's care and nurture.-*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Doxology

*Old 100<sup>th</sup>*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures,  
here be - low. Praise God, you hosts in heav'n a -  
bove; Praise God the Trin - i - ty of Love. A - men.

*-The Sursum Corda (Lift up your hearts) is a form of introduction to prayer handed down over the centuries. This dialogue is an invitation for the people joining in the Eucharistic offering, to raise minds and hearts to “things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.”-*

Priest: God be with you.  
People: **And also with you.**  
Priest: Lift up your hearts.  
People: **We lift them to God.**  
Priest: Let us give thanks.  
People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*-We praise God for the long arc of salvation history. We do not approach with petition but simply with grateful remembrance of all that God has done.-*

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

*-The holiness of God is a strong theme in the Old Testament, present here in the Sanctus, which echoes the words of the high angels in the prophet Isaiah’s vision of the dwelling place of God (Isaiah 6:1-3).*

*Our worshipful cry, “Holy, Holy, Holy,” is coupled with the acclamation “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.”-*

### Sanctus Hymn #S 129

Powell

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.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”



*-The outward and visible sign in the sacrament of the Eucharist is the bread and the wine. We eat and drink the sacramental foods. Through the inward and spiritual grace of this sacramental action we are reconstituted as Christ's body, infused with Christ's life, and empowered to be Christ's presence in the world.-*

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 be seated.*

*All are welcome to receive communion. The table we set belongs to God. Wherever you find yourself on your spiritual journey you are welcome to receive the Bread and Wine made holy.*

*The church teaches that temporal isolation cannot constrain the sacrament's ineffable power. Calling us to "massive, corporate, spiritual communion,"*

## The Invitation to Holy Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

*Priest and People say together:*

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

*Please follow usher instructions for taking communion.*

## Communion

*-In the post communion prayer we give thanks for the sacramental signs of Christ's presence to us and we ask God to empower and accompany us into the world to witness to God's love.-*

*Please stand as you are able.*

### Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

Loving God,  
we give you thanks  
for restoring us in your image  
and nourishing us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.  
Now send us forth  
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;  
that we may proclaim your love to the world  
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

*-The blessing is God's promise to be with us as we leave communal worship and return to the world to serve God and God's people.-*

