

**St. Stephens Church**  
and  
**Bethany Lutheran Church**  
**Celebrate**  
**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**October 4, 2026**  
**11:00 AM**



THE *Episcopal* CHURCH 



*"All are welcome here"*

**St. Stephens Episcopal Church**  
**109 S. Barry St. Olean, NY 14760**  
**716-372-5628**  
e-mail: [ststephensolean@gmail.com](mailto:ststephensolean@gmail.com)

*"A Reconciling in Christ Congregation"*

**Bethany Lutheran Church**  
**6 Leo Moss Drive, Olean, NY 14760**  
**716-372-1914**  
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## Prelude

## Announcements

(Please Stand if you are able)

## Opening Hymn

### Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and  
2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of  
3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from  
4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,  
hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,  
you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er  
to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's  
hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est  
with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter  
ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.  
ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.  
in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.  
one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: WESTMINSTER ABBEY, Henry Purcell, 1659–1695; arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1802–1868

Celebrant  
**People**

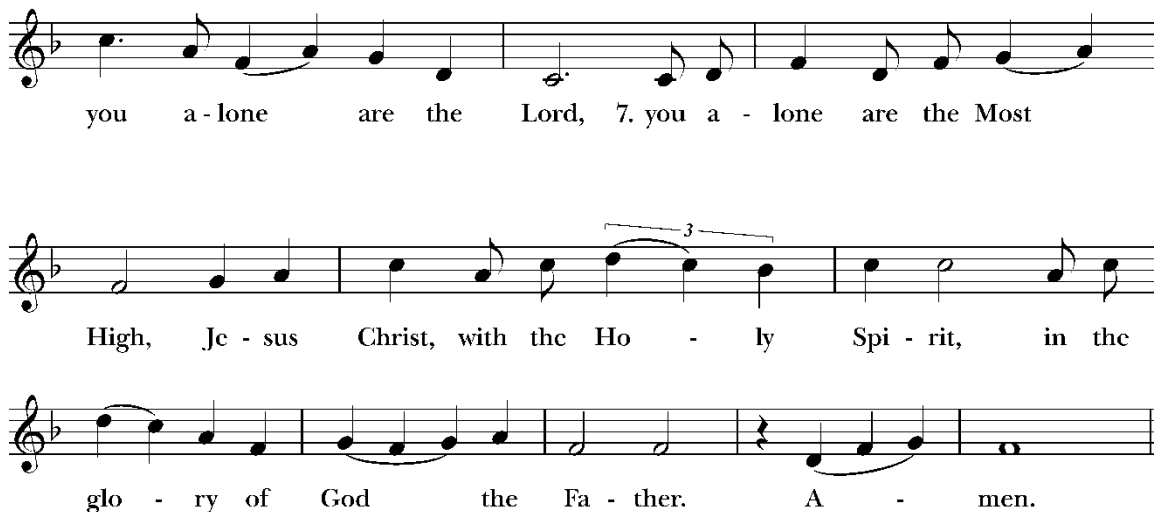
Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

### 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.*

### S 280 "Glory to God"

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,



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

## 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. (You may be seated)*

## First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.

<sup>2</sup>He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

<sup>3</sup>And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard.

<sup>4</sup>What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

<sup>5</sup>And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.

<sup>6</sup>I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with

briers and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

<sup>7</sup>For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

***People***           **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm: Psalm 80:7-14**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts; \*

**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

<sup>8</sup>You have brought a vine out of Egypt; \*

**you cast out the nations and planted it.**

<sup>9</sup>You prepared the ground for it; \*

**it took root and filled the land.**

<sup>10</sup>The mountains were covered by its shadow \*

**and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

<sup>11</sup>You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea \*

**and its branches to the River.**

<sup>12</sup>Why have you broken down its wall, \*

**so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

<sup>13</sup>The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, \*

**and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.**

<sup>14</sup>Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven; behold and tend this vine; \*

**preserve what your right hand has planted.**

**Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14**-A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Philippi.

<sup>4b</sup>If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>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; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>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 <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord.

**People**        **Thanks be to God.**

# **SEQUENCE HYMN-“ FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT WITH ALL THY MIGHT” #552**

*(Please stand if you are able)*

1 Fight the good fight with all thy might, Christ is thy  
 2 Run the straight race through God's good grace, lift up thine  
 \*3 Cast care a - side, lean on thy Guide; his bound - less  
 \*4 Faint not nor fear, his arms are near; he chan - geth

strength and Christ thy right; lay hold on life, and  
 eyes and seek his face; life with its way be -  
 mer - cy and will pro - vide; trust, and thy trust - ing  
 not, and thou art dear; on - ly be - lieve, and

it shall be thy joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.  
 fore us lies, Christ is the path and Christ the prize.  
 soul shall prove Christ is its life and Christ its love.  
 thou shalt see that Christ is all in all to thee.

**Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46** *(Please remain standing if you are able)*

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

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

[Jesus said,] <sup>33</sup>“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. <sup>34</sup>When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. <sup>35</sup>But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup>Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. <sup>37</sup>Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>38</sup>But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup>So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. <sup>40</sup>Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” <sup>41</sup>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.”

<sup>42</sup>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’?

<sup>43</sup>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. <sup>44</sup>The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

<sup>45</sup>When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup>They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

*Celebrant*            The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(You may be seated)*

**Sermon – Rev. Rebecca Harris**

**The Nicene Creed** *(Please stand if you are able)*

**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** *(You may be seated)*

We join with Christians far and near to worship God the Creator, praying for the earth and for all in need.

*A brief silence.*

O God of mystery, mercy, and might, for the church we pray: that churches around the globe collaborate in care for the earth, and that all the baptized nurture a zeal for the wellbeing of creation. Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

For the earth we pray: that this bounteous creation receive continued divine blessing, that the air be wholesome, that the waters be plentiful and clean, that the land be treasured, and that animals be protected. Grant that what on earth has been despoiled will be healed. Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

For the nations we pray: that farmers, herders, foragers, fishers, and grocers provide the food humans need, that legislators strive in all things for the common good, and that science and technology lead us toward more responsible ways to live. Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

For our country we pray: that national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges be safeguarded, that all natural resources benefit the whole population, and that our children learn respect for nature. Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

For those in need we pray: that humankind be sheltered from pandemic and from extreme weather, and that all who are sick or suffering receive medical attention and communal support. Give heed to those whose names we call out to you (*especially*) those from **St. Stephen's**: Audrey Childs, Nancy Consedine, Amanda Piccirillo, Betty Linderman, Linda Giardini, Gail Olson, Gloria Preston, Dick Mulaski, Ethan Johnson, Steven, Colt Matz, Dave and Donna Briggs, Rev. Max Meyers, Millie Piccirillo, Martha Edwards, Jim and Kathy, Priscilla and Nelson Griffith, Carolyn Wolfe, Denise, Helen Stritoff, Kienen Duggan, David Styles, Carol Snyder, Adam Wolfe, Don Sosnowski Dave Dorson, Mary Follett and those from **Bethany** Adam, Joanne Hitchcock, Kay Backhus, Kristen Clemens Keenan, Nancy Rebeyro, Ron Aaron, Steve, Louise Koenig, Barb Franklin, Marcia Wray, Merrill & Muriel Frable, Robert Keenan, Dorothy Porter, Sylvia Subject, Gail Cross, Heather Miller, Carl Zimmerman, Louise Koenig, Barb Franklin, Andy Carlson, Heather Miller, Tim Johnson, Jamie Molyneayx, Frann Wilson, Lynne Smith, Bob Skudlarek and Kevin McClelland and those we name either silently or aloud..Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, our maker and keeper, we commend ourselves and your whole creation, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and People: **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.**

Celebrant: 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** (*Please stand if you are able*)

*Celebrant*           The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People**             **And also with you.**

### **The Holy Communion**

Celebrant: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*

# OFFERTORY HYMN "God the Sculptor of the Mountains" WLP #746

1. God the sculp-tor of the moun-tains, God the mil-ler of the sand,  
 2. God the nui-sance to the Pha-raoh, God the cleav-er of the sea,  
 3. God the un-ex-pect-ed in-fant, God the calm, de-ter-mined youth,  
 4. God the dress-er of the vine-yard, God the plant-er of the wheat,

God the jewel-er of the heav-ens, God the pot-ter of the land:  
 God the pil-lar of the dark-ness, God the bea-con of the free:  
 God the ta-ble turn-ing pro-phet, God the res-ur-rect-ed Truth:  
 God the reap-er of the har-vest, God the source of all we eat:

you are womb of all cre-a-tion, we are form-less; shape us now.  
 you are gate of all de-liv'-rance, we are sight-less; lead us now.  
 you are pres-ent ev-ery mo-ment, we are search-ing; meet us now.  
 you are host at ev-ery ta-ble, we are hun-gry; feed us now.

Words: John Thornburg (b. 1954). Music: *Sandria*, Gerre Hancock (b. 1934).

1 Lord, make us ser - vants of your peace: where there is  
 2 Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; where all is  
 3 Je - sus, our Lord, may we not seek to be con -  
 4 May we not look for love's re - turn, but seek to  
 5 Dy - ing, we live, and are re - born through death's dark

1 hate, may we sow love; where there is hurt, may we for -  
 2 gloom, may we sow hope; where all is night, may we sow  
 3 soled, but to con - sole, nor look to un - der - stand - ing  
 4 love un - self - ish - ly, for in our giv - ing we re -  
 5 night to end - less day: Lord, make us ser - vants of your

1 give; where there is strife, may we make one.  
 2 light; where all is tears, may we sow joy.  
 3 hearts, but look for hearts to un - der - stand.  
 4 ceive, and in for - giv - ing are for - given.  
 5 peace, to wake at last in hea - ven's light.

Words: James Quinn (b. 1919), based on a prayer att. to St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226). Copyright © James Quinn, SJ, printed by permission of Geoffrey Chapman, a division of Cassell Ltd. Music: *Dickinson College*, Lee Hastings Bristol, Jr. (1923-1979). Copyright © 1962, Theodore Presser Co. used by permission of the publisher.

## Doxology – Presentation of the Gifts

### Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is simple and hymn-like, consisting of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The first line of music corresponds to the first line of lyrics, and the second line of music corresponds to the second line of lyrics. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;

praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

### **The Canon of the Eucharist**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

***People:* We lift them up unto the Lord.**

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***People:* It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

## Holy, holy, holy Lord: *Sanctus* #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 major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with various note values including eighth, quarter, and half notes. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' and a bracket) over the notes for 'heaven', 'san - na', and 'comes in'. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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

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.

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*

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

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.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** -As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**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**

**"Lamb of God" (HY S-161)**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

**Celebrant:** The Gift 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.

**All persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us.** *Some people, for various reasons, prefer to receive the Host only and some may wish to come forward for a blessing. If you wish to receive a blessing, please come forward and cross your hands across your chest.*

## COMMUNION HYMN “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” #474

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross where the young  
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the  
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet sor - row and  
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were an

Prince of Glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
cross of Christ, my God: all the vain things that  
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and  
of - fering far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

## AFTER-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Celebrant:* 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.**

## BLESSING

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

## POST-COMMUNION HYMN –“O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High” #448



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high, how pass - ing  
2 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly  
3 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his  
4 For us to wick - ed hands be - trayed, scourged, mocked, in  
5 For us he rose from death a - gain; for us he  
6 All glo - ry to our Lord and God for love so



1 thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of  
2 fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tions  
3 dai - ly works he wrought: by words and signs and  
4 pur - ple robe ar - rayed, he bore the shame - ful  
5 went on high to reign; for us he sent his  
6 deep, so high, so broad; the Trin - i - ty whom



1 God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake.  
2 sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er ov - er - threw.  
3 ac - tions, thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.  
4 cross and death; for us gave up his dy - ing breath.  
5 Spi - rit here to guide, to strength - en, and to cheer.  
6 we a - dore for ev - er and for ev - er - more.

## DISMISSAL

*Celebrant:* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

**Serving today:**  
***Celebrant: Rev. Rebecca Harris***  
***Lector: Mary Plonka***  
***Intercessor: Gloria Preston***  
***Eucharistic Ministers: Kimberly Kruse and Jeni Olson***  
***Organist: Jack Bollman and Ray Sprout***

Join us Following Service for Coffee Hour

**Upcoming Events:**

- *Book Study, Wednesday, October 7th, Noon at Bethany Lutheran*
- *Pet Food Pantry, October 9th at Bethany Lutheran*
- *Service Sunday, October 11th at Bethany Lutheran*
- *Altar Guild, Monday, October 12th, Noon at St. Stephen's*

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**

Olean, New York

\*\*\*\*\*

The Right Reverend Stephen T. Lane  
Bishop Provisional of the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York  
Rector: Vacant

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Website: [www.ststephensolean.net](http://www.ststephensolean.net)

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Darrin Cowher, Parish Administrator, Jack Bollman, Organist  
Robert Styles and Laurie Hobler, Treasurers, Darrin Cowher, Crucifer  
Millie Piccirillo, Laurie Hobler, Yvonne Morris and Ann Carleson, Christian Education  
Caleb Miller, Financial Clerk

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Vestry**

Teresa Piccirillo, Sr. Warden 716-597-5406 Mary Plonka, Jr. Warden 716-373-6735  
Tyler Cowher, Sue Groves, Millie Piccirillo, Melanie Nichols and Suzanne Soltysik



*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*  
John 13:34-35, NRSV

Dear Friends in Christ,

Jesus promises us, "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places" (John 14:2). We believe this means that God's love is wide enough to hold us all, and that we are bound together in holy community.

This year's theme, *Plenty Good Room*, reminds us that stewardship is not only about financial and in-kind gifts. It is also about relationships – the ways we are connected to God, to one another, and to our neighbors.

Our parish budget is one way we tell the story of those relationships. Each pledge and gift sustains our common life: children growing in faith, neighbors receiving meals and care, worshippers being welcomed, and friends finding hope. Our budget is more than numbers; it is a reflection of our values and our mission.

In two weeks, you will receive a letter from our stewardship committee with details about how to make your commitment to this year's campaign. For now, I invite you to consider the relationships that have sustained you in this church, and how your generosity can help extend that welcome to others.

There is, indeed, *plenty good room* in God's house. Together, let us make room for one another.

In Christ's service,

Teresa A. Piccirillo  
Senior Warden  
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