



ST. STEPHEN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF RIDGEFIELD

*Belonging
with purpose*

Our Mission: Embracing and living God's commandment to love our neighbors through worship, stewardship, and service to others.

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026 • 10:00 A.M.

Prelude and Welcome

All stand and join in singing Hymn 408

Mit Freuden zart

1 Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation;
with healing balm my soul he fills,
and every faithless murmur stills:
to God all praise and glory.

2 What God's almighty power hath made,
his gracious mercy keepeth;
by morning glow or evening shade
his watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.
Within the kingdom of his might, lo!
all is just and all is right:
to God all praise and glory.

3 Let all who name Christ's holy Name
give God all praise and glory;
let all who know his power proclaim
aloud the wondrous story!
Cast each false idol from its throne,
the Lord is God, and he alone:
to God all praise and glory.

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

All join in 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.**

*At this time, children are invited to follow
Storytime Leaders down to the Choir Room.*

All sing the Song of Praise

Thaxted



Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.. **Amen.**

*The flowers on the altar are given
to the glory of God and in memory of
Marshall Means Ballou*

All sit for A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.
And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant--
these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.
Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A Portion of Psalm 67 *said by all*

- 1 **May God be merciful to us and bless us, ***
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.
- 2 **Let your ways be known upon earth, ***
your saving health among all nations.
- 3 **Let the peoples praise you, O God; ***
let all the peoples praise you.
- 4 **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, ***
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.
- 5 **Let the peoples praise you, O God; ***
let all the peoples praise you.
- 6 **The earth has brought forth her increase; ***
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.
- 7 **May God give us his blessing, ***
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

*All stand and sing Sequence***Hymn 530**

Gott sei Dank

1 Spread, O spread, thou mighty word,
spread the kingdom of the Lord,
that to earth's remotest bound
all may heed the joyful sound;

2 word of how the Father's will
made the world, and keeps it, still;
how his only Son he gave,
earth from sin and death to save;

3 word of how the Savior's love
earth's sore burden doth remove;
how forever, in its need,
through his death the world is freed;

4 word of how the Spirit came
bringing peace in Jesus' name;
how his never-failing love
guides us on to heaven above.

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

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

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Matthew 15:21-28

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Rev'd Allison Brown
Assistant Priest, Trinity Church, Newtown.

A moment for reflection follows the sermon.

All stand for **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

Let us call out to the Lord.

People Lord, have mercy on us.

All kneel for The Confession of Sin

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

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

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good thy vows unto the Most High.

Psalm 50:14

Offertory

All stand for the Presentation Hymn *Old Hundredth*

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.

The Great Thanksgiving *Book of Common Prayer p. 367*

Celebrant 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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. *The Celebrant prays a Proper Preface.* 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:

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, heaven 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, ho -
san - na in the high - est.

All stand or kneel as the Celebrant continues and ends with

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues and ends with

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

People

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

Celebrant Alleluia: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast: Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem

ANTIPHON

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - ov - er is sa - cri - ficed for us:

there - fore let us keep the feast.

REPEAT ANTIPHON

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the people of God.

All join in singing **Communion Hymn 339**

- 1 Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness,
leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
come into the daylight's splendor;
there with joy thy praises render
unto him whose grace unbounded
hath this wondrous banquet founded;
high o'er all the heavens he reigneth,
yet to dwell with thee he deigneth.
- 2 Sun, who all my life dost brighten;
Light, Who dost my soul enlighten;
Joy the best that any knoweth;
Fount, whence all my being floweth;
at thy feet I cry, my Maker,
let me be a fit partaker
of this blessed food from heaven,
for our good, thy glory, given.
- 3 Jesus, Bread of life, I pray thee,
let me gladly here obey thee;
never to my hurt invited,
be thy love with love requited;
from this banquet let me measure,
Lord, how vast and deep it's treasure;
through the gifts thou here dost give me
as thy guest in heaven receive me.

All kneel for the **Prayer After Communion**

Celebrant Let us pray.

All 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 Priest pronounces God's blessing and all respond **Amen.**

All stand and sing **Hymn 537**

Moscow

- 1 Christ for the world we sing!
The world to Christ we bring
with loving zeal;
the poor and them that mourn,
the faint and overborne,
sin-sick and sorrow-worn,
whom Christ doth heal.
- 2 Christ for the world we sing!
The world to Christ we bring
with fervent prayer;
the wayward and the lost,
by restless passions tossed,
redeemed at countless cost,
from dark despair.
- 3 Christ for the world we sing!
The world to Christ we bring
with one accord;
with us the work to share,
with us reproach to dare,
with us the cross to bear,
for Christ our Lord.
- 4 Christ for the world we sing!
The world to Christ we bring
with joyful song;
the newborn souls, whose days,
reclaimed from error's ways,
inspired with hope and praise,
to Christ belong.

Dismissal *Response* Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Postlude

Music Notes

Rooted in a seventeenth-century German text, **Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above** is a joyful affirmation of God's providence and steadfast love. As we celebrate Christ's Transfiguration, we join the disciples in praising the One whose divine glory shines through Jesus and whose faithful care sustains us in every circumstance.

Written by the great Lutheran hymn writer Jonathan Friedrich Bahnmaier, **Spread, O Spread Thou Mighty Word** is a prayer that the Gospel may reach every heart and nation. The radiant light revealed on the mount is not meant to remain there, but to shine through the Church as we proclaim Christ to the world.

One of the Church's great communion hymns, **Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness**, this text by Johann Franck invites us to prepare our hearts with joy for the Eucharistic feast. The melody by Johann Crüger has long been cherished for its graceful beauty, reminding us that in the Holy Eucharist the glorified Christ comes to nourish us with his very life.

Ernest W. Shurtleff's stirring text **Christ for the world we sing** is a hymn of mission, calling the Church to carry Christ's love to a world longing for hope and healing. Strengthened by Word and Sacrament, we leave worship ready to bear witness to the glory we have encountered in Christ.