



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 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 2, 2026 • 10:00 A.M.

Prelude and Welcome

All stand and join in singing Hymn

- 1 All who hunger, gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering.
Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

Holy Manna

- 2 All who hunger, never strangers;
seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered
in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

- 3 All who hunger, sing together;
Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
Here, in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table
live their lives in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

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

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

Lizzie D. Schoyer
Anne S. Richardson
Edna Schoyer

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

O— God be-yond all prai-sing, we wor-ship you to-
day and sing the love a - ma - zing that
songs can-not re - pay; for— we can on-ly won-der at—
ev - ery gift you send, at— bless-ings with-out
num - ber and mer-cies with - out end: we—
lift our hearts be - fore— you and wait up-on your
word, we— ho - nor and a -
dore— you, our great and migh - ty Lord.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All sit for A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

"Ho, everyone who thirsts,

come to the waters;

and you that have no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,

and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;

listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,

my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples,

a leader and commander for the peoples.

See, you shall call nations that you do not know,

and nations that do not know you shall run to you,

because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,

for he has glorified you." *Isaiah 55:1-5*

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A Portion of Psalm 145 said by all

**8 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

**9 The Lord is loving to everyone *
and his compassion is over all his works.**

**15 The Lord upholds all those who fall; *
he lifts up those who are bowed down.**

**16 The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, *
and you give them their food in due season.**

**17 You open wide your hand *
and satisfy the needs of every living creature.**

**18 The Lord is righteous in all his ways *
and loving in all his works.**

**19 The Lord is near to those who call upon him, *
to all who call upon him faithfully.**

**20 He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; *
he hears their cry and helps them.**

**21 The Lord preserves all those who love him, *
but he destroys all the wicked.**

**22 My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord; *
let all flesh bless his holy Name for ever and ever.**

All stand and sing Sequence Hymn 291

Wir pflügen

1 We plow the fields, and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand;
he sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.

*All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
for all his love.*

2 He only is the Maker
of all things near and far;
he paints the wayside flower,
he lights the evening star;
the wind and waves obey him,
by him the birds are fed;
much more to us, his children,
he gives our daily bread. *Refrain*

3 We thank thee, then, O Father,
for all things bright and good,
the seedtime and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food:
the gifts we have to offer
are what thy love imparts,
but chiefly thou desirest
our humble, thankful hearts. *Refrain*

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

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

Jesus withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Matthew 14:13-21

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon The Rev'd Whitney Altopp, D.Min.

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

We pray:

People **Hear us, O Lord.**

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.

Psalms 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 343**

St. Agnes

- 1 Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless
thy chosen pilgrim flock
with manna in the wilderness,
with water from the rock.
- 2 We would not live by bread alone,
but by thy word of grace,
in strength of which we travel on
to our abiding place.
- 3 Be known to us in breaking bread,
and do not then depart;
Saviour, abide with us, and spread
thy table in our heart.
- 4 Lord, sup with us in love divine,
thy Body and thy Blood,
that living bread, that heavenly wine,
be our immortal food.

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.**

- 1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee:
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.
- 2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.
- 3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the sinful human eye thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.
- 4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy Name,
in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

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

Music Notes

With its inviting refrain, “**All who hunger, gather gladly,**” this hymn by Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955–1993) draws together the biblical images of hunger, manna, bread, and divine abundance. Its text is especially resonant with today’s readings: Isaiah’s invitation to “come, buy and eat” without money, the psalmist’s praise of the God who opens his hand and satisfies every living thing, and Christ’s feeding of the multitude. The hymn reminds us that the table of God is not a reward for those who have earned a place, but a feast of grace freely offered to all who hunger. The tune, HOLY MANNA, is an early American folk hymn tune first published in the nineteenth century and is particularly well suited to the text’s joyful sense of gathering and welcome.

We plough the fields and scatter began as a German hymn by the poet Matthias Claudius (1740–1815) and became widely known in English through Jane Montgomery Campbell’s nineteenth-century translation. Although traditionally associated with harvest and thanksgiving, its message reaches beyond any particular season: human beings may plant, tend, and labor, but the sustaining gifts of creation ultimately come from God. Its familiar refrain—“All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above”—echoes Psalm 145’s image of God opening his hand and satisfying the needs of every living creature. Set to WIR PFLÜGEN, the hymn invites us to recognize ordinary food itself as a sign of divine generosity and to respond with gratitude and praise.

Written by James Montgomery (1771–1854), **Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless** weaves together some of Scripture’s richest images of God’s provision. Christ is invoked as both shepherd and host, feeding his people with “manna in the wilderness” and giving the “bread of life” and “living waters.” These images recall Israel’s miraculous sustenance in the wilderness while pointing toward Christ’s feeding of the multitude and the sacramental meal of the Eucharist. The hymn’s prayer is simple and enduring: that the God who fed his people in ages past will continue to nourish, sustain, and accompany us on our own pilgrimage.

Fr. Reginald Heber (1783–1826) wrote **Holy, Holy, Holy!** specifically for Trinity Sunday, drawing its central imagery from the heavenly worship described in Isaiah and Revelation: “Holy, holy, holy” is the unending song offered before the throne of God. Its language celebrates the mystery of God as “merciful and mighty,” worshiped by saints, angels, and all creation. John Bacchus Dykes composed the majestic tune NICAIA for Heber’s text in 1861, naming it for the Council of Nicaea, whose fourth-century confession of faith helped shape the Church’s understanding of the Trinity. Together, text and tune have become one of the most enduring expressions of Trinitarian praise in Christian hymnody.