

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
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A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey

The Rt. Rev. William H. (Chip) Stokes, Bishop
The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr., Rector
Gerrie Vergona Treasurer
Esther Graham Music Director
Greg Mathews, Parish Administrator
Tom O'Brien, Sexton

Wardens and Vestry 2021

Stefanie Rotsaert Rector's Warden
Richard Smithson, Property Warden
Debbie Fisher, Marge Pomykala, Peter Quigley
Pat Russo, Maryann Payne, Dottie Kaster
Kay Karlick, Tom Larson, Ken Seda
Joanne Smithson, Clerk

Mission Statement

To proclaim the faith that our years have engendered: to use the diversity of our Episcopal experience while working toward a common goal; to teach the young about Jesus and to reach out and affect the lives of those in the community.

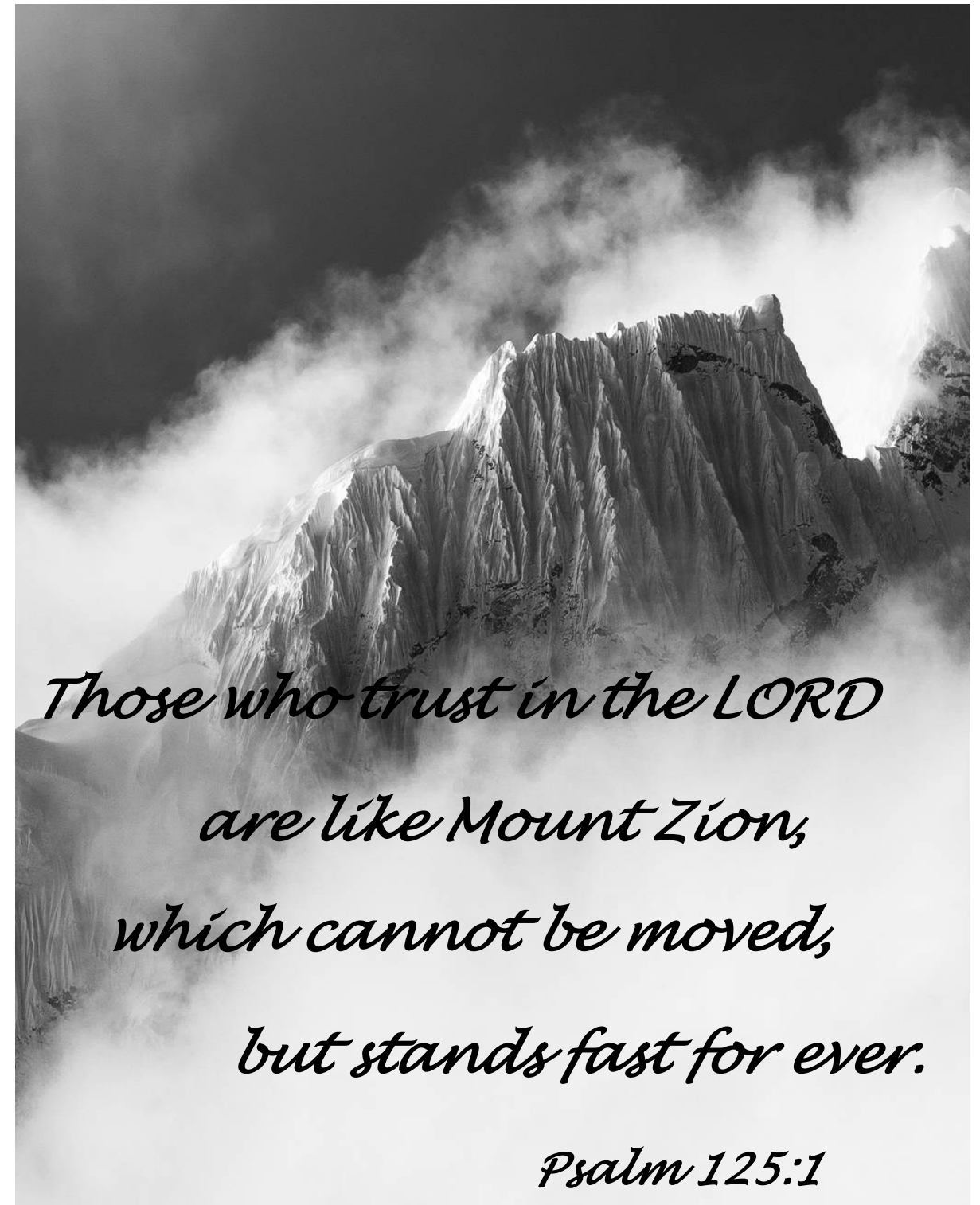
"Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them." Matthew 7:20

Welcome to St. Stephen's Church!

We thank you for joining us for worship today. Please stay for coffee hour, and sign our guest book at the podium in the Narthex. If you are looking for a church home, you have just found it. We would love to have you at St. Stephen's. Arrangements for weddings and baptisms can be made by speaking directly with the Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr., Rector.

To Report Illness, Hospitalization, etc.

Please notify the church office 732-350-2121 of any illnesses or hospitalizations. If it is an emergency you may also reach Stefanie Rotsaert, Rector's Warden at 732-350-2904 or Father Paul at his home 609-268-2864.



*Those who trust in the LORD
are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved,
but stands fast for ever.*

Psalm 125:1

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST PROPER 18
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II**

**SEPTEMBER 5, 2021
8 & 10 AM**

Hymnal	The Word of God	BCP
425	Processional Hymn: <i>“Immortal Invisible God only Wise”</i> verse I	
717	Patriotic Hymn: <i>“My country Tis of Thee”</i> verse IV	
	Opening Acclamation	355
S102	Trisagion	
	Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23	Insert
	Psalm 125	Insert
	Second Lesson: Letter of James 2:1-17	Insert
	Gradual: <i>“Word of God Speak”</i>	Insert
	Gospel: Mark 7:24-37	Insert
	Sermon — <i>The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.</i>	
	The Nicene Creed	358
	Prayers of the People Form VI	392
	Confession and Absolution	393
	The Peace	
372	Offertory: <i>“Praise to the Living God!”</i>	Insert
	Doxology: <i>“All things Come of thee O Lord”</i>	
HOLY COMMUNION		
The Great Thanksgiving		
	Eucharistic Prayer A	361
S120	Sursum Corda	
S125	Sanctus	
S133	Memorial Acclamation	363
	The Lord’s Prayer	364
	Breaking of the Bread	
S152	Fraction Anthem	
	Communion Hymns:	
325	<i>“Let Us Break Bread Together”</i>	
551	<i>“Rise Up Ye Saints of God”</i>	
371	<i>“Thou Whose Almighty Word”</i>	
	Post Communion Prayer	365
	Blessing	
	Announcements	
344	Closing Hymn: <i>“Lord Dismiss us With Thy Blessing”</i>	
	Dismissal	

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
PROPER 18**

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

Serving in the Liturgy today:

Lector 8:00 am	Susan Quigley
LEM 8:00 am	Peter Quigley
Altar Guild 8:00 am	Debbie Fisher, David Fisher
Ushers 8:00 am	Mary Storey, Glenn Mortimer, Bill Bodine
Lector 10:00 am	Valarie Thompson
LEM 10:00 am	Bill Bodine
Altar Guild 10:00 am	Valerie Thompson
Ushers 10:00 am	Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson



Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle is given to

The Glory of God

Sans Memorial



Reminder!

Healing Services

will resume on **September 9th @ 10AM**

&

Arts & Crafts

will be on September 16th from 10-12pm and

1-3pm

Thyroid Support Group

Will be returning

Monday September 13th @ 10AM

Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers are given to the

Glory of God

Sans Memorial



Mark Your Calendars!

25th Annual

Blessing of the Bikes

Saturday, October 23rd, 12-4pm

Blessing @ 2pm Rain or Shine

&

Whiting Garden Club

Will return October 6th @ 10AM

Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Gospel reading today contains two healing stories. In the first, Jesus astounds the disciples by healing the daughter of a Gentile woman, an act unheard of in his day. Then he heals a man who is deaf and mute. These healings, like the others in the Gospel, is for Mark a sign that Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus' attempt to prevent the healing being made known, and the crowd's amazement at this event, is a characteristic of Mark's Gospel. Also characteristic of Mark is that the people healed are in every case people who were rejected by traditional religious leaders.

In our first reading, we continue to read portions of the Wisdom writings. Proverbs is one of the more important of those writings. Today we are reminded that the wise person is concerned for a good name more than for riches. To do good for those in need is the way of Wisdom.

Today we continue reading the Epistle of James. This brief letter, ascribed to Jesus' brother, is strikingly similar in tone and content to the Sermon on the Mount. James is particularly concerned that belief in God be accompanied by conduct congruent with that faith. Above all, James is concerned lest we settle for faith which does not produce good works for others, especially the poor and helpless. Faith without good works is an empty faith.

The People of God gather, week by week, to meet Christ, dying and rising in our midst. His presence is revealed in our liturgical gatherings in Word and Sacrament, and in us, as members of his Body, by our daily lives of ministry to others in concrete acts of love and caring.

From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year*.

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Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 18

September 29, 2021
8 & 10 AM

Collect of the Day

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.*

First Reading

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold. The rich and the poor meet together; the LORD is the maker of them all. He who sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of his fury will fail. He who has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor. Do not rob the poor, because he is poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate; for the LORD will plead their cause and despoil of life those who despoil them.

Psalm 125

- 1 Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, *
which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.
- 2 The hills stand about Jerusalem; *
so does the LORD stand round about his people,
from this time forth for evermore.
- 3 The scepter of the wicked shall not hold sway over the land allotted to the
just, *
so that the just shall not put their hands to evil.
- 4 Show your goodness, O LORD, to those who are good *
and to those who are true of heart.
- 5 As for those who turn aside to crooked ways,
the LORD will lead them away with the evildoers; *
but peace be upon Israel.

Second Reading

Letter of James 2:1-17

My brethren, show no partiality as you hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if a man with gold rings and in fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "Have a seat here, please," while you say to the poor man, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brethren. Has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you, is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme that honorable name which was invoked over you? If you really fulfil the royal law, according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well. But if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.

For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," said also, "Do not kill." If you do not commit adultery but do kill, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy; yet mercy triumphs over judgment. What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him? If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Holy Gospel

Mark 7:24-37

And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house, and would not have any one know it; yet he could not be hid. But immediately a woman, whose little daughter was possessed by an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell down at his feet. Now the woman was a Greek, a Syropheni'cian by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. And he said to her, "Let the children first be fed, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." And he said to her, "For this saying you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter." And she went home, and found the child lying in bed, and the demon gone. Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, through the region of the Decap'olis. And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech; and they besought him to lay his hand upon him. And taking him aside from the multitude privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue; and looking up to heaven, he sighed, and said to him, "Eph'phatha," that is, "Be opened." And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. And he charged them to tell no one; but the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well; he even makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak."