



LECTIONARY

The Collect for Today

Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

NUMBERS 6:22-27

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them, The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

Lector: **Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.**

People: **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 8

1 O Lord our Governor, *
how exalted is your Name
in all the world!

2 Out of the mouths of in-
fants and children *
your majesty is praised
above the heavens.

3 You have set up a strong-
hold against your adver-
saries, *
to quell the enemy and the
avenger.

4 When I consider your
heavens, the work of your
fingers, *
the moon and the stars you
have set in their courses,
5 What is man that you
should be mindful of him? *
the son of man that you
should seek him out?
6 You have made him but
little lower than the an-
gels; *

you adorn him with glory and honor;	field,
7 You give him mastery over the works of your hands; *	9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, * and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.
you put all things under his feet:	10 O Lord our Governor, * how exalted is your Name in all the world!
8 All sheep and oxen, * even the wild beasts of the	

SECOND READING

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

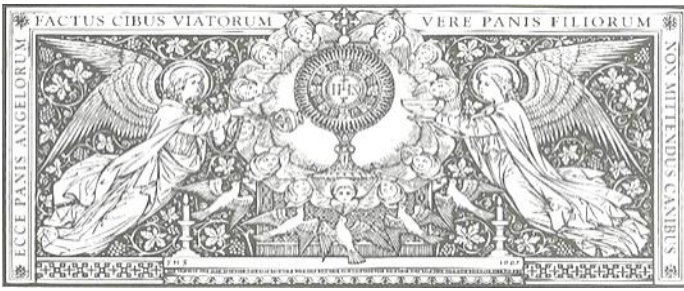
Lector: **Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.**

People: **Thanks be to God**

Sequence Hymn: *"Once in Royal David's City"* #102

Officiant: *The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke .*

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



GOSPEL

LUKE 2:15-21

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.



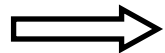
Officiant: *The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

Prayers of the People

Leader: *Brothers and sisters in the faith, God has called us into the family of the church. In the Spirit of Christ, we call out “Abba, Father,” asking our creator to hear the prayers we offer, saying:*

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.



Let us pray for the human family:

*Eternal Father, you entrusted to Mary and Joseph the life of your child, Jesus. Strengthen all parents and children in the bonds of love, peace, and faith. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

Let us pray for the household of the church:

Creator of life, make your church a fruitful vine to all who are reborn in the living waters of baptism. May we find ourselves continually nourished and refreshed at the table of Christ's body and blood.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who suffer:

Consoler of the afflicted, sustain the homeless and the abandoned. Protect the widow, the widower, the orphan. Comfort those who mourn the dead, and all those we pray for now.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the families of this community:

God of love, like a mother you nourish us with your grace. Quicken in us the seed of Christ's word, that we might reveal his life to the whole family.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for Zululand in South Africa.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray St. Peter's in Case Grande.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We acknowledge and pay respect to the first peoples of this land and their role as custodians of this land given to them by our one and only Creator God. We commit ourselves to work actively alongside indigenous people for reconciliation and justice as we live into our Baptismal Covenant and respect the dignity of every person.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Prayers For the Parish

Teach us, Good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not heed the wounds; to work and not seek to rest; to labor and not ask for any reward; except that by knowing we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **AMEN**

Transitioning New Life at St. Stephen's

Holy God, make us Holy. Revealing God, make us see. Sending God, make us move. Loving God, make us Love. **AMEN**

Presider: *Gracious God, may your favor and blessing rest upon the family which you have gathered in the name of your child Jesus. Accept the prayers we offer in his name. So may your love embrace us, now and forever. Amen.*