

February 24 & 25, 2018Rev. Julie Williams Presiding
(5pm & 7:30am)

Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.



ST. STEPHEN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

HOLY EUCHARIST

A Penitential Order Entrance Rite

The people stand as they are able.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People *His mercy endures forever.*

The Decalogue

BCP 350

Hear the commandments of God to his people: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Honor your father and your mother.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit murder.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit adultery.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not steal.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not be a false witness.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Penitential Sentence

The people kneel as they are able.

The Presider then says

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

The people kneel as they are able. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant continues:

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All say together

**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 or Priest:

*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.*

Trisagon *(repeat three times)*

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant *The Lord be with you.*

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant *Let us pray.*

*O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from
your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold
fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy
Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

A period of silence is kept.

The Word of God

First Reading

A reading from The Book of Genesis (17:1-7,15-16).

When Abram was ninety–nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

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

People: Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is kept.

Psalm 22:22-30

BCP p. 611

- 22 Praise the Lord, you that **fear him**;^{*}
Stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;
all you of Jacob's line, give **glory**.
- 23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither does he hide his face **from them**;^{*}
but when they cry to him he **hears them**.
- 24 My praise is of him in the great **assembly**;^{*}
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who
worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the Lord shall **praise him**.*

“May your heart live for **ever**!”

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to
the **Lord**,*

and all the families of the nations shall bow **before him**.

27 For kingship belongs to the **Lord**;*
he rules over the **nations**.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down
in **worship**.*

all who go down to the dust fall **before him**.

29 My soul shall live for him:

my descendants shall **serve him**.*

they shall be known as the Lord’s for **ever**.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet **unborn***
the saving deeds that he has **done**.

Second Reading

A reading from The Letter of Paul to the Romans (4:13-25).

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in

his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

A period of silence is kept.

The people stand as they are able.

Gospel Mark 8:31-38

Priest: *The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark .*

People: **Glory to You Lord Christ.**

Gospel

Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Priest: *The Gospel of our Lord.*

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

A period of silence is kept.

Sermon

The people stand as they are able.

The Nicene Creed

All say together

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.**

Prayers of the People

Leader: Jesus Christ intercedes for us at all times. Together let us remember and pray to God through Christ, saying: Have mercy, O Lord.

For the church, that the fasting of these forty days may clear away much that is needless and so open our eyes to the bright glory of the cross, we pray:
Have mercy, O Lord.

For the church, that those baptized at Easter will learn from us to read and ponder and cherish the scriptures, we pray: **Have mercy, O Lord.**

For the children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, that the Jewish people may find a blessing and a zeal for justice in their covenant with God, we pray:
Have mercy, O Lord.

For all who suffer want, that God in mercy may turn our hearts toward one another and bring us to end our faithless reliance on weapons, war, and the threat of war, we pray: **Have mercy, O Lord.**

For prisoners, that all who are bound in body may find such a strength of spirit to lift up all of us, we pray: **Have mercy, O Lord.**

For ourselves, that this church may walk both as burdened and as free as Jesus was, we pray: **Have mercy, O Lord.**

For all who have died, that they be at peace, we pray: **Have mercy, O Lord.**

For our Armed Forces, those who are far from home, for their safety and the wellbeing of their families and loved ones left behind, we pray:
Have mercy, O Lord.

In the Anglican cycle of prayer, for the Anglican Church in Central America, we pray: **Have mercy, O Lord.**

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, for the Resurrection Church plant in Gilbert, we pray: **Have mercy, O Lord.**

We acknowledge and pay respect to the first peoples of this land and their role as custodians of the earth 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. We pray: **Have mercy, O Lord.**

Leader: Praying together

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

Holy God, make us holy. Revealing God, make us see. Sending God, make us move. Loving God, make us love. We pray: **Have mercy, O Lord.**

Celebrant continues:

God, whose ways are beyond our knowing or approving, place the world's troubles ever in our plain sight, and be yourself in our seeing and in our praying. We ask this always through Christ our Lord. AMEN

A period of silence is kept.

The Peace

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

People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Installation of the Search Committee

Celebrant: *I present to you these persons to be installed as members of the Rector's Search Committee in this congregation. God will not overlook your work and the love which you show for his sake.*

Committee Members: **Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God. Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground.**

Celebrant: *As members of the Search Committee, you are hereby charged to diligently search for a candidate to be the next Rector of St Stephen's Church, Sierra Vista, in the Diocese of Arizona. You are given the authority to act as a sub-committee of the Vestry and to rely upon the services and resources of the Diocese of Arizona, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit to bring a call to the Vestry. As members of this congregation, know that we will pray for you and give you the support necessary to fulfill your charge. May God, who has given you the ability to fulfill this ministry, give you the Grace to accomplish it.*

A period of silence is kept for private prayer

Celebrant: *Let us pray.*

Regard, O Lord, our supplications, and confirm with your heavenly benediction your servants whom we admit today to this ministry; that with sincere devotion of mind and body they may offer you a service acceptable to your divine Majesty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. In the Name of God and of this congrega-

tion, and on behalf of the Vestry, I commission you as the Search Committee for St Stephen's Church. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

The Priest says

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

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

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.**

Celebrant

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. 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

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to

stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

Celebrant and people

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!

Lord's Prayer

Celebrant : As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People and Celebrant

**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.**

or

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil;
for the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen**

The Breaking of the Bread

**Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast.**

The Priest invites the people to Communion

The Gifts 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.

The people stand as they are able.

Post Communion Prayer

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.

Celebrant or Priest:

Bow down before the Lord.

Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy, that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ our Lord. Amen

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.