

April 14 & 15 2018Rev. Julie Williams Presiding
Sat 5 pm & Sun 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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER HOLY EUCHARIST



ST. STEPHEN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Entrance Rites

The people stand as they are able.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant *Alleluia! Christ is risen.*

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant *Let us pray.*

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Word of God

First Reading

A reading from The Acts of the Apostles (3:12-19).

Peter addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 4

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my **cause**;*
you set me free when I am hard-pressed;
have mercy on me and hear my **prayer**.
- 2 “You mortals, how long will you dishonor my **glory**;*
how long will you worship dumb idols
and run after **false gods**?”
- 3 Know that the Lord does wonders for the **faithful**;*
when I call upon the Lord, he will **hear me**.
- 4 Tremble, then, and do not **sin**;*
speak to your heart in silence upon your **bed**.
- 5 Offer the appointed **sacrifices***
and put your trust in the **Lord**.
- 6 Many are saying,
“Oh, that we might see better **times**!”*
Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O **Lord**.
- 7 You have put gladness in my **heart**,*
more than when grain and wine and oil **increase**.
- 8 I lie down in peace; at once I fall **asleep**;*
for only you, Lord, make me dwell in **safety**.

Second Reading

A reading from The First Letter of John (3:1-7).

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has ei-

ther seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand as they are able.

Gospel

Luke 24:36b-48

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

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

Jesus stood among the disciples and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”

Priest: *The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

Sermon

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.

Prayers of the People

Leader: Christ, the stone which the builders rejected, God has made the cornerstone of a new community. In that name by which we are founded, let us draw near in confidence, saying: Lord, have mercy.

The risen Christ opened the minds of the disciples to understand the scriptures. May the church find in the scriptures healing, mission, and good news for all. For this let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ showed wounded hands and feet to his unbelieving apostles. May we see the risen one in all the wounded of our world. For this let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ our cornerstone intercedes for us before God. Let us and all in authority heed God's call for justice in the church, in our community, and in the nation. For this let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

We are saved by a God who is light, in whom there is no darkness at all. Let us beg for God's light in those places which seem darkest. Let us ask that God enlighten all who inflict darkness on others. Let us ask that God shine on those who are victims of evil. For this let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

In the power of Christ's name we are healed. Let us recall all who need healing (pause for names aloud or silent) and all in the healing professions. For this let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

In the Anglican cycle of prayer, for the Church in Ireland, we pray:
Lord, have mercy.

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, for Grace Church in Lake Havasu City, we pray:
Lord, have mercy.

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:
Lord, have mercy.

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. For this let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: Let us pray 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.

Holy God, make us holy. Revealing God, make us see. Sending God, make us move. Loving God, make us love.

Celebrant: *Loving God, you have glorified your Son Jesus and given him the name by which we are saved. Give us the courage to act in his name. Accept our praise, offered in his name, for we offer this prayer through and with and in Jesus, your Son and our Savior. Amen.*

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.

The Priest says

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts. Psalm 96:8

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 God 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. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. 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

BCP pg. 362

**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

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again

Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ.

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,

**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

Alleluia.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

Alleluia.

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

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

The Priest says

*The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you this day and always. **Amen.***

Dismissal

Celebrant: *Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia*

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, (Alleluia!)**

