



ST. STEPHEN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*We welcome everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together,  
grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.*

## THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE



# St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



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## Thanksgiving Day Service

### Welcome and Announcements

*Processional - 397 Now Thank We All Our God*

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*Gloria/Praise Song - 556 (vs 1,2,3 only) Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart*

Presider The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

**All Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

*(Please be seated for the lessons)*

## **First Lesson: Deuteronomy 26:1-11**

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us."

When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me."

You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Reader—The Word of the Lord

People—Thanks be to God

**Psalm 100** (*Read together in unison*)

- 1 Be joyful in the LORD, all you lands; \*  
serve the LORD with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.**
- 2 Know this: The LORD himself is God; \*  
he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**
- 3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
go into his courts with praise; \*  
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.**
- 4 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; \*  
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

**Second Lesson: Philippians 4:4-9**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanks-giving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commend-able, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Reader—The Word of the Lord

**People—Thanks be to God**

**Sequence hymn - #G551 Let All Things Now Living**

## **Gospel Lesson: John 6:25-35**

Reader—The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**People—Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When the crowd found Jesus on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Reader—The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Homily**

## The Nicene Creed (In Unison)

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 for Thanksgiving Day:

Leader: Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea.

**People We thank you, Lord.**

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,

**We thank you, Lord.**

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,

**We thank you, Lord.**

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

**We thank you, Lord.**

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

**We thank you, Lord.**

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

**We thank you, Lord.**

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,

**We thank you, Lord.**

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,

**We thank you, Lord.**

Leader: Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;

**People** To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you

**People: And also with you.**

### **Offertory**

Presider: Make an offering to God of praise and thanksgiving;  
make good your vows to the most high

### **Offertory Anthem**

**Doxology:** #380 vs. 3 only *(Please stand as you are able)*

**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. Amen.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Rite II, Prayer A, BCP p. 361

Presider: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Presider continues:*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks



to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because of your goodness and the fullness of your love revealed in your abundant creation, in the sending of your Son and in the imparting of your Holy Spirit, our hearts are moved to thankful praise.

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 - S125 (All)

**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.**

*The people stand, sit, or kneel.*

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:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

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: 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 forever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

Presider: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**People: Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

*(The people come forward to receive the bread and wine. All are invited to receive communion in this church. Open your palms to receive the bread. You may consume the bread and take a sip of wine from the cup or you may hold the bread and dip it into the wine in the cup. You may also receive only the bread if you do not drink wine. And you may cross your arms before your chest to indicate you would prefer a blessing instead.)*

Communion Music - #433 We Gather Together

### **Post Communion Prayer:**

Presider: Let us pray

**All: Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.**

**We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.**

**We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.**

**We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.**

**Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.**

**Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.**

Presider: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you, and remain with you forevermore. **Amen.**

**Recessional: #G548 For the Beauty of the Earth**

**The Dismissal:**

Presider: Go in peace and thankfulness to love and serve the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**