

LENT

A Season of Renewal



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.

Sunday 27 March, 11am

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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Prelude: "Come Thou Fount", music by John Wyeth, arr by Doreen J Oberg

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Allison Cornell

Opening Acclamation:

Bishop: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins

People: His mercy endures forever.

Bishop: There is one Body and one Spirit

People: There is one hope in God's call to us

Bishop: One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism

People: On God and Father of all.

The Collect

Bishop: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you

Bishop: Let us pray

All: Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lessons *(please be seated)*

First Lesson: A reading from Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

The Psalm: 32 *(In unison)*

**1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!**

**2 Happy are they to whom
the Lord imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no
guile!**

**3 While I held my tongue, my bones
withered away, ***

**because of my groaning all day
long.**

**4 For your hand was heavy upon me
day and night; ***

**my moisture was dried up as in the
heat of summer.**

**5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.**

**6 I said, " I will confess my transgressions
to the Lord." ***

**Then you forgave me the guilt of
my sin.**

**7 Therefore all the faithful will make
their prayers to you in time of**

**trouble; *
when the great waters overflow,
they shall not reach them.**

**8 You are my hiding-place; you preserve
me from trouble; ***

**you surround me with shouts of
deliverance.**

**9 "I will instruct you and teach you in
the way that you should go; ***

I will guide you with my eye.

**10 Do not be like horse or mule, which
have no understanding; ***

**who must be fitted with bit and
bridle,**

or else they will not stay near you."

**11 Great are the tribulations of the
wicked; ***

**but mercy embraces those who
trust in the Lord.**

**12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice
in the Lord; ***

**shout for joy, all who are true of
heart.**

Second Lesson: A reading from 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Bishop: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Luke (15:1-3, 11b-32)

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

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living.

When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.

But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' "

So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.'

Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet

you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!"

Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Bishop: The Gospel of the Lord

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

Sermon - The Right Reverend Jennifer Reddall

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates:

Bishop: The Candidates will now be presented

Presenter: I present Nick for Confirmation

Present: I present Judy to be Received into this Communion.

Bishop: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidates: I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

Bishop: Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support These persons in their life in Christ?

People: **WE WILL!**

Bishop: Let us join with these who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

Bishop: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;**

Bishop: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Bishop: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: **I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Bishop: Will you continue in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: **I will with God's help.**

Bishop: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: **I will with God's help.**

Bishop: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Prayers for the candidates:

Bishop: Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

Leader: Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Send them into the world in witness to your love.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Bishop: Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you have made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

For Confirmation:

The Bishop lays hands upon the person and says:

Bishop: Defend O Lord, your servant Nick with your heavenly grace, that he may continue yours forever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until he comes to your everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

For Reception:

The Bishop lays hands upon the person and says:

Bishop: Judy, we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this communion. God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless, preserve, and keep you. **Amen.**

Bishop: Almighty and ever-living God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Exchange of the Peace

Bishop: May the peace of Christ always be with you

People: And also with you.

The Offertory

Bishop: Offer to God a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

New Zealand BCP

Bishop The Lord is here.

People **God's spirit is with us**

Bishop Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Bishop Let us give thanks unto our Lord our God.

People **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

Bishop: It is right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise through Christ your only Son.

You are the source of all life and goodness; through your eternal Word you have created all things from the beginning and formed us in your own image; male and female you created us. When we sinned and turned away you called us back to yourself and gave your Son to share our human nature. Who though tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin; through your Christ therefore we may triumph over sin and grow in grace.

Therefore with the faithful who rest in him, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

**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.**

All glory and thanksgiving to you, holy Father.

On the night before he died your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread; when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup; when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

Glory to you, Lord Christ; your death we show forth; your resurrection we proclaim; your coming we await; Amen! Come Lord Jesus.

Therefore loving God, recalling your great goodness to us in Christ, his suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life and this cup of salvation. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving which we offer through Christ our great high priest.

Send your Holy Spirit (+) that these gifts of bread and wine which we Receive may be to us the body and blood of Christ, and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power (+), may be renewed for the service of your kingdom.

United in Christ with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise. Blessing, honor and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and forever. Amen.

Bishop: As Jesus taught us we now pray: (Contemporary version)

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

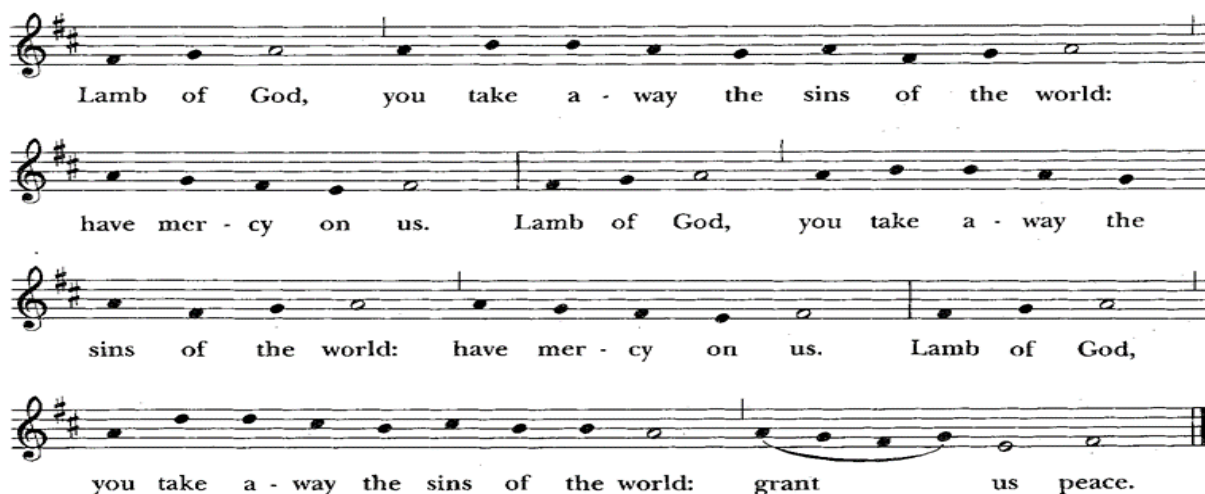
**Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

(Bishop breaks the consecrated bread)

Fraction Anthem

Hymnal 1982 #S161



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion:

Bishop: 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, and with thanksgiving.

All are welcome to come forward to receive communion. Please observe the social distancing by using the marks on the floor. Indicate a dipping motion to have your bread dipped in the wine. To receive just the bread without the wine, extend arm with hand open, palm up to receive the bread. Move to the side to lift/lower mask to eat bread, replace mask and return to your seat.

Communion Hymn “I come with joy to meet my lord”

#304

Prayers for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing, Travellers, and Gratitude

Post Communion Prayer

Bishop: Let us pray:

All: Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.

Benediction:

Bishop: May the peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and the blessing of God: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you now and forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Bishop: People of St. Stephen's, what does God call us to do?

People: We are called to love and serve.

Bishop: Let us go forth in the name of Christ

People: Thanks be to God.

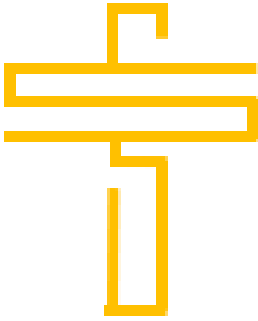
Closing Song: "Just as I am without one plea"

#693

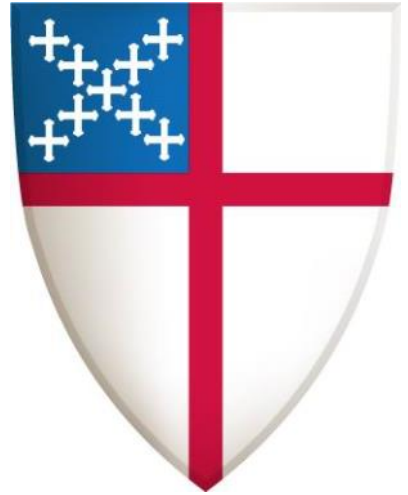
Please join us for refreshments and a time of fellowship following the service.

Postlude: *"I Stand Amazed in the Presence"*

, tune My Savior's Love, arr by Marc Jordan



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Welcome Visitor!!!

Please leave your name and contact info below. If you'd like to speak with someone, please check here

Or you can also use the QRC here to fill this out online.



Info Update Giving Envelopes Mail News Letter

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