

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**  
**LAST SATURDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**



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

Saturday - 18 February 2023 5pm

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Opening Sentence:** *(Please stand as you are able)*

Leader: Seek him who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning, and darkens the day into night; who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out upon the surface of the earth: The Lord is his name. (Amos5:8)

**Confession of Sin**

Leader: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept for a moment.*

**All: 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.**

**Leader: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.**

### **The Invitatory and Psalter**

**Leader: O God, make speed to save us.**

**People: O Lord, make haste to help us.**

**All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron*

**O gracious light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds.**

**All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

### **The Lessons** *(Please be seated)*

**Psalm 99**

**1 The Lord is King; let the people tremble; \*  
he is enthroned upon the cherubim;  
let the earth shake.**

**2 The Lord is great in Zion; \*  
he is high above all peoples.**

- 3 Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; \*  
he is the Holy One.**
- 4 "O mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; \*  
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."**
- 5 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God  
and fall down before his footstool; \*  
he is the Holy One.**
- 6 Moses and Aaron among his priests,  
and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, \*  
they called upon the Lord, and he answered them.**
- 7 He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; \*  
they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.**
- 8 O Lord our God, you answered them indeed; \*  
you were a God who forgave them,  
yet punished them for their evil deeds.**
- 9 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God  
and worship him upon his holy hill; \*  
for the Lord our God is the Holy One.**

### **First Lesson: A Reading from the Book of Exodus (24:12-18)**

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction."

So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

**Reader: The Word of the Lord**

**People: Thanks be to God**

## **Second Lesson: A Reading from Peter's Second Letter: (2 Peter 1:16-21)**

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

## **Gospel Lesson:**

Reader: The holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew  
(Matthew 17:1-9)

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

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white.

Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

*Reflection on readings / homily (optional)*

## **The Apostles Creed**

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

**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. Amen**

## **The Prayers**

Leader      The Lord be with you.

**People      And also with you.**

Leader      Let us pray.

## *The Collect of the Day*

**O God, who before the passion of your only begotten Son revealed his  
glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the  
light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be  
changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our  
Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever  
and ever. Amen.**

## The Sufferages (A)

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

**R. And grant us your salvation.**

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

**R. Let your people sing with joy.**

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

- R. For only in you can we live in safety.**  
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
**R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**  
V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
**R. Your saving health among all nations.**  
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
**R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**  
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
**R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

*A Collect for Evening*

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

**Other Intercessions and Thanksgivings**

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing, Travel, Gratitude  
*(The Leader invites the people to offer their prayers silently or aloud)*

A General Thanksgiving: *(in Unison)*

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.**

**We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**

**And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

## **Dismissal**

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

**People: We are called to love and serve.**

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

