

Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



The Second Sunday 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 13 Jan 5pm and Sunday 14 Jan 10am 2024



The Greeting

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

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

Presider “Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.”—Isaiah 60: 3.

Gloria:

The Collect of the Day

519 Holy God, We Praise Thy Name



1. Ho - ly God, we praise thy name!
 2. Hark! the loud ce - les - tial hymn
 3. Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son.



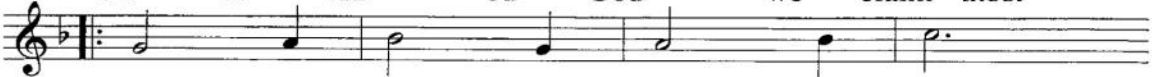
Lord of all, we bow be - fore thee;
 An - gel choirs a - bove are rais - ing;
 Ho - ly Spir - it, Three we name thee,



All on earth thy scep - ter claim,
 Cher - u - bim and Ser - a - phim
 While in es - sence on - ly One,



All in heav'n a - bove a - dore thee;
 In un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing,
 Un - di - vid - ed God we claim thee.



In - fi - nite thy vast do - main,
 Fill the heav'ns with sweet ac - cord:
 And a - dor - ing bend the knee,



Ev - er - last - ing is thy reign.
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!
 While we own the mys - ter - y.

Presider *The Lord be with you.*
People **And also with you.**

Presider *Let us pray.*

All: **Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Lessons from Scripture (*please be seated for the lessons*)

First Reading: from the book of Isaiah (62: 1-7, 10-12):

For the sake of Zion, I will not keep silent, and for the sake of Jerusalem I will not keep still, until her vindication shines out like blazing light, and her salvation like a flaming torch. The nations shall see your vindication, daughter, and all the monarchs your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LIVING GOD will grant.

You, daughter, shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of God Most High, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. Daughter, no more shall you be called Forsaken, and no more shall your land be called Devastated; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land, Married; for the FAITHFUL GOD delights in you, and your land shall be married.

For as a young man marries a virgin girl, so shall your builder marry you daughter, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. Upon your walls, daughter Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all the day and all the night, they shall never be silent.

You who remind the GOD WHO SEES, take no rest for yourselves, and give God no rest until God establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. Go through, go through the gates! Prepare the way for the people! Buildup, build up the highway; throw away (the loose) stones, lift up a banner over the peoples.

Look! The GOD WHO SAVES has made it heard to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; bringing reward and recompense first." They shall call them, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the GOD WHO SAVES"; and you, daughter, shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 18:2-11, 16-19

- 1 The ROCK WHO GAVE Us BIRTH is my rock,
and my fortress, and my deliverer,
my God, my rock in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.**
- 2 I call upon the HOLY ONE, may she be praised,
and from my enemies I shall be saved.**
- 3 The snares of death encompassed me;
the rivers of wickedness assailed me.**
- 4 The snares of Sheol encircled me;
the snares of death confronted me.**
- 5 In my distress I called upon SHE WHO HEARS;
to my God I cried for help.**
- 6 From her temple she heard my voice,
and my cry came before her, to her ears.**
- 7 Then the earth shuddered and quaked;
the foundations also of the mountains trembled
and were shaken because of her anger.**
- 8 Smoke went up from her nostrils,
and consuming fire from her mouth;
burning coals blazed forth from her.**
- 9 She spread out the heavens, and descended;
thick darkness was under her feet.**
- 10 She mounted up on a cherub, and flew;
she soared upon the wings of the wind.**
- 11 She made darkness her veil around her,
her canopy dark waters and thick clouds.**
- 16 She reached down from on high, she took me;
she drew me out of the multitude of water.**
- 17 She delivered me from my strong enemy,
and from those who hate me;
for they were too mighty for me.**
- 18 They confronted me in the day of my calamity;
yet the SHELTERING GOD was my support.**
- 19 She brought me out into a broad place;
she delivered me, because she delights in me.**

Second Reading: from the Epistle of 2 Corinthians (6:2-10):

Considering the recollection of your faith without pretense, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, now I am persuaded that faith lives in you. For this reason I remind you to reignite the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but one of power and of love and of self-control.

Be not ashamed, then, of the testimony of our Savior or of me Christ's prisoner, rather share in suffering for the sake of the gospel, do so through the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, rather according to God's own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began. Now it has been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who negated death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Reader: The word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading Matthew 3:1-6, 11-17

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew.**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

In those days John the Baptizer appeared preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, "Repent, for the realm of the heavens is near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Most High, make God's paths straight.'"

Now John had for his clothing camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the women and men of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and the whole region of the Jordan, and they were baptized in the river Jordan by him, confessing their sins.

"Indeed, I baptize you with water for repentance, but after me is coming one more powerful than I; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John forbade him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, yet you come to

me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it go now; for this way is proper for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then John let it go. Now when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God, she descended like a dove and came upon him. And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ

Sermon

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: Let us pray to God, who is made manifest in Jesus Christ. As the prophet Isaiah rang out, “Arise, shine; for your light has come”;

People: Empower your Church, O God, to ring out the Good News of the Light of your son Jesus, which pierces even the deepest darkness.

Leader: As a star rose high into the nighttime sky to draw the nations to the Christ-child;

People: send your blessing, O God, on this nation, and every nation, and draw the whole world to your peace and truth.

Leader: As John the Baptist guided throngs of people to the edge of the wilderness and baptized Jesus in the River Jordan,

People: we pray that you would guide our country and our leaders to the ways of justice and righteousness.

Leader: Like the Magi who traveled from afar to bring gifts and celebrate the Savior’s birth;

People: we pray for this community, and for those who celebrate their own birthdays and anniversaries and other happy occasions.

Leader: As Jesus climbed the mountaintop, and proclaimed blessings on the people of the world;

People: we pray for healing of the sick and comfort for the distressed, relief for the poor, and good news for the desperate.

Leader: As Jesus called his disciples to leave their nets and boats, everything of their former life, and follow him;

People: we pray for those we love and who have answered your call to follow Jesus into your Heavenly Kingdom. Give them your peace.

Leader: In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for **The Church of the Province of South East Asia**. In the diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for **St. John's Episcopal-Lutheran in Williams**. With honor and respect we remember the first peoples of this land, especially the Apache and Tohono O’odham, who call this area home.

People: May God bless and keep them healthy and protected.

Presider: Lord Jesus, Light of the World, hear our prayers, and make us reflections of your Light, that the places of darkness in our world would be pierced by your Light, and that all nations would be drawn to you and be overwhelmed with joy. **Amen.**

Exchange of the Peace

Presider *May the peace of Christ be always with you*

All **And also with you.**

(The Ministers and People exchange socially distant signs of peace (peace sign, namaste, virtual hug)

Offertory

Presider: *Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his Name.*

Offertory Music: *“For the bread which you have broken“*

#341

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Rite II Prayer B BCP p. 367

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: 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 in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

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:

All: *Sanctus - Hymnal 1982 #S-125*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosana in the highest, Hosana in the highest
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosana in the highest, Hosana in the highest**

The people stand, sit, or kneel.

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,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

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 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.

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:

The Lord's Prayer:

**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.**

Fraction: The Breaking of the Bread

(In silence the Presider breaks the bread)

Fraction Anthem

H1982 # S-155

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore, let us keep the feast
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Invitation to Communion:

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

*(In this church, everyone is welcome to receive the bread and wine of Holy Communion.
Gluten free bread and real wine are used. If you prefer to dip/intinct your bread into the wine,
please come to the left altar rail. If you prefer to take a sip of wine from the cup, please come
to the right altar rail. If you prefer to receive a priest blessing instead of the bread and wine,
come to either rail and cross your arms over your chest. .*

Communion Music - "O love how deep how broad how high" #448

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing Prayer, Travelers, Gratitudes

Post Communion Prayer *The people stand as they are able.*

Presider: Let us pray: *Presider and People*

Lord Jesus Christ, by your incarnation you united things earthly and things heavenly. Fill us with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill, that we may join the heavenly host in singing praises to your glory; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Blessing

The Presider says

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. And may Almighty God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn *“Thy strong word did cleave the darkness”*

#381

Dismissal

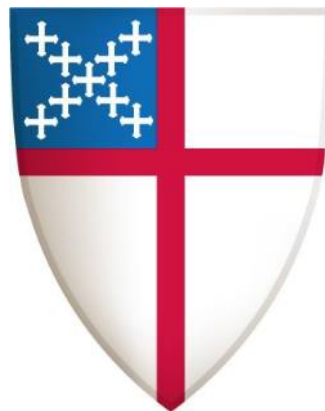
Deacon: *Let us go forth in the peace and spirit of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!*

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

Notice: All church activities may be internet streamed, video recorded, and photographed for church uses. Entry on to the church campus or in to any church building constitutes consent to be streamed, videotaped, or photographed for church purposes.



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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.



<input type="checkbox"/> Info Update	Giving Envelopes	<input type="checkbox"/> Mail News Letter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name	(first)	(Mid.)	(Last)
Hm:	_____	Cell	_____
Email:	_____	Anv. Date	_____
Adrs:	_____	BrthDate	_____
City, St., Zip:	_____	_____	_____