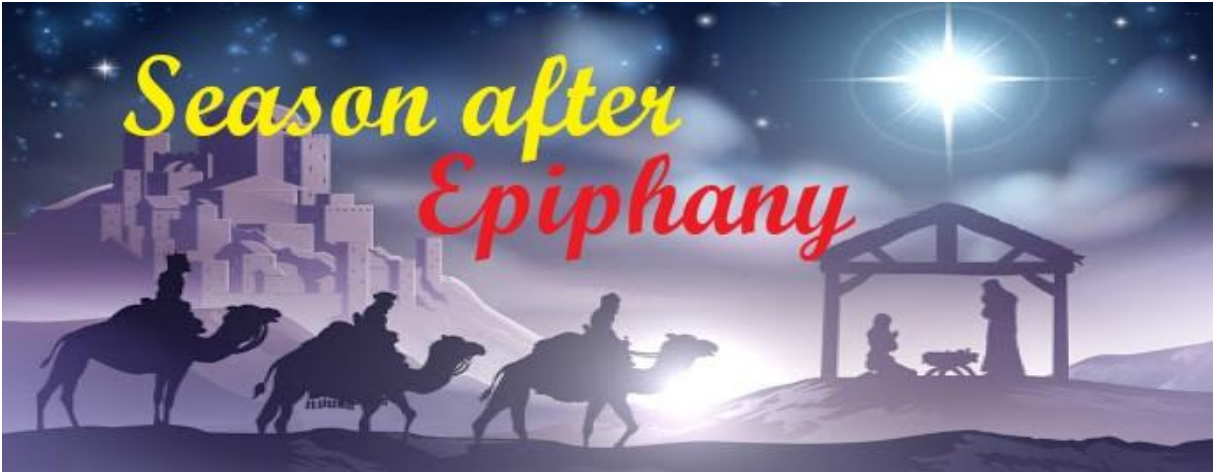


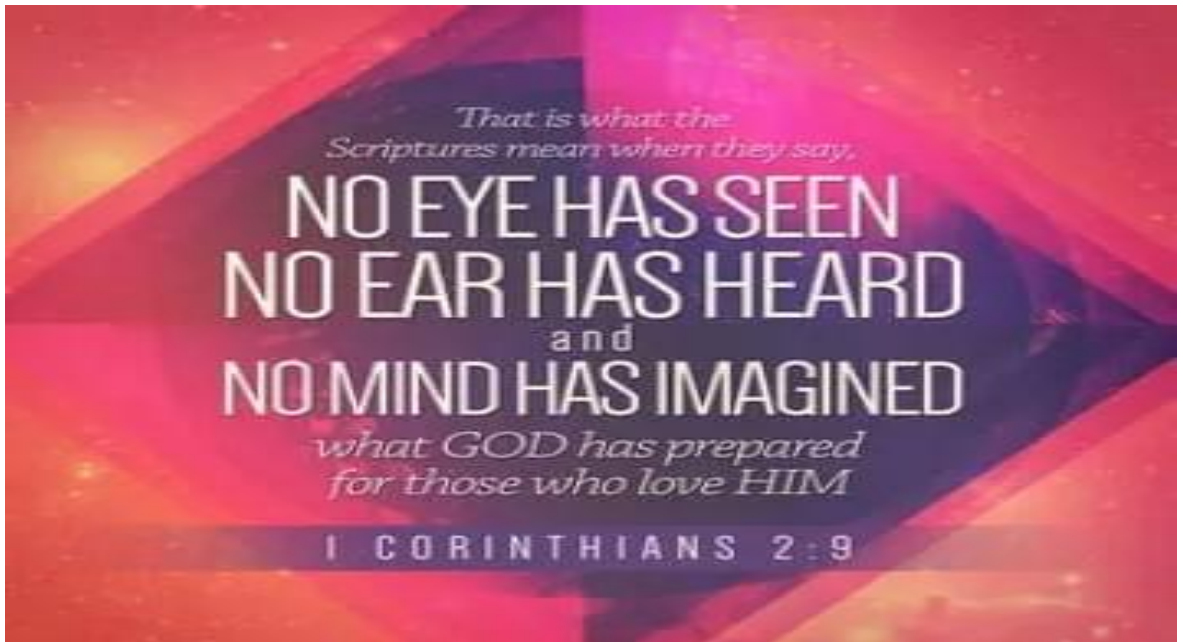
Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



The Last 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, 10 February 5pm & Sunday, 11 February 10am 2024



Prelude Music: *"Praise to the Lord"*,

tune from McDougal

Welcome and Announcements -

The Rev. Allison Cornell

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.



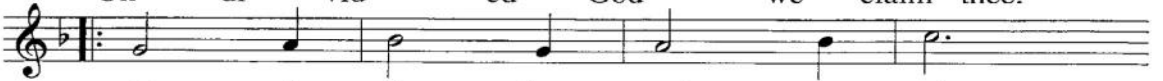
Lord of all, we bow be - fore thee;
 An - gel choirs a - bove are rais - ing;
 Ho - ly Spir - it, Three we name thee,



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: Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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

First Reading: from the book of **Zechariah (8:1-8):**

The word of the SOVEREIGN of heaven's legions came to me, saying: Thus says the COMMANDER of heaven's vanguard: I am jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and with great wrath am I jealous for her. Thus says the RULER of the multitudes of heaven: I will return to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem, and Jerusalem shall be called "The Faithful City" and the mountain of the SOVEREIGN of the vanguard of heaven shall be called "The Holy Mountain."

Thus says the HOLY ONE of heaven's armies: Elder women and elder men shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of their great age. And the streets of the city shall be full of girls and boys playing in its streets. Thus says the MAJESTY of the Heavens: Though it seem miraculous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also seem miraculous to me, says the COMMANDER of winged warriors?

Thus says the SOVEREIGN of heaven's legions: It is I who will save my people from the east land and from the west land. Then I will bring them to dwell within Jerusalem; they shall be my people and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 95:1 - 7

**1 Come, let us sing joyfully to the ROCK WHO BIRTHED Us;
let us shout to the rock of our salvation!**

**2 Let us come into her presence with thanksgiving;
with songs of praise let us shout to her!**

**3 For the EVER-LIVING GOD is a great God, and a
great Majesty above all gods.**

- 4 For in her hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are hers also.
- 5 For hers is the sea, for she made it,
and the dry land, which her hands have crafted.
- 6 Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us lael before the AGELESS GOD, our Maker!
- 7 For she is our God,
and we are the people of her pasture,
and the sheep of her hand.
If only you would listen to her voice today!

Second Reading: from the Epistle of **1 Corinthians (2:1-13):**

Now when I came to you sisters and brothers, I did not come with lofty words or wisdom proclaiming the mystery of God to you. For I determined to know nothing among you all except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And so in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, I came to you. My message and my proclamation were not in persuasive wise words, rather with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Wisdom is what we speak to the mature, wisdom that is not of this age or of the rulers of this age who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom through a mystery that has been hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. This, none of the rulers of this age comprehended, for if they had comprehended, they would not have crucified the Sovereign of glory. Yet, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear has heard, Nor come upon a human heart, what God has prepared for those who love God.”

To us God has revealed these things through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For what human person knows what is human except by the human spirit within that person? Also, in the same way, no one comprehends what is truly God except by the Spirit of God. Now then, we have not received the spirit of the world, rather the Spirit that is from God, in order that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And these things we speak of not in words of human-taught wisdom but rather Spirit-taught, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

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

Gospel Reading

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Luke (7:24-35):**
People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you all go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A person dressed in luxurious robes? Look, those whose clothing is lavish and who live in self-indulgence are in royal palaces. What then did you all go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

I tell you, among those born of women no one is greater than John; yet the least in the reign of God is greater than he." Now all the people who heard this, including the tax collectors, professed the righteousness of God, being baptized with the baptism of John. But by refusing to be baptized by him, the Pharisees and the legal scholars rejected God's counsel for themselves.

"To what then will I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children in the marketplace sitting and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you all, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you all did not weep.'

For John the Baptizer has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you all say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Woman has come eating and drinking, and you all say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet Wisdom is vindicated by all her children."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord **People: Praise to you, Lord Christ**

Sermon (Keith Saare)

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 **Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan**. In the diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for **St. Peter's ,in Casa Grande**. 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: *“Halleluya we sing your praises“*

G#529

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 -

“All praise to thee for thou O king divine“

#477

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 “*All Creatures of our God and King*” #400 vs.1, 3, 5, 7

Dismissal

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

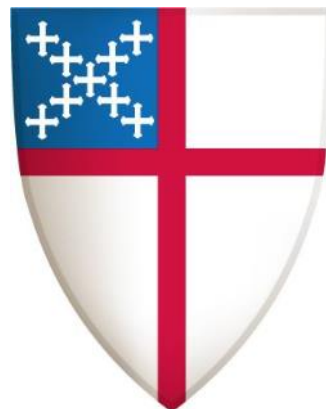
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, (Alleluia!)**

Postlude: “*Round of Allelujah*”, by Doreen J Oberg

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.



Info Update Giving Envelopes Mail News Letter

Name _____ (first) _____ (Mid.) _____ (Last)

Hm: _____ Cell _____

Email: _____ Anv. Date _____

Adrs: _____ BrthDate _____

City, St., Zip: _____, _____, _____