

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Sierra Vista
30 March 2024



Opening Song:

H1982 #662 Abide with me

Presider: Blessed be our God

People: Forever and ever. Amen.

Presider: Let us pray:

O God, Creator of heaven and earth: Grant that , as the crucified body of your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, so we may await with him the coming of the third day, and rise with him to newness of life; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.

(Please be seated for the readings)

Old Testament Reading: Job 14: 1-14:

"Woman-born, humankind is short of days and full of turmoil. They sprout like a flower and wither, flee like a shadow and do not endure. Are your eyes, then, open to such a one as this? Do you bring me into judgment with you? Who can make a clean thing out of an unclean thing? No one.

If their days are fixed, the number of their months is in your keeping, it is because you have set their boundaries that they cannot pass. Look away from them, and they sit at ease, until they complete, like laborers, their days. For there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will be renewed, and that its branches will not fail. Its root grows old in the earth, and its trunk dies in the dust. At the scent of water it will bud and put forth branches like a sapling.

Mortals die, and are carried away; the woman-born perish, and where are they? As waters dissipate from a sea, and a river dries up and is depleted, so a person lies down and does not rise again; until the heavens are no more, they will not awake or be stirred from their sleep.

Grant that you would hide me in Sheol, that you would cover me until your wrath is past, that you would set for me a boundary, and remember me. If a person dies, will they live again? All the days of my service I would wait until my change come.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31:(1-5, 11-16, 22-24)

- 1 In you, WOMB OF LIFE, I take refuge;
let me not ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness rescue me.**
- 2 Incline your ear to me;
quickly deliver me.
Be for me a rock of refuge, a stronghold to save me.**
- 3 For you are my rock and my stronghold;
for your Name's sake lead me and guide me.**
- 4 Free me from the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.**
- 5 Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me,
ARK OF SAFETY, God of truth.**
- 11 Because of my enemies I am a disgrace to all, and to my
neighbors, more, an object of dread to those who know me;
those who see me in the street flee from me.**
- 12 I have been forgotten from the heart like one who is dead;
I have become like a ruined vessel.**
- 13 Because I hear the whispering of many,
terror surrounds in their scheming together against me,
as they plot to take my life.**
- 14 Yet I, in you I trust, FAITHFUL GOD;
I declare, "You are my God."**
- 15 My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies
and those who hound me.**
- 16 Let your face shine upon your slave;
save me in your faithful love.**
- 22 Now I, I had said in my alarm,
"I am cut off from your sight."
However, you heard my supplications
when I cried to you for help.**
- 23 Love GOD WHOSE NAME IS HOLY, all you her godly ones.
The FAITHFUL GOD preserves the faithful,
and repays with interest the one who acts out of pride.**
- 24 Take courage, and she shall strengthen your hearts,
all you who wait for the MOTHER OF ALL.**

New Testament Reading: Paul's Epistle to the Philippians 2:1-8

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any communion in the Spirit, any tenderness and compassion, make my joy complete. Be wise in the same way, having the same love, united and sharing the same wisdom. Do nothing from self-interest, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.

Each of you, look not to your own interests, but rather to the interests of others. Let the same wisdom be in you all that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be seized, but emptied himself taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness; then being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God



Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew (27: 57-66)

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

When it was evening, a rich person came from Arimathea, Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and requested the body of Jesus; then Pilate commanded it to be given to him. So, Joseph took the body and wrapped it in clean linen, and laid it in his new tomb, which he had hewn in rock. Then he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and departed. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting before the tomb.

Now, the next day, which was after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate. They said, "Lord, we remember what that deceiver said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' Command, therefore, the tomb be secured until the third day; otherwise, his disciples may go and steal him, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first."

Pilate said to them, "You may have a squad; go, as secure it as you can." So, they went with the guard and secured the tomb, sealing the stone.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ



Homily

Burial Rite II—Anthem II

Presider: In the midst of life we are in death;
From whom can we seek help?

**People: From you alone, O Lord,
Who by our wrongdoings are justly angered.**

Presider: Lord, you know the secrets of our hearts;

**People: shut not your ears to our prayers, But
spare us, O Lord.**

Presider: O worthy and eternal Judge,

**People: Do no let the pains of death Turn
us away from you at our last hour.**

**All Holy God, Holy and Mighty Holy
and merciful Savior Deliver us
not into the bitterness of eternal death**

Presider: O God, whose days are without end, and whose mercies cannot be numbered: Make us, we pray, deeply aware of the shortness and uncertainty of life, and may your Holy Spirit lead us into holiness and righteousness all our days. We ask this through your Son Jesus who knows our human fragility who died a human death to show us the way to your eternal life. **Amen.**

Presider: Let us pray in the word that Jesus has taught us:

All:

**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.**

Presider: May 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: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you now and forever. **Amen.**

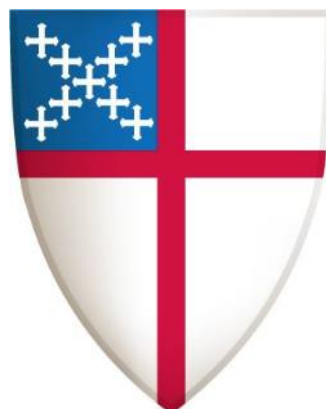
Closing Song: “Day is done “

Gather #751

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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 _____

BrthDate _____

Adrs: _____

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