

# 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.*



**Wednesday, 13 March 9:30am 2024**

## **The fourth week of Lent**

**Welcome and Announcements -**

**The Rev. Allison Cornell**

**Entrance Rites** (*The people stand as they are able.*)

### **Salutation**

**Presider:** Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins

**People:** **His mercy endureth forever**

### **Opening Acclamation:**

**Presider** Rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment.

### **Confession:**

**Deacon:** Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God

**All:** **Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.**

**But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those who confess**

**their faults, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord;**

**and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

Presider: The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison / Lord, have mercy - Steve Merkel

**Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy on me**

**Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy on me**

**The Lessons – (please be seated)**

**Psalm for today: Psalm 145:8-19**

**8 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

**9 The Lord is loving to everyone \*  
and his compassion is over all his works.**

**10 All your works praise you, O Lord,\*  
and your faithful servants bless you.**

**11 They make known the glory of your kingdom \*  
and speak of your power;**

**12 That the peoples may know of your power \*  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.**

**13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; \*  
your dominion endures**

**throughout all ages.**

**14 The Lord is faithful in all his words  
\* and merciful in all his deeds.**

**15 The Lord upholds all those who fall;  
\* he lifts up those who are bowed down.**

**16 The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, \*  
and you give them their food in due season.**

**17 You open wide your hand \*  
and satisfy the needs of every living creature.**

**18 The Lord is righteous in all his ways \*  
and loving in all his works.**

**19 The Lord is near to those who call upon him, \*  
to all who call upon him faithfully**

**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.**

**First Lesson: A Reading from Isaiah (49:8–15):**

Thus says the Lord:  
In a time of favor I have answered you,  
on a day of salvation I have helped  
you;  
I have kept you and given you  
as a covenant to the people,  
to establish the land,  
to apportion the desolate heritages;  
saying to the prisoners, “Come out,”  
to those who are in darkness, “Show  
yourselves.”  
They shall feed along the ways,  
on all the bare heights shall be their  
pasture;  
they shall not hunger or thirst,  
neither scorching wind nor sun shall  
strike them down,  
for he who has pity on them will lead  
them,  
and by springs of water will guide  
them.  
And I will turn all my mountains into a  
road,  
and my highways shall be raised up.

Lo, these shall come from far away,  
and lo, these from the north and  
from the west,  
and these from the land of Syene.

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult,  
O earth;  
break forth, O mountains, into sing-  
ing!

For the Lord has comforted his people,  
and will have compassion on his  
suffering ones.

But Zion said, “The Lord has forsak-  
en me,  
my Lord has forgotten me.”

Can a woman forget her nursing-child,  
or show no compassion for the child  
of her womb?

Even these may forget,  
yet I will not forget you.

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

**Gospel Reading**

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to  
**John (5:19-29):**

**People: Glory be to thee, O Lord**

Jesus said to the Jews, “Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise. The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing; and he will show him greater works than these, so that you will be astonished. Indeed, just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so

also the Son gives life to whomever he wishes. The Father judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son, so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life.

“Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and will come out—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord **People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

### **The Apostles' Creed**

**All: 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.**

### **Prayers of the People**

Leader The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Leader Let us pray.

V. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;  
**R. And grant us thy salvation.**  
V. Endue thy ministers with righteousness;  
**R. And make thy chosen people joyful.**  
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
**R. For only in thee can we live in safety.**  
V. Lord, keep this nation under thy care;  
**R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**  
V. Let thy way be known upon earth;  
**R. Thy 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.**

Leader: In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for **The Diocese of Congo Brazzaville – Province de L’Eglise Anglicane Du Congo**

**People: Lord, be with them.**

Leader: In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for **St. Michael’s, in Coolidge**

**People: Lord, be with them**

Leader: We pray for the first peoples of this land, especially the Apache and Tahono O’Odham peoples who called this area home.

**People: For greater understanding and cooperation between us towards the common good for all.**

## **Collect Of the Day**

Presider: **O Lord our God, you sustained your ancient people in the wilderness with bread from heaven: Feed now your pilgrim flock with the food that endures to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **Exchange of the Peace**

Presider May the peace of Christ be always with you

All **And also with you.**

*The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

**Offertory:**

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

**Doxology**

**All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise him all creatures here below  
Praise him above ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## **The Holy Communion**

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider *The Lord be with you.*

People **And with thy spirit**

Presider *Lift up your hearts.*

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

Presider *Let us give thanks unto our Lord our God.*

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

*Presider*

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

*Presider and People:* **SANTUS**

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Power and Might  
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory  
Hosana in the highest  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord  
Hosana in the highest Hosana in the highest**

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once

offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make;

**All: Having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.**

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify (+), with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving;

**All: And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, (+) and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.**

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*(Presider breaks the consecrated bread in silence)*

Fraction Anthem

Hymnal 1982 #S163

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

## **Invitation to Communion:**

Presider: 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.

*Prayers for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing, Travelers and Gratitude*

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Presider: Let us pray:

**All: O God, who hast made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and didst send thy blessed Son to preach to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after thee and find thee; bring the nations into thy fold; pour out thy spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of thy kingdom; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Benediction:**

Presider: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with you all forever more. **Amen.**

## **Dismissal**

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

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

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ

**People Thanks be to God.**