



**WELCOME TO 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.*

**THIRD ADVENT**

**5 pm Saturday 14 Dec & 10 am Sunday, 15 Dec 2024**



Prelude: "Joy, (with Hark the Herald Angels Sing)", melody by Felix Mendelssohn arr. by Doreen Oberg

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Rev. Allison Cornell**

## Opening Hymn &

**Wreath Lighting: "Hark a Thrilling Voice is sounding" #59**

*(People stand as they are able)*

### Greeting

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

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

### Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

**All: Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

**The Word of God** *(please be seated for the lessons)*

### First Reading : Zephaniah 3:14-20:

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!	a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love;
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!	he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.
The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies.	I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.	I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:	And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,
Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.	and I will change their shame into praise
The Lord, your God, is in your midst,	

and renown in all the earth.  
At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and  
praised

among all the peoples of the  
earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the Lord.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **The Psalm**

### **Canticle 9**

**Surely, it is God who saves me; \***

**I will trust in him and not be afraid.**

**For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \*  
and he will be my Savior.**

**Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \*  
from the springs of salvation.**

**And on that day you shall say, \***

**Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;**

**Make his deeds known among the peoples; \***

**see that they remember that his Name is exalted.**

**Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \*  
and this is known in all the world.**

**Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \***

**for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.**

**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.**

### **Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7:**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading: Luke (3:7-18):**

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke:

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

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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: Show us your mercy, O Lord;

**All: And grant us your salvation.**

Leader: Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

**All: Let your people sing with joy.**

Leader: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world

**All: For only in you can we live in safety.**

Leader: Lord keep this nation under your care;

**All: And guide us in the way of justice and truth**

Leader: Let your way be known upon Earth;

**All: Your saving health among all nations.**

Leader: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

**All: Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Leader: Create in us clean hearts, O God;

**All: And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

Leader: In the Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for *The Anglican Church of Tanzania.*

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for *Church of the Epiphany, in Tempe*

We acknowledge and pay respect to the first peoples of this land especially the Apache and Tohono O’Odham who call this area their home. Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints,

**All: We commend these we pray for, ourselves, and the whole creation to your unfailing love. Amen.**

## **Confession of Sin**

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

*(The people stand, sit, or kneel. A short pause may be kept)*

**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.**

## **Absolution**

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **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 signs of peace (peace sign, hugs, handshakes, fist bumps...))*

## **Offertory**

Presider: Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name, bring offerings and come into his courts.

Offertory Music: *“Take this moment, sign, and space”*

G#655

Doxology - (*Peoples’ offerings are brought to the altar*)

**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.**

## Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Rite II Prayer B BCP p. 372

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 you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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 H1982 S-124*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav - en and  
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*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 Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:



## **Lord's Prayer (Traditional):**

**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** *(In silence the Presider breaks the bread)*

*Fraction Anthem (recording, Lamb of God by Matt Maher)*

### **Lead Singer:**

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace, Emmanuel,  
Morning Star, King of Kings, And Lord of Lords:

### **Lead Singer (Chorus echoing)**

1. Lamb of God (Lamb of God)

You Take Away (You Take Away)

The Sins of All (The Sins of All)

The World (The World)

Mi-se-re-re no-bis (Mi-se-re-re no-bis)

2. Bread of Life (Bread of Life)

You Take away (You Take away)

The sins of all (The sins of all)

The world (The world)

Mi-se-re-re no-bis (Mi-se-re-re no-bis)

3. Agnus Dei (Agnus dei)

You take away (You take away)

The sins of all (The sins of all)

The world (The world)

Do-na No-bis Pa-chem (Do-na No-bis  
Pa-chem)

## **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.

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

**Communion Music: “Savior of the nations come”**

**G#348**

**Birthdays, Anniversary, Healing, Travel and Gratitude sharing**

**Post Communion Prayer**

*The people stand as they are able.*

Presider: Let us pray:

*Presider and People*

**Almighty and ever-living God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.**

**And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Blessing/Benediction:**

Presider: May the simplicity, stillness, and serenity of this Advent season bring peace and fulfillment to your hearts and homes; and the blessing of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you now and always. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: “Rejoice the lord is king”**

**G#493**

**The Dismissal:**

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

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

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! Alleluia, alleluia!

**People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

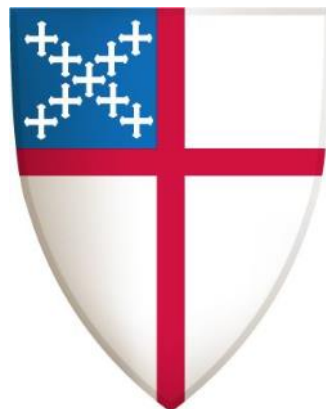
Postlude: *"What is This Lovely Fragrance"*, French melody arr by Christina  
Becket

*Join us following the Sunday morning worship for a time of fellowship in the  
Parish Hall*

*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 _____ <small>(first) (Mid.) (Last)</small>			
Hm: _____		Cell _____	
Email: _____		Anv. Date _____	
Adrs: _____		BrthDate _____	
City, St., Zip: _____, _____, _____			