



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.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
Saturday, 28 Dec, 5PM & Sunday, 29 Dec, 10am 2024



And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
John 1:14

Prelude: *"Give Thanks People of God"*, based on Es Flog Ein Kleins Waldvoegelein
arr Kevin Keil
Welcome and Announcements **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 "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel."

The Collect of the Day

Presider *The Lord be with you.*

People And also with you.

Presider *Let us pray.*

All: Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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: A reading from the book of Isaiah (61:10-62:3):

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,

and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 147:13-21

- 13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;**
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.**
- 15 He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.**
- 16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.**
- 17 He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.**
- 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?**
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.**
- 20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.**
- 21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!**

Second Reading: from the first Epistle to **Galatians (3:23-25; 4:4-7):**

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

Gospel Reading John (1:1-18):

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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 came among us in the birth of Jesus: Gracious God, as a star rose, and drew people from great distances to Bethlehem that they might greet the Christ-child;

People: **Draw us, your Church, and all of your people to you – that we might be the Church and the People who you call us to be.**

Leader: As you gave Mary your Holy Spirit, filling her with the delight of your Presence;

People: **Fill us with your Spirit, and renew our lives.**

Leader: As Gentiles streamed to Jesus' Light, and Kings to the brightness of his rising;

People: **Draw our nation, our President, and all in authority, to His brightness.**

Leader: As angels sang 'glorias' to you and proclaimed peace on earth, and goodwill among all peoples;

People: **Bring us your peace, and bring an end to and terror and strife.**

Leader: As shepherds were drawn to your Son by curiosity and wonderment;

People: **Draw those who do not know you yet to the knowledge and love of you.**

Leader: As Jesus was born in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn;

People: **Be especially present with those who have no where to lay their head, those who are vulnerable, and those who are hungry.**

Leader: As the Holy Family gathered together in Bethlehem, and then traveled together to far off lands;

People: **Bless all families, especially the families of our parish, and protect those who travel.**

Leader: As your son came to proclaim the forgiveness of sins, and the gift of Life Eternal;

People: **Give to the departed eternal rest and let Light perpetual shine on them.**

Presider: O Lord our God, may the Light and Hope of this Christmas day, and of Jesus' birth among us, reassure our hearts that you are always with us, that you hear our prayer, and that you love us, to the end of the age. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth we pray. **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.)

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: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" #82

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.**

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 you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son to be born for us, who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother, so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin and receive power to become your children.

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-130

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might (x2)
Heaven and earth are full, 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:

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

Lamb of God by Matt Maher

Lead Singer:

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace, Emmanuel,

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)

Morning Star, King of Kings, And Lord of Lords:

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 - "*Sing of Mary Pure and Lowly*"

#277

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

Presider: Let us pray:

All: 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 :

Presider: 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 "*Hark The Herald Angels Sing*"

#87

Dismissal

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

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

Postlude: "*The Gift*", by Jim Brickman and Tom Douglas

Please join us for a fellowship time in the Parish Hall after the service



