

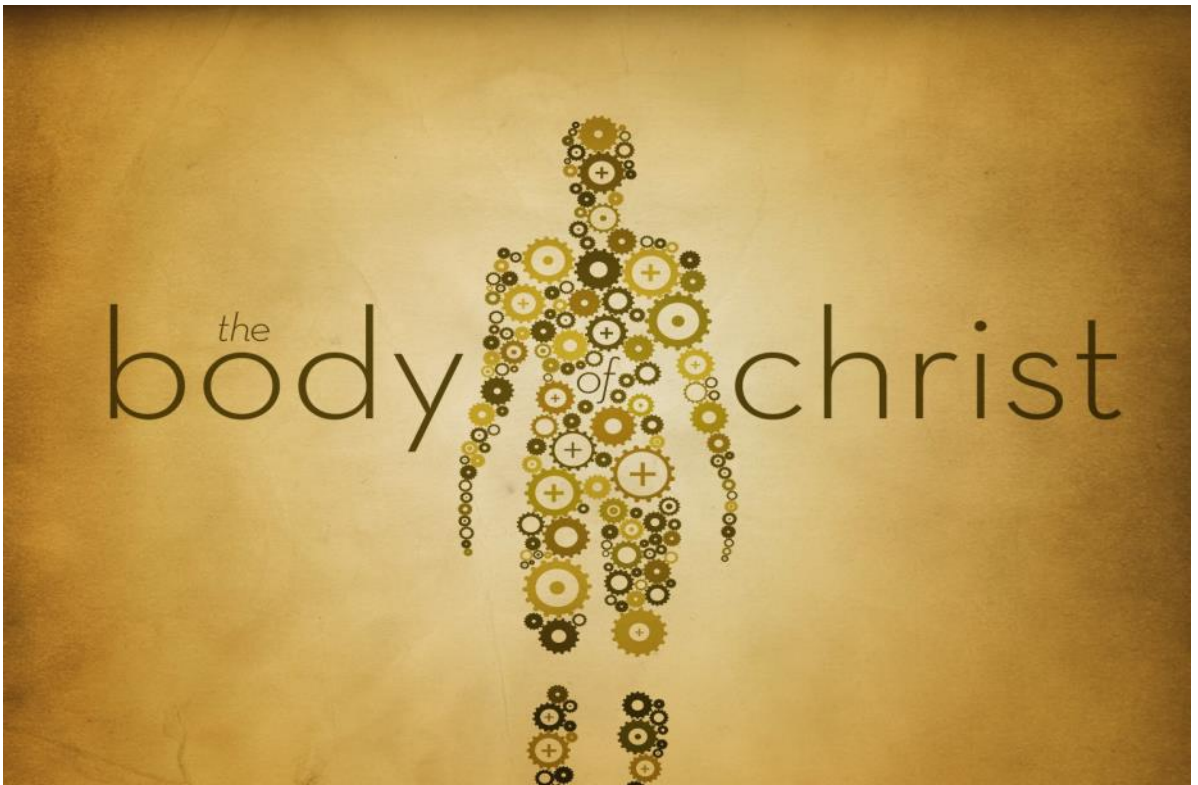


WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.

EVENING PRAYER THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Saturday, 25 Jan, 2025



Opening Sentence: *(Please stand as you are able)*

Deacon: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord
Jesus Christ. *(Philippians 1:2)*

Confession of Sin

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
(a short silence is observed)

Deacon: We have wounded your love.

People: O God, heal us.

Deacon: We stumble in the darkness.

People: Light of the world transfigure us.

Deacon: We forget that we are your home.

People: Spirit of God, dwell in us.

**All: Eternal Spirit, living God, in whom we live and move and have
our being, all that we are, have been, and shall be is known to you,
to the very secret of our hearts and all that rises to trouble us. Living
flame burn into us, cleansing wind, blow through us, fountain of
water, well up within us, that we may love and praise you in deed and
in truth.**

Deacon: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through the
grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of
the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Invitatory and Psalter

Leader: O God, make speed to save us.

People: O Lord, make haste to help us.

**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.**

Leader: The Holy One is in our midst: O come let us worship.

Venite: *(In unison)*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *

and the heights of the hills are his also.

**The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice! Amen.**

The Lessons *(Please be seated)*

First Lesson: A reading from the book of Nehemiah (8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10):

All the people of Israel gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 19:

**1 The heavens declare the glory of
God, *
and the firmament shows his
handiwork.**

**2 One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge
to another.**

- 3** Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,
- 4** Their sound has gone out into all
lands, *
and their message to the ends of
the world.
- 5** In the deep has he set a pavilion for
the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom
out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run
its course.
- 6** It goes forth from the uttermost
edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it
again; * nothing
is hidden from its burning heat.
- 7** The law of the Lord is perfect
and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the Lord is sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8** The statutes of the Lord are just
and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the Lord is
clear and gives light to the eyes.
- 9** The fear of the Lord is clean and
endures for ever; *
the judgments of the Lord are
true and righteous altogether.
- 10** More to be desired are they than
gold, more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey,
than honey in the comb.
- 11** By them also is your servant
enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great
reward.
- 12** Who can tell how often he offends?
* cleanse me
from my secret faults.
- 13** Above all, keep your servant from
presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over
me; *
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.
- 14** Let the words of my mouth and
the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight, *
O Lord, my strength and my
redeemer.

Second Lesson: A reading from the book of 1 Corinthians (12:12-31a)

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a

single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

Lector: *The word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Lesson:

Deacon:

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free,

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them,

"Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Reflection—Jeff Speer

The Apostles Creed

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

The Prayers

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day:

All: Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Suffrages (A)

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. And grant us your salvation.

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. Let your people sing with joy.

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. For only in you can we live in safety.

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

- V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. Your 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.

Other Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing, Travel, Gratitude
(The Leader invites the people to offer their prayers silently or aloud)

A Collect for Evening

Leader: Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

Prayer of St. Chrysostom: *(in Unison)*

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. 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 bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Deacon: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

