

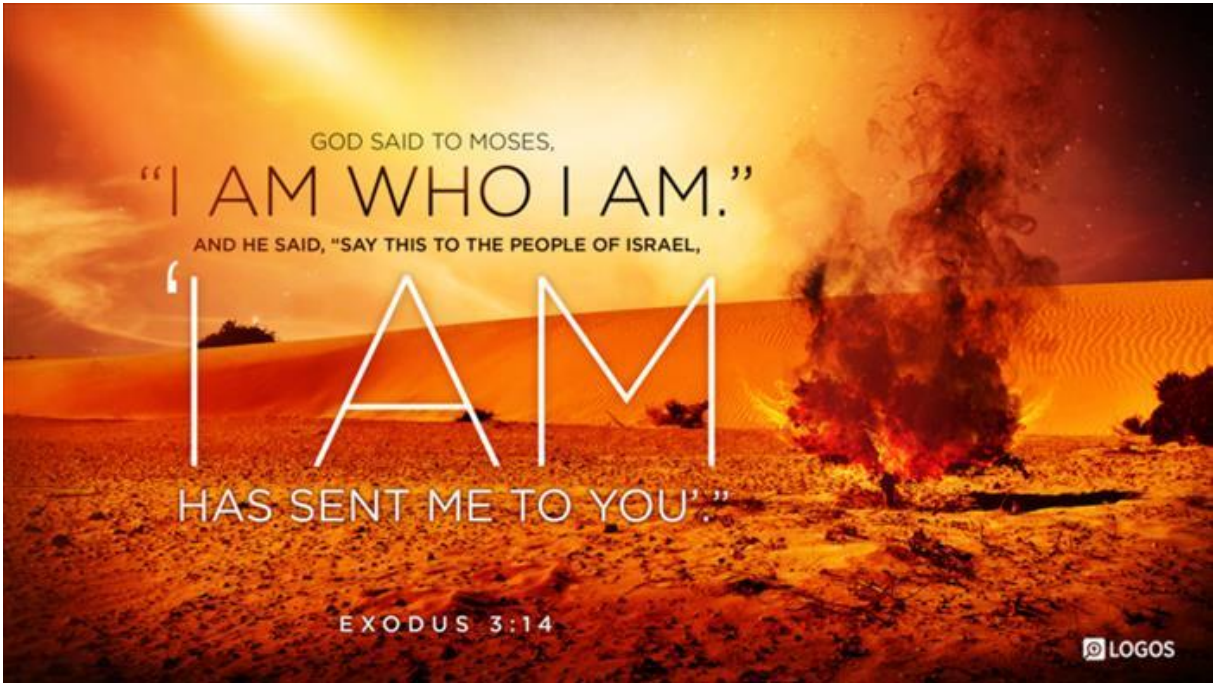


WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Saturday, 22 Mar, 5PM & Sunday, 23 Mar, 10am 2025



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 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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 mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy on me.

Lord have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy on — me.

The Lessons – *(please be seated)*

Psalm for today: Psalm 63:1-8

- 1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; *
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.**
- 2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, *
that I might behold your power and your glory.**
- 3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; *
my lips shall give you praise.**
- 4 So will I bless you as long as I live *
and lift up my hands in your Name.**
- 5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, *
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,**
- 6 When I remember you upon my bed, *
and meditate on you in the night watches.**
- 7 For you have been my helper, *
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.**
- 8 My soul clings to you; *
your right hand holds me fast.**

**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 Exodus (3:1-15)

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and

to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” He said, “I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.”

But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I am who I am.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'” God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.”

Reader: *The word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson:

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the 1 Corinthians (10:1-13)

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall.

No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Reader: *The word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Luke 13:1-9

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

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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 *Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America*.

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for *St. Raphael in the Valley, in Benson*.

We pray for the first peoples of this land, especially the Apache and Tahona O'Odham peoples who called this area home.

People: Lord, be with them to bless and guide them.

Collect Of the Day

Presider: Let us pray

All: Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ 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: If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Doxology -

#380 Hymnal 1982

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. ♪**

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.

All: 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: **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:**

Heaven and Earth are full of thy glory

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord

Hosanna 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 thereby 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 did 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 to thee, he broke 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 this all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, 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 people, do celebrate and make, 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; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify (+) these gifts of bread and wine; that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

All: And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies.

Grant, we beseech thee that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily received the most precious body and Blood of they Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction (+); and also that we and all they whole church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in 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 #S-163

♪ **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.

Everyone is invited and welcome to receive communion in this church. We offer gluten free bread and real wine. You may receive one or both as partaking in full communion. If you prefer to intinct/dip your bread into the wine to consume, please go to the left side of the altar. If you prefer to eat the bread and then sip from the cup, please go to the right side of the altar. If you are not ready to receive communion, you may go to either side and cross your arms over your chest for a blessing instead.

Prayers for:

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing, Travelers and Gratitudes

Post Communion Prayer

Presider: Let us pray:

All: Grant, O Lord God, to all who have been baptized into the death and resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ, that, as we have put away the old life of sin, so we may be renewed in the spirit of our minds, and live in righteousness and true holiness; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Benediction:

Presider: 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 God Almighty: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be among you, and remain with you always. **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

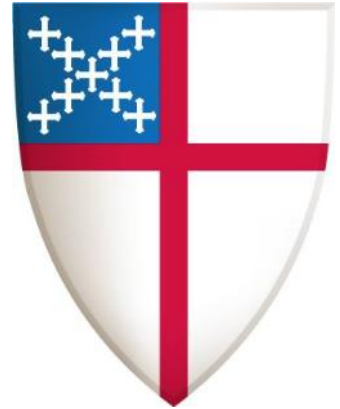
People Thanks be to God.

Please join us Sunday morning for refreshments in the Parish Hall

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ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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 Or you can also use the QRC here to fill this out online.



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