

Lent



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 FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Wednesday 26 Mar 2025 9:30 AM

Today's feast From [Lessor Feasts & Fasts](#) commemorates how

God made known to a young Jewish woman that she was to be the mother of his Son. The Annunciation has been a major theme in Christian art, in both East and West, and innumerable sermons and poems have been composed about it. The term coined by Cyril of Alexandria for the Blessed Virgin, Theotokos ("the God-bearer"), was affirmed by the General Council of Ephesus in 431.

Many theologians stress that Mary accepted her vocation with perfect conformity of will. Mary's self-offering in response to God's call has been compared to that of Abraham, the father of believers. Just as Abraham was called to be the father of the chosen people, and accepted his call, so Mary was called to be the mother of the faithful, the new Israel. She is God's human agent in the mystery of the Incarnation.

Her response to the angel, "Let it be to me according to your word," is identical with the faith expressed in the prayer that Jesus taught: "Your will be done on

[Continued Pg 11](#)



Welcome and Announcements

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 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 40:5-10

**5 Great things are they that you have done, O Lord my God!
how great your wonders and your plans for us! *
there is none who can be compared with you.**

**6 Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! *
but they are more than I can count.**

**7 In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure *
(you have given me ears to hear you);**

**8 Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required, *
and so I said, "Behold, I come.**

**9 In the roll of the book it is written concerning me: *
'I love to do your will, O my God;
your law is deep in my heart.'"**

**10 I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation; *
behold, I did not restrain my lips;
and that, O Lord, you know.**

**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 the Book of Isaiah 7:10-14

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? 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."

Reader: *The word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson:

A Reading from the letter to the: Hebrews 10:4-10

It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Reader: *The word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38

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

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is

the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

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

Sermon (Rev Deacon Dorothy Gutwein)

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 Maralal – The Anglican Church of Kenya.*

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: Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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.

Continued from front:
earth as in heaven.”

But while many Christians emphasize the submissiveness of Mary, according to the sixth-century Syriac writer Jacob of Sarug, the most important words that Mary spoke were not those of quiet acquiescence but rather, “How can this be?” Indeed, in Jacob’s account of the gospel encounter, Mary’s response is much more than a single question. Instead, a teenage girl takes on an archangel in a theological debate and freely consents only when she has been convinced that the angel’s word is true. In this interpretation, it is Mary’s eagerness to understand God’s plan and her own role in it that makes her exemplary rather than her meek consent. Jacob contrasts her behavior with Eve, who did not question the serpent that tempted her in the garden but uncritically accepted the claim that she and Adam would become like gods without testing it first. In Eve’s case, “lack of doubt gave birth to death” because she simply believed whatever she was told and “was won over without any debate.”

In both of these interpretations, however, our salvation is only possible because of Mary’s free cooperation with God in that salvation. It has been said, “God made us without us, and redeemed us without us, but cannot save us without us.” Mary’s assent to God’s call opened the way for God to accomplish the salvation of the world. It is for this reason that all generations have called her “blessed.”

The **Annunciation** (/əˌnʌnsiˈeɪʃən/^[1] from [More from Wikipedia the free encyclopedia](#) [Latin](#) *annuntiatio*; also referred to as the **Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary**, the **Annunciation of Our Lady**,^[2] or the **Annunciation of the Lord**; [Ancient Greek](#): Ο Ευαγγελισμός της Θεοτόκου) is, according to the [Gospel of Luke](#), the announcement made by the archangel [Gabriel](#) to [Mary](#) that she would conceive and bear a son through a [virgin birth](#) and become the mother of [Jesus Christ](#), the [Christian Messiah](#) and [Son of God](#), marking the [Incarnation](#).^[3]

Annunciation by [Armenian manuscript illuminator Toros Roslin](#), 13th century

According to [Luke 1:26](#) the Annunciation occurred in the sixth month of [Elizabeth](#)'s pregnancy with [John the Baptist](#). Many Christians observe this event with the [Feast of the Annunciation](#) on 25 March,^[3] an approximation of the northern [vernal equinox](#) nine full months before [Christmas](#), the traditional birthday of Jesus.

The Annunciation is [a key topic in Christian art](#) in general, as well as in [Marian art in the Catholic Church](#), having been especially prominent during the [Middle Ages](#) and [Renaissance](#). A work of art depicting the Annunciation is sometimes itself called an *Annunciation*.

Religious sources

Gospel of Luke

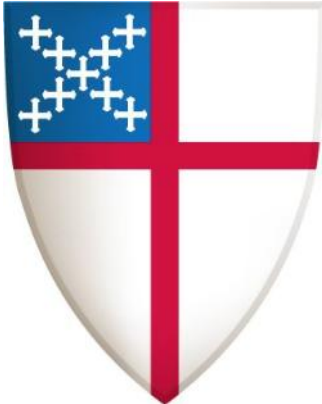
The [Gospel of Luke](#) recounts the Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary:

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled

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



Info Update Giving Envelopes Mail News Letter

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