



## **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.*

### **EASTER SUNDAY**

**Sunday, 20 April, 10am 2025**



Prelude: "Lift High The Cross", by James Baden arr Fred Bock

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Rev. Allison Cornell**

# Opening Song: “Alleluia Give thanks to the risen Lord “ #178

## **SALUTATION:**

**Presider:** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People:** The Lord is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

**Presider:** Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify you Holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **GLORIA —**

#S-278

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you  
thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the  
Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:**

**have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of  
the Father:  
receive our prayer. For you alone  
are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

## **COLLECT OF THE DAY:**

**Presider:** The Lord be with you

**People:** And also with you.

**Presider:** Let us pray

**All:** Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD:** *(Please be seated for the lessons)*

### **First Lesson: A Reading from the Book Acts (10:34-43):**

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all.

That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God

**PSALM: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (read in unison)**

**1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; \***

**his mercy endures for ever.**

**2 Let Israel now proclaim, \***

**"His mercy endures for ever."**

**14 The Lord is my strength and my song, \***

**and he has become my salvation.**

**15 There is a sound of exultation and victory \***

**in the tents of the righteous:**

**16 "The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! \***

**the right hand of the Lord is exalted!**

**the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"**

**17 I shall not die, but live, \***

**and declare the works of the Lord.**

**18 The Lord has punished me sorely, \***

**but he did not hand me over to death.**

**19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; \***

**I will enter them;**

**I will offer thanks to the Lord.**

**20 "This is the gate of the Lord; \*  
he who is righteous may enter."**

21 I will give thanks to you, for you  
answered me \*  
and have become my salvation.  
22 The same stone which the builders  
rejected \*  
has become the chief cornerstone.

23 This is the Lord's doing, \*  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.  
24 On this day the Lord has acted; \*  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

## **Second Lesson: A Reading from Paul's 1st Epistle to the Corinthians 15:19-26**

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

## **Gospel Lesson:** *(Please stand as you are able)*

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Luke (24:1-12):**

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

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women who had come with Jesus from Galilee came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body.

While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again."

Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna,

Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord

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

## HOMILY

### **Newcomer Welcome:**

Rector: Paul in his letter to the Philippians wrote: “Greetings to each one of God's people who belong to Christ Jesus. The believers here with me send you their greetings.”

Today we wish to formally extend our greetings to you who are newer to our congregation and welcome you into our community of faith, the beloved community of Christ of St.

Stephen’s Episcopal Church. Please come to the front if you have been coming to our church for less than a year. (*newcomers step to the front of the church*)

(*To the congregation*): These persons have been exploring and discovering our church for the past days, weeks, or months and we are delighted to have them with us.

(*To the newcomers*:) Please tell us your name(s) and when you started coming to St. Stephen’s?

(*Newcomers share their name and when they began attending St. Stephen’s*)

Rector to the Newcomers:

Dear new friends, we are glad to have you with us to continue our journeys of faith and growing in the knowledge and love of God together. Our church has as its goal and purpose: “to accept everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith, and share God’s love through service to others.” We believe that God has called us to love and serve. Do you wish to join us in this goal and purpose?

**New Members: Yes, that is my wish.**

Rector to the congregation: People of St. Stephen's, will you continue to welcome and help our newcomers to better appreciate the shared life and faith of our church as a beloved community?

**Congregation: We will.**

Rector: Let us pray:

**All: Loving God, send your Holy Spirit to be among us, knitting us one to another. Help us to grow with each other, to love each other, to support each other. That by our common life in this community we may come to know and serve you and all our sisters and brothers, in Jesus name, we pray. Amen**

Rector: As Rector of this parish, and speaking for the entire congregation, we welcome each of you to the beloved community of St. Stephen's. May the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and always. Please accept this St. Stephen's Prayer Card as a token of our welcome to you.

*(Folks return to their seats)*

Presider: Easter is the traditional day of baptism for those ready to declare their belief in God in Christ, to follow Jesus's teaching and example, and devote themselves to starting a new way of life. So, I would like to ask if there is anyone present who has never been baptized, if they would like to be baptized today.

*(If someone desires to be baptized, use insert for the next section, otherwise continue with renewal of baptismal vows below)*

## **Renewal of Baptismal Vows:**

Presider: Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

Presider: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

**People I do.**

Presider: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Presider: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: **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.**

Presider: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: **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.**

Presider: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the  
breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Presider: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and , whenever you fall into sin,  
repent and return to the Lord?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Presider: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of  
God in Christ?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Presider: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor  
as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect  
the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider: May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has  
given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed  
upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace,  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

**Baptismal Song: “This is the Day that the Lord has made” {Insert}**

*(Presider sprinkles the congregation with holy water during song)*

**The Peace:**

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you**

**The Offertory:**

Presider: Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself as an offering and sacrifice to God.

**Offertory Song: “At the Lambs High Feast we sing” #174**

Doxology #380 vs. 3

**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**

**The Holy Communion - *The Great Thanksgiving BCP Rite 2A***

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.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Pascal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



***Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

*Presider continues:*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit (+) to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also (+) that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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 for ever. **AMEN.**

Presider: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,  
                   **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*)

Fraction Anthem : Hymnal 1982 #S-155



**Invitation to Communion:**

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that  
           Christ died and rose again for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and  
           with thanksgiving.

*(All are invited and welcome to come forward and receive communion in this church. The bread is  
 gluten free and we use real wine. To receive by intincting/dipping your bread into the wine, please  
 use the left altar rail. To receive by eating the bread and taking a sip of wine from the cup, please  
 use the right altar rail. You may receive only the bread if you prefer. If you are not ready to take  
 communion with us today, you may also come forward, cross your arms over your chest and receive a  
 blessing instead.)*

## Communion Hymn: "I am the bread of life"

#335

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

Presider: Let us pray.

**All:** 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

Presider: May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Recessional Hymn: "Welcome happy morning"

#179

### 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 into the world, rejoicing in God's Spirit.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

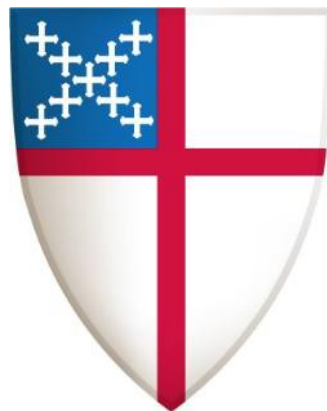
Postlude: "*Andante Religioso* ", by Francis Thome arr Martha Powell Setchell

*Please join us for our Easter Brunch 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 _____ (first) (Mid.) (Last)			
Hm: _____ Cell _____			
Email: _____		Anv. Date _____	
Adrs: _____		BrthDate _____	
City, St., Zip: _____, _____, _____			