

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.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday 24 May, 5pm & Sunday, 25 May, 10am 2025



Prelude: "Worthy", by Todd Beaney
Welcome and Announcements

Opening Song: "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

#599

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: O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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

First Lesson: A Reading from the Book Acts (16:9-15):

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

Reader The Word of the Lord **People** **Thanks be to God**

The PSALM

Psalm 67

- 1 May God be merciful to us and bless us, *
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.**
- 2 Let your ways be known upon earth, *
your saving health among all nations.**
- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.**
- 4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.**
- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.**
- 6 The earth has brought forth her increase; *
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.**
- 7 May God give us his blessing, *
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.**

Second Lesson: A Reading from John's book of Revelation (21:10, 22-22:5):

In the spirit the angel carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day-- and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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 **John (14:23-29):**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus said to Judas (not Iscariot), "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I

am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ

HOMILY (Dorothy Gutwein)

Nicene Creed: *Traditional Version (Said aloud by all, in unison)*

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: Christ our life, You are alive - in the beauty of the earth:

**People: in the rhythm of the seasons, in the mystery of time and space,
Alleluia**

Leader: Christ our life, You are alive - in the tenderness of touch

People: in the heartbeat of intimacy, in the insights of solitude, Alleluia

Leader: Christ our life, You are alive - in the creative possibility

**People: of the hardest conversation, of the dreariest task, of the most
threatening event, Alleluia**

Leader: Christ our life, You are alive - to offer re-creation

**People: to every unhealed hurt, to every deadened place, to every damaged
Heart, Alleluia.**

Leader: Christ our life, You are alive – to give us encouragement

**People: to face our fears, to wrestle with our doubts, to overcome our
disappointments, Alleluia.**

Leader: You set before us a great choice, death in our souls without you or Life
abundantly and eternally with you.

People: Therefore, we choose life.

Leader: The dance of resurrection soars and surges through the whole creation,

**People: This is your grace through which we live. So let us live fully and
thankfully. Alleluia.**

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: "One Bread One Body"

G#813

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:

The Holy Eucharist II

S 128

Holy, holy, holy Lord *Sanctus*

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

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

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is
sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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: “ Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent” #324

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: “Come Thou Font of Every Blessing” #686

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!)

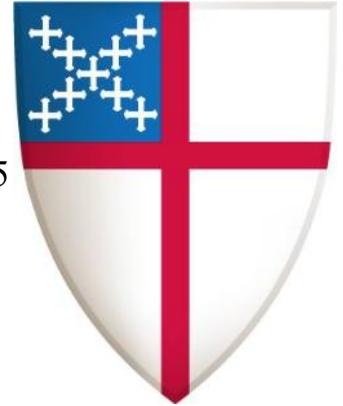
Postlude: “*We Are God’s People*”, tune by Johannes Brahmes arr. Fred Bock

On Sundays please join us for our refreshments 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.



2750 Cardinal Dr. Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
<https://ststephensaz.org>
520-458-4432



ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rector: Allison Cornell Off.
Phone: 520-458-4432 Mobile:
562-743-3784

RevAllison@ststephensaz.org

Parish Administrator

Mark Sowards

Mark.sowards@ststephensaz.org

Off. Phone 520-458-4432

Mobile: 408-892-1062

Office Fax: 520-458-8237

Deacons:

Dorothy Gutwein

Hm: 520-515-9183

dottie85635@gmail.com

Sherry Simon

sherrytsimon@gmail.com

(520)-210-2026

Church Accompanist :

Doreen Oberg

doreenoberg@hotmail.com

Vestry Staff

Senior Warden:

Jeff Speer

jeffrey5454speer@gmail.com

Cell:(520) 678-5688

Please leave voice mail

Junior wardens:

Pete Criscuolo

petesacct2014@gmail.com

Cell: 520-234-7687

& Timothy Holsonback

holsonback@cox.net

520/459-1937

Treasurer:

Anne Roth

Cell:303/917-8151

avd.roth@comcast.net

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.



Info Update Giving Envelopes Mail News Letter

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Email: _____ Anv. Date _____

Adrs: _____ BrthDate _____

City, St., Zip: _____, _____, _____