

## 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.

# SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday 31 May, 5pm & Sunday, 1 June, 10am 2025



Prelude: "I Sing the Mighty Power of God", tune Ellecombe, arr Barbara Boertje Welcome and Announcements Rev. Allison Cornell

# Opening Song: "See the conqueror mounts in triumph" #215

**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

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:**

Father,

Presider: The Lord be with you **And also with you.** 

Presider: Let us pray

All: O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting Amen.

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

### First Lesson: A Reading from the Book Acts (16:16-34):

With Paul and Silas, we came to Philippi in Macedonia, a Roman colony, and, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

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

# The PSALM Psalm 97

1 The Lord is King; let the earth rejoice; \* let the multitude of the isles be glad.

2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, \* righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.

3 A fire goes before him \* and burns up his enemies on every side.

4 His lightnings light up the world; \* the earth sees it and is afraid.

5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, \* at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

6 The heavens declare his righteousness, \* and all the peoples see his glory.

7 Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! \*
Bow down before him, all you gods.

8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, \* because of your judgments, O Lord.

9 For you are the Lord, most high over all the earth; \* you are exalted far above all gods.

10 The Lord loves those who hate evil; \* he preserves the lives of his saints and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, \* and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.

12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, \* and give thanks to his holy Name.

# Second Lesson: A Reading from John's book of Revelation (22:12-14, 16-17,20-21):

At the end of the visions I, John, heard these words:

"See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

"It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."

And let everyone who hears say, "Come."

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

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 (17:20-26):

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus prayed for his disciples, and then he said. "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

"Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord People: Praise to you, Lord Christ

#### **HOMILY**

- **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: "Awake o Sleeper, rise from death" #547

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
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:



#### 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.

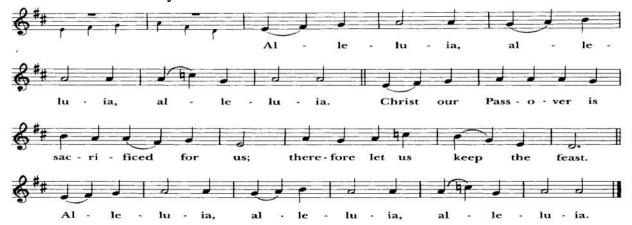
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

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: "Spread O spread Thou Mighty Word" #530

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:** 

"Ye servants of God, your master proclaim"

#535

#### **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: "Round of Alleluia", Doreen Oberg

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.



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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 ORC here to fill this out online.



Info Update	Giving Envelopes	Mail News Letter
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