



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.

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST EVENING PRAYER

5:30 pm Saturday, 30 Aug 2025



Opening Sentences *(Please stand as you are able)*

Deacon: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. *(Philippians 1:2)*

Confession of Sin

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
(a short silence is observed)

Deacon: Deacon: We have wounded your love.

People: **O God, heal us.**

Deacon: We stumble in the darkness.

People: **Light of the world transfigure us.**

Deacon: We forget that we are your home.

People: **Spirit of God, dwell in us.**

All: Eternal Spirit, living God, in whom we live and move and have our being, all that we are, have been, and shall be is known to you, to the very secret of our hearts and all that rises to trouble us. Living flame burn into us, cleansing wind, blow through us, fountain of water, well up within us, that we may love and praise you in deed and in truth.

Deacon: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Invitatory and Psalter

Leader: O God, make speed to save us.

People: **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

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.

Leader: The Holy One is in our midst: O come let us worship.

Venite: *(In unison)*

**Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.**

**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

**For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.**

**In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.**

**The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.**

**Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

**For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice! Amen.**

The Lessons: *(Please be seated for the lessons)*

First Lesson: A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah (2:4-13):

Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus says the Lord:

What wrong did your ancestors find in
me
that they went far from me,
and went after worthless things, and
became worthless themselves?

They did not say, "Where is the Lord
who brought us up from the land of
Egypt,

who led us in the wilderness,
in a land of deserts and pits,

in a land of drought and deep darkness,
in a land that no one passes through,
where no one lives?"

I brought you into a plentiful land
to eat its fruits and its good things.

But when you entered you defiled my
land,
and made my heritage an
abomination.

The priests did not say, "Where is the
Lord?"

Those who handle the law did not
know me;

the rulers transgressed against me;
the prophets prophesied by Baal, and
went after things that do not profit.

Therefore once more I accuse you,
says the Lord,
and I accuse your children's
children.

Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and
look,
send to Kedar and examine with
care;
see if there has ever been such a
thing.

Has a nation changed its gods, even
though they are no gods?

But my people have changed their
glory
for something that does not profit.

Be appalled, O heavens, at this, be
shocked, be utterly desolate, says
the Lord,

for my people have committed two
evils:
they have forsaken me,

the fountain of living water,
and dug out cisterns for
themselves,

cracked cisterns
that can hold no water.

Reader The Word of the Lord People

Thanks be to God

The PSALM:

Psalm 81:1, 10-16

- 1 Sing with joy to God our strength *
and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.**
- 10 I am the Lord your God,
who brought you out of the land of Egypt and said, *
"Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it."**
- 11 And yet my people did not hear my voice, *
and Israel would not obey me.**
- 12 So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their hearts, *
to follow their own devices.**
- 13 Oh, that my people would listen to me! *
that Israel would walk in my ways!**
- 14 I should soon subdue their enemies *
and turn my hand against their foes.**
- 15 Those who hate the Lord would cringe before him, *
and their punishment would last for ever.**
- 16 But Israel would I feed with the finest wheat *
and satisfy him with honey from the rock.**

Second Lesson: A Reading from Hebrews (13:1-8, 15-16):

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is,

the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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

Gospel Lesson: Luke (14:1, 7-14) *(Please stand as you are able)*

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ

Reflection on readings Deacon Dottie Gutwein

The Apostles Creed:

Deacon/Leader: Let us say together the Apostles' Creed:

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.

The Prayers

Leader The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Leader Let us pray.

The Collect of the day

All: Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

The Suffrages (B)

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. We praise your name for ever.

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. For we put our trust in you.

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. And we shall never hope in vain.

Exchange of the Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Offertory

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

Collect for Guidance

Leader: O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Other Intercessions and Thanksgivings:

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing, Travel, Gratitude

Prayer of General Thanksgiving (*All in unison*)

Leader: Let us Pray

All: Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us.

We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

Deacon/Leader: People of St. Stephen's, what does God call us to do?

People: **We are called to love and serve.**

Deacon/Leader: Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

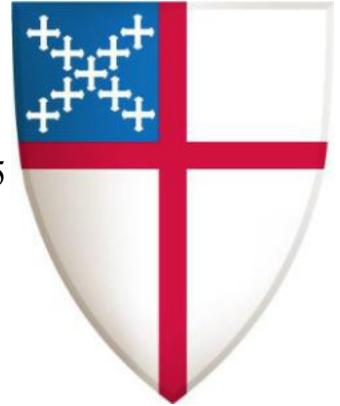
People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Deacon/Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all for evermore. Amen.

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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Please leave voicemail message

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

Name _____
(first) (Mid.) (Last)

Hm: _____ Cell _____

Avn. Date _____

Email: _____ BrthDate _____

Adrs: _____

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