

**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.*

**3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - JOY  
 HOLY COMMUNION**

**Saturday 13 Dec, 5pm & Sunday 14 Dec, 10am 2025 /w Fr. Bernal**

	<b>SATURDAY 5 PM</b>	<b>SUNDAY 10 AM</b>
<b>Celebrant/Officiant</b>	<b>Fr. JJ Bernal</b>	<b>Fr. JJ Bernal</b>
<b>Deacons</b>	<b>Dorothy Gutwein Sherry Simon</b>	<b>Dorothy Gutwein Sherry Simon</b>
<b>LEM</b>	<b>Jeff Speer</b>	<b>Nancy Rea</b>
<b>Lector</b>	<b>Tim Holsonback</b>	<b>Ann Crandall</b>
<b>Music Director</b>		<b>Doreen Oberg</b>
<b>Choir</b>		<b>Pat Wick Renee Oleinjak Katheleen Jarvis Peggy Brown + you</b>

**Prelude: “Star child”, Earth child, by Shirley Erena Murray**



## 1st Lesson: A Reading from the Book of Isaiah (35:1-10)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord

*People:* **Thanks be to God**

### The Psalm

#### Psalm 146:4-9

- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! \*  
whose hope is in the Lord their God;
- 5 **Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; \***  
**who keeps his promise for ever;**
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \*  
and food to those who hunger.
- 7 **The Lord sets the prisoners free;**  
**the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; \***  
**the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;**
- 8 The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; \*  
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- 9 **The Lord shall reign for ever, \***  
**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

## **2nd Lesson: A Reading from James (5:7-10):**

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord

*People:* **Thanks be to God**

## **Sequence Hymn “O for a thousand tongues to sing”, #493 vs 1-3**

### **The Gospel Lesson: Matthew (11:2-11):**

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

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **Sequence Hymn “O for a thousand tongues to sing”, #493 vs 4&5**

### **Sermon**

### **Nicene Creed (Traditional)**

**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.**

## **Confession of Sin and Absolution**

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor

**All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen. Amen.**

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

## **The Peace:**

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

*People:* **And also with you.**

## **Prayers of the People: Form III**

*— In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.*

*Leader:* Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

*People:* **That we all may be one.**

**Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

*Leader:* We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
*People:* **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**  
We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**  
Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
**That our works may find favor in your sight.**  
Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
**That they may be delivered from their distress.**  
Give to the departed eternal rest.  
**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**  
We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

## **Prayer for St. Stephen's:**

*Presider:* **Almighty God, giver of every good gift; look graciously on your church, and so guide the minds of our search committee, wardens, and vestry, who are in discernment for St. Stephen's church, Sierra Vista, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*Leader:* Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*The Celebrant adds a concluding collect*

*Presider:* (. . .) **Amen.**

## **Welcome & announcements**

**Birthday's, Prayers of Healing, Blessings and gratitude.....**

## **Offertory sentence;**

*Presider:* (. . .)

**Offertory Hymn: "There's a voice in the wilderness", #75**

**Doxology (Hymn #380 v. 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

Rite II Prayer A

Presider: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

*Lift up your hearts.*

**We lift them to the Lord.**

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**It is right to give Him 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.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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

**All: Sanctus - Hymnal 1982 #S-125**

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

Setting: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

*The Celebrant continues: (The people stand, sit, or kneel.)*

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:

*Celebrant and People :*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

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.

And now as our savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

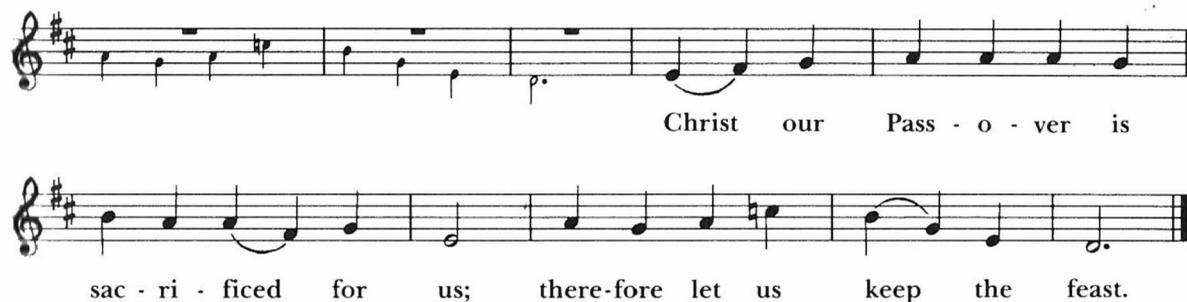
## The Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## Fraction: The Breaking of the Bread

*(In silence the Presider breaks the bread)*

### Fraction Anthem H1982 # S-156



Christ our Pass - o - ver is  
sac - ri - ficed for us; there-fore let us keep the feast.

## Invitation to Communion:

**Presider:** The gifts of God for the people of God.

**People:** **Christ invites us all to be known and fed here.**

*(In this church, everyone is welcome to receive the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Gluten free bread and real wine are used. If you prefer to dip/intinct your bread into the wine, please come to the left altar rail. If you prefer to take a sip of wine from the cup, please come to the right altar rail. If you prefer to receive a priest blessing instead of the bread and wine, come to either rail and cross your arms over your chest. .*

**Communion Hymn: “Word of God, come down on earth”, #633**

**Post Communion Prayer**

Presider: Let us pray:

**All: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Benediction:**

Presider: May the peace 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: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you now and always. **Amen**

**Closing Hymn: “Come, thou long expected Jesus”, #66**

**Dismissal:** Deacon: People of St. Stephen’s, what does God call us to do?

**People: We are called to Love and Serve**

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”, tune Hyfrydol by Prichard, arr Robert Thygeron**

## **PARISH CYCLE OF PRAYER**

Kathleen Jarvis – Ron Breedlove, Peggy Brown, Sandra Calhoun,  
Marietta Conley, Peter Criscuolo (12/31).

## **DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER**

- We Pray for the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sara, for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for Jennifer, our Diocesan Bishop, for our Deacons, Dottie and Sherry, and for Fr. J.J., our Priest.
- In the Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil
- In the Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray also for Saint Anthony on the Desert in Scottsdale.

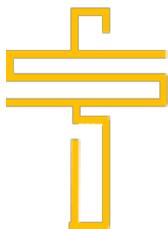
## **PLEASE PRAY FOR THE HEALTH OF**

Edgar Stone (12/14), Alverita Egbert (12/16), Doris Millard (12/16), Jerry and Susan Fine (12/23), Alma Vasquez (12/31), Deacon Robin Hollis (12/30), Family & Friends of late Rev. John Lutton (12/7), Janet Treder (12/31), Family and friends of Deacon Fritz & Paula Jones (12/31) repose of their souls.

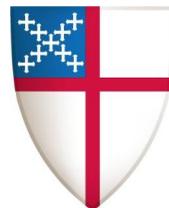
## **SPECIAL PRAYER**

- All victims of boat sinkings off the coast of Venezuela. (12/21)
- The victims of war around the world and renewed efforts for peace. (12/31)
- For all those military and government workers who are laid off or working without pay as they struggle to make ends meet and care for families (12/21).
- For all who struggle during this time of year, with finances, with depression, with faith, please be with those who need your support and let them feel your love. (12/21)

*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.



Info Update      Giving Envelopes       Mail News Letter     

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (first) \_\_\_\_\_ (Mid.) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last)

Hm: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Anv. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Adrs: \_\_\_\_\_ BrthDate \_\_\_\_\_

City, St., Zip: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_