

**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.*

**4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - LOVE  
 HOLY COMMUNION**

**Saturday 203 Dec, 5pm & Sunday 21 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>Deacons</b>	<b>Dorothy Gutwein Sherry Simon</b>	<b>Dorothy Gutwein Sherry Simon</b>
<b>LEM</b>	<b>Tim Holsonback</b>	<b>Maryjane Mahland</b>
<b>Lector</b>	<b>Jeff Speer</b>	<b>Peggy brown</b>
<b>Music Director</b>		<b>Doreen Oberg</b>
<b>Choir</b>		<b>Pat Wick Renee Oleinjak Katheleen Jarvis Peggy Brown + you</b>

**Prelude: "Raise Now Your Song on High", tune Camille Saint-Saens arr Todd Kendall**

**Processional Hymn: "Oh come thou long expected Jesus", #66**

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

*Cantor: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear;*

**People: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*Leader: Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of love. Jesus shows us God's perfect love in human form. Those who believe in Him, and live in Him, live in love. Love transforms and perfects all things. It never ends.*

*Leader: We light this candle today to remind us that God is love. We thank God for the hope He gives us, the peace He bestows, the joy He pours into our hearts, and for the love that redeems us and shows us the way.*

### **All the Candles of Advent are lit**

*Cantor: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear;*

**People: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

### **Salutation and Collect of Purity**

*Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

**People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

**All: 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 your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Presider: Lord, have mercy.*

**People: Christ, have mercy.**

*Presider: Lord, have mercy.*

### **The Collect for the fourth Sunday in Advent**

*Presider: The Lord be with you.*

**People: And also with you.**

**Presider & People: Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

## 1st Lesson: A Reading from the Book of Isaiah (7:10-6)

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord

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

### The Psalm

#### Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
**shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
**stir up your strength and come to help us.**
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**
- 4 O Lord God of hosts, \*  
**how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?**
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
**you have given them bowls of tears to drink.**
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
**and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*  
**the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
**give us life, that we may call upon your Name.**
- 18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; \*  
**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

## **2nd Lesson: A Reading from Romans (1:1-7):**

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord

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

**Sequence Hymn “By the Creator”,**

**#261 vs 1&2**

## **The Gospel Lesson: Matthew (1:18-25):**

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

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

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sequence Hymn “By the Creator”,**

**#261 vs 3**

**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.**

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

*Leader:* With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."

*Leader:* For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this city, Sierra Vista, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**





# Offertory Hymn: "Sleepers Awakes",

#62

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 B

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.*

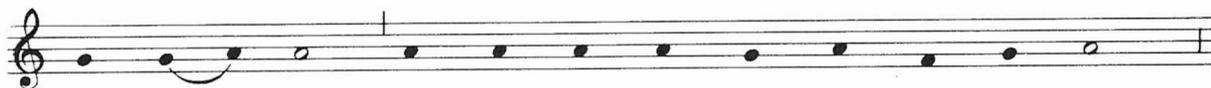
**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

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**



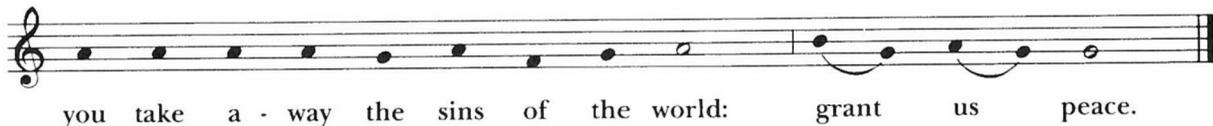
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,



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

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts (+) that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified (+) by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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 forever. **AMEN.**

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

## The Lord's Prayer:

**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.**

## 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: "How Bright appears the morning star", #496**

## Post Communion Prayer

**Presider:** Let us pray:

**All:** Almighty and everliving 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.

## 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: “Redeemer of the nations, come;”, #55**

**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: “What Is This Lovely Fragrance?”, French melody, arr Christina Becket**

## **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 The Anglican Church of Burundi do Brasil
- In the Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray also for Saint Barnabas on the Desert in Scottsdale.

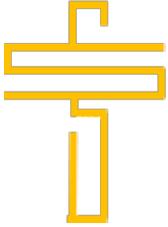
## **PLEASE PRAY FOR THE HEALTH OF**

Penelope McKay, new born daughter of Sharol and Caleb McKay, born 3 weeks early(1/18); 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.

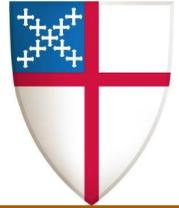
## **SPECIAL PRAYER**

- 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: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_