

WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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HOLY WEEK

*Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together,
grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.*

GOOD FRIDAY - VENERATION OF THE CROSS

Friday, 3 April 7 PM



The last seven statements of Christ

Clergy enter in silence

Presider: Blessed be our God

People: **Forever and ever. Amen.**

Presider: Let us pray:

All: Almighty God, look with mercy on this your family for which our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and given up into the hands of wicked men and to suffer death upon the cross; who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word: *(Please be seated)*

First Lesson: A reading from the book of Judges 11:29-40

The Spirit of the HOLY ONE, she was upon Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh. He passed on to Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he passed on to the Ammonites. And Jephthah vowed a vow to the HOLY ONE OF OLD, and said, "If you will give the Ammonites into my hand, then it shall be that the one who comes out—whoever comes out—of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return having finished with the Ammonites, shall be the HOLY ONE'S, I will offer them up as a burnt offering." Then Jephthah crossed over to the Ammonites to fight against them and the HOLY ONE gave them into his hand. He smote a mighty smiting on them from Aroer until you come to Minnith, twenty towns, and as far as Abel-keramim. So, the Ammonites were subdued before the people of Israel.

Then Jephthah came to his home at Mizpah, and there was his daughter coming out to meet him with drums and with dancing. Only she, an only child; he had no son or daughter apart from her. When he saw her, he tore his clothes, and said, "Ah! My daughter, you have knocked me down; you have become my trouble! I opened my mouth to the HOLY ONE, and I cannot take back my vow."

She said to him, "My father, you have opened your mouth to the HOLY ONE, do to me according to what has gone out of your mouth, after that the HOLY ONE has taken vengeance through you against your enemies, against the Ammonites." And she said to her father, "Let be done for me this thing: Release me for two months, and I will go and go down among the hills, and weep for my virginity, I and my women-friends." Then he said, "Go," and sent her away for two months. So, she left, she and her women-friends, and wept over her virginity among the hills. And it was at the end of two months, she returned to her father, who did to her what he vowed in his vow. She had never known a man and she

became an observance in Israel. Year by year the daughters of Israel would go out to tell the story of the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite for four days.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

The Psalm: Psalm 22: 1-19: (in unison)

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| 1 My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?
I have cried desperately for help, but still it does not come. | Trouble is near,
and there is no one to help. |
| 2 During the day I call to you, my God, but you do not answer;
I call at night, but get no rest. | 12 Many enemies surround me like bulls;
they are all around me,
like fierce bulls from the land of Bashan. |
| 3 But you are enthroned as the Holy One,
the one whom Israel praises. | 13 They open their mouths like lions,
roaring and tearing at me. |
| 4 Our ancestors put their trust in you; they trusted you, and you saved them. | 14 My strength is gone,
gone like water spilled on the ground.
All my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like melted wax. |
| 5 They called to you and escaped from danger;
they trusted you and were not disappointed. | 15 My throat is as dry as dust,
and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth.
You have left me for dead in the dust. |
| 6 But I am no longer a human being; I am a worm,
despised and scorned by everyone! | 16 An evil gang is around me;
like a pack of dogs they close in on me;
they tear at my hands and feet. |
| 7 All who see me make fun of me; they stick out their tongues and shake their heads. | 17 All my bones can be seen.
My enemies look at me and stare. |
| 8 “You relied on the Lord,” they say. “Why doesn't he save you?
If the Lord likes you,
why doesn't he help you?” | 18 They gamble for my clothes
and divide them among themselves. |
| 9 It was you who brought me safely through birth,
and when I was a baby, you kept me safe. | 19 O Lord, don't stay away from me!
Come quickly to my rescue! |
| 10 I have relied on you since the day I was born,
and you have always been my God. | |
| 11 Do not stay away from me! | |

Second Lesson: from the Epistle to the Hebrews (12:1-4):

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also put aside every weight and entangling sin, and with endurance let us run the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the originator and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, its shame disregarding, and at the right hand of the throne of God has taken his seat. Consider the one who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you all may not grow weary or your souls grow faint. Not to this point have you all in your struggles against sin resisted to the point of shedding blood.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

The Last Seven Words of Christ as recorded in the Gospels of

Luke 22: 26-56, Mark 15: 34, and John 19: 26-30:

As they led Jesus away to be crucified, they seized Simon of Cyrene who was coming from the country, and they laid on him the cross to carry behind Jesus. A great number of people followed him, and a group of women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, weep only for yourselves and for your children. Look, the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are barren women, and wombs that have never given birth, and breasts that have never nourished.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if when the wood is green they do this, when it is dry what will happen?"

Now two criminals were also led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place called Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And then Jesus said, "**Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.**"

(Reflection)

They divided his clothing by casting lots. And the people stood there, watching; but the leaders ridiculed him, saying, "Others he saved; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, God's chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming and offering him vinegar wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Judeans, save yourself!" There was also an inscription above him, "This is the King of the Judeans."

One of the criminals who was hanging there derided him, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same death sentence? And we indeed

justly, for what we have done merits what we are receiving, but this one has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your realm." Jesus replied to him, "**Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.**"

(Reflection)

Standing close to Jesus' cross were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there; so he said to his mother, "**He is your son.**" **Then he said to the disciple, "She is your mother."** From that time the disciple took her to live in his home

(Reflection)

And it was now about the sixth hour of the day, or noon, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour of the day, about three in the afternoon. Jesus cried out with a loud shout, "**Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?**" which means, "**My God, my God, why did you abandon me?**"

(Reflection)

Jesus knew that by now everything had been completed; and in order to make the scripture come true, he said, "**I am thirsty.**"

(Reflection)

A bowl was there, full of cheap wine; so a sponge was soaked in the wine, put on a stalk of hyssop, and lifted up to his lips.

Jesus drank the wine and said, "**It is finished!**"

(Reflection)

Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "**Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.**" Saying this then, he breathed out a final time. The sun's light dimmed to darkness, and the curtain of the temple was torn in the middle.

(Reflection)

Now when the centurion saw what had happened, he praised God saying, "This man was indeed innocent." And all the crowds that had gathered for this spectacle saw what had happened, beating their breasts, they turned back. All those who knew him stood far off; the women who had followed him from Galilee were watching these things.

Now, take note, there was a man named Joseph, a member of the council, a good man and a righteous one. He had not agreed with the council and their action. He was from the Judean town of Arimathea, and he was waiting for the

reign of God. This man went to Pilate and requested the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb hewn from rock where no one had yet lain. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was dawning. The women followed, the ones who had come with him from Galilee, and they saw the tomb and how his body was placed. Then the women returned, and prepared spices and balms.

On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

The Solemn Collects:

Presider: Dear People of God: Our heavenly Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and become heirs with him of everlasting life.

We pray, therefore, for people everywhere according to their needs.

Leader Let us pray for the holy catholic Church of Christ throughout the world;

People For its unity in witness and service. For all bishops and other ministers and the people whom they serve. For Sean and Jennifer, our Bishops, and all the people of this diocese. For all Christians in this community

Leader That God will confirm his Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

(Silence)

Presider: Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified:

Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Leader: Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them;

People For the President of the United States; For the Congress and the Supreme Court; For the Members and Representatives of the United Nations; For all who serve the common good

Leader: That by God's help they may seek justice and truth, and live in peace and concord.

(Silence)

Presider: Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility your dominion may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**Amen.**

Leader: Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind;

People For the hungry and the homeless, the destitute and the oppressed the sick, the wounded, and the crippled those in loneliness, fear, and anguish

those who face temptation, doubt, and despair the sorrowful and bereaved prisoners and captives, and those in mortal danger

Leader That God in his mercy will comfort and relieve them, and grant them the knowledge of his love, and stir up in us the will and patience to minister to their needs.

(Silence)

Presider Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Leader: Let us pray for all who have not received the Gospel of Christ;

People For those who have never heard the word of salvation. For those who have lost their faith; For those hardened by sin or indifference; For the contemptuous and the scornful; For those who are enemies of the cross of Christ and persecutors of his disciples; For those who in the name of Christ have persecuted others

Leader That God will open their hearts to the truth, and lead them to faith and obedience.

Silence

Presider: Merciful God, creator of all the peoples of the earth and lover of souls: Have compassion on all who do not know you as you are revealed in your Son Jesus Christ; let your Gospel be preached with grace and power to those who have not heard it; turn the hearts of those who resist it; and bring home to your fold those who have gone astray; that there may be one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Leader: Let us commit ourselves to God, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that, with all who have departed this world and have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to God alone, we may be accounted worthy to enter into the fullness of the joy of our Lord, and receive the crown of life in the day of resurrection.

Silence

Presider O God of unchangeable power and eternal light:

All: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him, through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Veneration of the Cross

(At this time a large wooden cross is brought before the congregation in front of the altar for those who wish to approach to make special private prayers to God).

Music Only during veneration of the Cross: *(Played on the Church sound system)*

- **H1982 #172 Were you there when they crucified my lord**
- **G #437 Behold the Wood**

Communion from Reserved Sacrament:

Presider: Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood:

Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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

**All: 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.**

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

(All are welcome to come forward to receive the bread—Gluten Free)

Music during Communion:

“At The Cross Her Station Keeping”

G#413

Presider: Let us pray.

**All: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your
passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now
and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living;
pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord;
and to us everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy
Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

(The Candle of Presence on the altar is extinguished, any remaining reserved sacrament is placed in the “tomb” / Columbarium and the door closed, and ministers depart in silence).