



SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
EVENING PRAYER: RITE I  
SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2022  
OBSERVING THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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*"The Return of the Prodigal Son" by Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn, ~ late 1660s*

I will bless the Lord who giveth me counsel; my heart teacheth me, night after night. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall. *Psalm 16:7, 8*

### **Confession of Sins**

*Officiant* Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Officiant and People together*

Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,  
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,  
we have offended against thy holy laws,  
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,  
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.  
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,

spare thou those who confess their faults,  
restore thou those who are penitent,  
according to thy promises declared unto mankind  
in Christ Jesus our Lord;  
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,  
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

*The Priest alone says*

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant us absolution and remission of all our sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of His Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

### **The Invitatory and Psalter**

*Officiant* O God, make speed to save us.

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

*Officiant and People*

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.

### **Psalm 32**

1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, \*  
and whose sin is put away!

2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, \*  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!

3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, \*  
because of my groaning all day long.

4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; \*  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, \*  
and did not conceal my guilt.

6 I said, " I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." \*  
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; \*  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

8 You are my hiding-place;  
you preserve me from trouble; \*  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; \*  
I will guide you with my eye.

10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; \*  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,  
or else they will not stay near you."

11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; \*  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; \*  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

*At the end of the Psalms is sung or said*

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.

**A reading from the Prophet Joshua (5:9 - 12),**

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

*Reader*            Here endeth the Lesson

**Canticle – The Song of Simeon**

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,  
according to thy word;  
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,  
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people,  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

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.

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (15:1 – 3, 11b - 32),**

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So, Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe

and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

*Reader*            Here endeth the Reading

## **Sermon**

**The Apostles' Creed** (Rite II language)

*Officiant and People together*

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**

*Officiant*      The Lord be with you.

*People*          And with thy spirit.

*Officiant*      Let us pray.

*Officiant and People*

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 for ever. Amen.

## **Suffrages B**

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,  
*We entreat thee, O Lord.*

That thy holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,  
*We entreat thee, O Lord.*

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,  
*We entreat thee, O Lord.*

That there may be peace to thy Church and to the whole world,  
*We entreat thee, O Lord.*

That we may depart this life in thy faith and fear, and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,  
*We entreat thee, O Lord.*

That we may be bound together by thy Holy Spirit in the communion of Stephen and all thy saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,  
*We entreat thee, O Lord.*

On the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma).

In the Diocese of Montana, we pray for Church of the Trinity, Jeffers/Ennis and the Rev. Jaime Leonard, Rector. We also pray for Camp Marshall.

In our St. Stephen's community, we pray for Ben, Betty, Billy, Dan, David, Dorothy, Dwight, Ed, Harold, and Richard. We also pray for our adopted unit at The Billings Clinic hospital.

*Collect of the Day*

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which giveth life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*A Collect for the Presence of Christ*

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know thee as thou art revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of thy love. *Amen.*

*Prayer for Mission*

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give thine angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for thy love's sake.  
*Amen.*

*Intercessions and thanksgivings may follow*

**General Thanksgiving**

*Officiant and People*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we thine unworthy servants  
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks  
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all men.  
We bless thee for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;

but above all for thine inestimable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we beseech thee,  
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,  
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;  
and that we show forth thy praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to thy service,  
and by walking before thee  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,  
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

*Then may be said*

*Officiant*      Let us bless the Lord.

*People*          Thanks be to God.

*Concluding sentence*

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen. *Romans 15:13*

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Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church is a part of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana

1241 Crawford Drive

Billings, Montana 59102

Office Phone: (406) 259-5017

Email: [ststephensmt@gmail.com](mailto:ststephensmt@gmail.com)

Visit us on the web at [ststephensbillings.org](http://ststephensbillings.org)



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