



SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2023
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Opening Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #493 - O for a thousand tongues to sing (verses 1-3)*

1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my dear Re - deem - er's praise,
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim
3 Je - sus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease;

1 the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
2 and spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy Name.
3 'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Azmon*, Carl Gotthilf Gläser (1784-1829); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

A Penitential Order: Rite Two

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People ***His mercy endures for ever.***

The Celebrant may read the following sentences

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

The Deacon or Celebrant then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept. Minister and People

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.*

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says
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.

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.
People ***Christ, have mercy.***
Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People ***And also with you.***
Celebrant Let us pray

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

[The people may be seated for the readings]

A Reading from the First Book of Samuel (16:1 - 13),

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to

meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
 you have anointed my head with oil,
 and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
 and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

A Reading from the Letter to the Ephesians (5:8 - 14),

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore, it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you.”

Reader The Word of the Lord

People *Thanks be to God*

Sequence Hymn: *Wonder, Love and Praise* #773 - Heal me, hands of Jesus

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in 4/4 time and G major. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piano accompaniment provides a steady harmonic foundation with chords and moving lines in both hands.

1. Heal me, hands of Je-sus, and search out all my pain: re -
 2. Cleanse me, blood of Je-sus, take bit - ter-ness a - way; let
 3. Know me, mind of Je-sus, and show me all my sin; dis -
 4. Fill me, joy of Je-sus: anx - i - e - ty shall cease and

store my hope, re - move my fear and bring me peace a - gain.
 me for - give as one for-given and bring me peace to - day.
 pel the mem - o - ries of guilt, and bring me peace with - in.
 heaven's se - ren - i - ty be mine, for Je - sus brings me peace!

Words: Michael Perry. Music: Sharpe, Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *Tunes for Grace*.

[Please stand, as you are able, for the proclamation of the Gospel]

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (9:1 - 41)

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

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So, they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So, for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord
People ***Praise to you, Lord Christ***

Sermon by The Rev. Stephen C. Day

The Nicene Creed [Please stand, as you are able]

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.

The Prayers of the People – Form VI [The people may be seated]

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Marty our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

On the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

In the Diocese of Montana, we pray for St. Luke's, Billings and the Rev. Melinda St. Clair, Rector. We also pray for Camp Marshall.

In our St. Stephen's community, we pray for Corbin, Dannielle, Jennie, Michael, Richard, and Zander. We also pray for our adopted unit at The Billings Clinic hospital.

Prayer for the Parish

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

The Deacon or Celebrant then concludes with the following prayer

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people [Please stand, as you are able]

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Offertory Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #144 - Lord Jesus, Sun of Righteousness* (verses 1-3)

1 Lord Je - sus, Sun of Right - eous - ness, shine
2 Give guid - ance to our wan - dering ways, for -
3 Lord, grant that we in pen - i - tence may

1 in our hearts, we pray; dis - pel the gloom that
2 give us, Lord, our sin; re - store us by your
3 of - fer you our praise, and through your sav - ing

1 shades our minds and be to us as day.
2 lov - ing care to peace and joy with - in.
3 sac - ri - fice re - ceive your gift of grace.

Words: Latin; tr. Anne K. LeCroy (b. 1930). Copyright © 1982, Anne LeCroy. Music: *Cornhill*, Harold Darke (1888-1976), alt. By permission of Oxford University Press.

Anthem

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise
him, all crea-tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637-1711)

Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?)

Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

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

Celebrant and People

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

Then the Celebrant continues **[People may stand 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 are yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

Officiant and People

*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.*

The Breaking of the Bread

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,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Celebrant then says

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, with thanksgiving.

All are welcome at the Lord's Table at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.

Communion in one kind (the bread or the wine) is just as valid as communion in both kinds.

If you would like to receive a blessing instead of receiving communion, simply come forward with your arms crossed. Gluten-free wafers are available, please inform the greeter/usher as soon as possible.

If you wish to receive the wine, we ask you to either take a sip from the chalice or hand over the wafer to the person with the chalice who will then carefully intinct the wafer and hand it back to you.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Post-Communion Prayer [People may stand or kneel]

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.

Blessing

The peace of God, which passeth 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 Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Announcements

Churchy Term of the Week – Grace

God's love freely given to humanity for salvation. The term is from the Latin *gratia*, a "gift or favor freely given," translating the Greek NT *charis*. Various themes concerning grace have been emphasized since the NT. The Pauline epistles present grace as unmerited and effective as God's forgiving love for humanity. The Johannine scriptures present grace as God's indwelling of humanity. The western church has generally followed the Pauline emphasis in terms of grace as God's forgiveness of sin and healing of humanity for salvation. The eastern church has generally followed the Johannine emphasis of grace as bringing about divinization and human participation in the divine life for salvation.

Augustine urged that grace is necessary to free the human will from bondage to sin, making it possible to choose the good. Augustine's teaching contradicted Pelagianism, which considered human nature to be able to

achieve salvation without special divine assistance, and Semi-Pelagianism, which considered humanity to be capable of initiating the process of salvation that would subsequently be perfected by grace. Aquinas also urged that union with God is impossible for humanity without the help of divine grace. He noted that grace is inwardly received and transformative for new life. Luther emphasized that grace is God's absolutely free gift, and not the result of human works. Lutheran thought came to understand justification in terms of imputed righteousness in which the person remains inherently sinful. Calvinist understandings of grace minimized the role of human freedom, emphasizing God's predestination of the elect for salvation and the irresistibility of grace. In the Roman Catholic Church, the Council of Trent emphasized the transforming effect of grace in human life and the important role of active human cooperation in salvation.

Anglican theology, notably represented by Richard Hooker, has emphasized the gratuitous nature of grace and the importance of participation in the economy of God's salvation, especially as known in the life of the church where grace is sacramentally represented and made known. The Catechism notes that grace is "God's favor towards us, unearned and undeserved." By grace God "forgives our sins, enlightens our minds, stirs our hearts, and strengthens our wills." The Catechism also states that the sacraments and other sacramental rites of the church are means of grace (BCP, pp. 857–860).

Adapted from Don S. Armentrout's *An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church: A User-Friendly Reference for Episcopalians* Church Publishing Inc., 2000.

Closing Hymn: *Hymnal 1982* #490 - I want to walk as a child of the light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
 3 I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ.

I want to fol-low Je-sus.
 I want to look at Je-sus.
 I want to be with Je-sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The
 Clear sun of right-eous-ness, shine on my path, and
 When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

star of my life is Je-sus.
 show me the way to the Fa-ther.
 shall know the joy of Je-sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark - ness at all. The

night and the day are both a - like. The

Lamb is the light of the ci - ty of God. *rit.*

a tempo

Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Words: Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934). Copyright © 1970, 1975, Celebration, Aliquippa, PA 15001. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: Houston, Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934).

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*



"Blind Man Washes in the Pool of Siloam" by James Tissot, ~ 1886 - 1894

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