



SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE TWO
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2025
THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD



"Presentation in the Temple" by Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn, 1627-1628

The Presider greets the people with these words

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Dear people of God, forty days ago we celebrated the joyful feast of the incarnation of Jesus. Today we recall the day on which he was presented in the temple, fulfilling the law of Moses. Led by the Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the temple, recognized the child as the Christ, and proclaimed him with joy. United by the same Spirit, we now enter the house of God, where we shall recognize Christ in the breaking of bread.

Let us pray.

O eternal God, who have created all things; on this day you fulfilled the petitions of the just Simeon: we humbly ask you to bless and sanctify these candles for our use. Graciously hear our prayers and be merciful to us, whom you have redeemed by your Son, who is the light of the world, and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

The following canticle is then sung or said, during which the candles are lighted, if the people are not already holding them.

Opening Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #499* – Lord God, you now have set your servant free (x2)

Unison or harmony

Lord God, you now have set your ser - vant free to go in
peace as prom - ised in your word; my eyes have seen the
Sa - vior, Christ the Lord, pre - pared by you for all the
world to see, to shine on na - tions trapped in dark - est night,
the glo - ry of your peo - ple, and their light.

Words: Rae E. Whitney (b. 1927); para. of *The Song of Simeon*. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Song 1*, melody and bass Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

The Presider then says the following prayer

Let us pray.

O God, source of all light, today you revealed to the aged Simeon your light which enlightens the nations. Fill our hearts with the light of faith, that we who bear these candles may walk in the path of goodness, through Jesus Christ the Light of the World.

Amen.

The Procession

Deacon Let us go forth in peace.

People ***In the name of Christ. Amen.***

During the procession, all carry lighted candles; and appropriate hymns, psalms, or anthems are sung. In a suitable place, the procession may halt while the following or some other appropriate Collect is said.

Let us pray.

O God, you have made this day holy by the presentation of your Son in the Temple, and by the purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Mercifully grant that we, who delight in her humble readiness to be the birth-giver of the Only-begotten, may rejoice for ever in our adoption as his sisters and brothers; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

The following antiphon and psalm is appropriate as the procession approaches the Altar

We have waited in silence on your loving-kindness, O Lord, in the midst of your temple. Your praise, like your Name, O God, reaches to the world's end; your right hand is full of justice.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; 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 Malachi (3:1 – 4),

Thus says the Lord, See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they

present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People ***Thanks be to God***

Psalm 24:7-10

7 Lift up your heads, O gates;
 lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
 and the King of glory shall come in.

8 "Who is this King of glory?" *
 "The Lord, strong and mighty,
 the Lord, mighty in battle."

9 Lift up your heads, O gates;
 lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
 and the King of glory shall come in.

10 "Who is he, this King of glory?" *
 "The Lord of hosts,
 he is the King of glory."

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews (2:14 – 18),

Since God's children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore, he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People ***Thanks be to God***

Sequence Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #497* - How bright appears the Morning Star



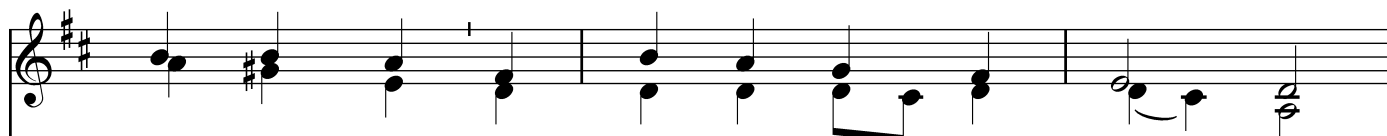
1 How bright ap - pears the Morn - ing Star, with mer - cy beam - ing
 2 Though cir - cled by the hosts on high, he deigned to cast a
 3 Re - joice, ye heavens; thou earth, re - ply; with praise, ye sin - ners,



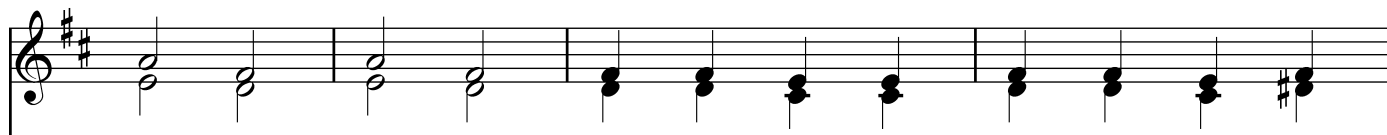
from a - far; the host of heaven re - joic - es;
 pit - ying eye up - on his help - less crea - ture;
 fill the sky, for this his In - car - na - tion.



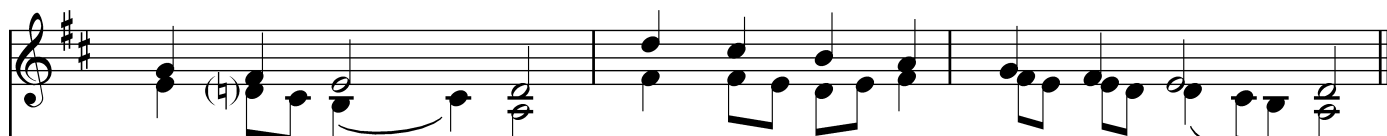
O right - eous Branch, O Jes - se's Rod! Thou Son of Man and
 the whole cre - a - tion's Head and Lord, by high - est ser - a -
 In - car - nate God, put forth thy power, ride on, ride on, great



Son of God! We, too, will lift our voic - es:
 phim a - dored, as - sumed our ve - ry na - ture;
 Con - quer - or, till all know thy sal - va - tion.



Je - sus, Je - sus! Ho - ly, ho - ly, yet most low - ly,
 Je - sus, grant us, through thy mer - it, to in - her - it
 A - men, a - men! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



draw thou near us; great Em - man - uel, come and hear us.
 thy sal - va - tion; hear, O hear our sup - pli - ca - tion.
 Praise be giv - en ev - er - more, by earth and hea - ven.

Words: William Mercer (1811-1873); after Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608). Music: *Wie schön leuchtet*, melody att. Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608) arr. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

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

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (2:22 - 40)

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

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-- and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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

Sermon

The Nicene Creed (from *Enriching Our Worship*) [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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.*

*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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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 III [The people may be seated]

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

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.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

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.

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

Silence

On the Anglican Cycle of Prayers, we pray for The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.

On the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Patrick's, Bigfork and the Rev. Donnel O'Flynn, Rector. We also pray for Camp Marshall.

On our parish cycle of prayer, we pray for Bo and Elizabeth Grandahl and Woody and Sharon Hahn.

Within our parish family, we pray for Danielle, Joe, Justin, Katie, Laura, and Libby. We also pray for our hosts and partners - the staff and community members of Saint John's United.

Silence

Prayer In Times of Conflict

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen** (*Book of Common Prayer* pg. 824)

Silence

The Celebrant concludes with a suitable Collect

Lord, hear the prayers of thy people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

The Deacon or Celebrant 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.

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 also with you.*

Offertory Sentences

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due His Name; bring offerings and come into His courts.

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Psalm 96:8, Ephesians 5:2*

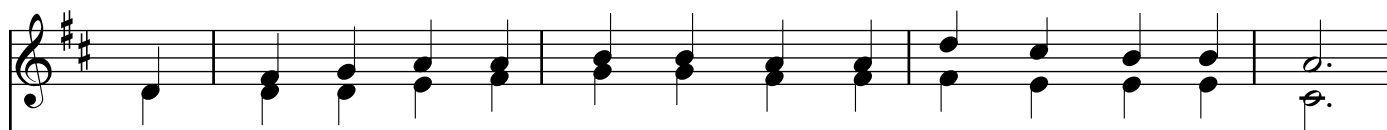
If you need or prefer a gluten-free communion wafer, please let the usher or reader know at this time.

Churchy Term of the Week – The Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple

A feast of our Lord celebrated on Feb. 2, also known as Candlemas and the Feast of the Purification. It commemorates the presentation of Jesus and the purification of Mary in the Jerusalem Temple forty days after Jesus' birth, in accordance with the requirements of Jewish law (Lv 12:2–8). The feast is celebrated about forty days after Christmas. According to the account of Lk 2:22–39, the presentation of Jesus was also the occasion of the meeting of Jesus with Simeon and Anna. Simeon's prayer of blessing is the basis for the canticle *Nunc dimittis* (see BCP, p. 120). Celebration of the feast dates from the fourth century in Jerusalem. It was introduced in Rome in the seventh century, where it included a procession with candles and the singing of the *Nunc dimittis*. The celebration came to include the lighting and blessing of candles which were carried in procession. This feast was known as "Candlemas."

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

Offertory Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #489* - The great Creator of the worlds (verses 1-3)



1 The great Cre - a - tor of the worlds, the sov - ereign God of heaven,
2 He sent no an - gel of his host to bear this might - y word,
3 He sent him not in wrath and power, but grace and peace to bring;



1 his ho - ly and im - mor - tal truth to all on earth hath given.
2 but him through whom the worlds were made, the ev - er - last - ing Lord.
3 in kind - ness, as a king might send his son, him - self a king.

Words: Epistle to Diognetus, ca. 150; tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984), rev. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: Tallis' *Ordinal*, Thomas Tallis (1505?-1585).

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 B [Please stand, as you are able]

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. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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. _____

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,

Celebrant and People

We remember His death,

We proclaim His resurrection,

We await His coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

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 are yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **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

This setting is not used in Lent.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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.

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.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Post-Communion Prayer

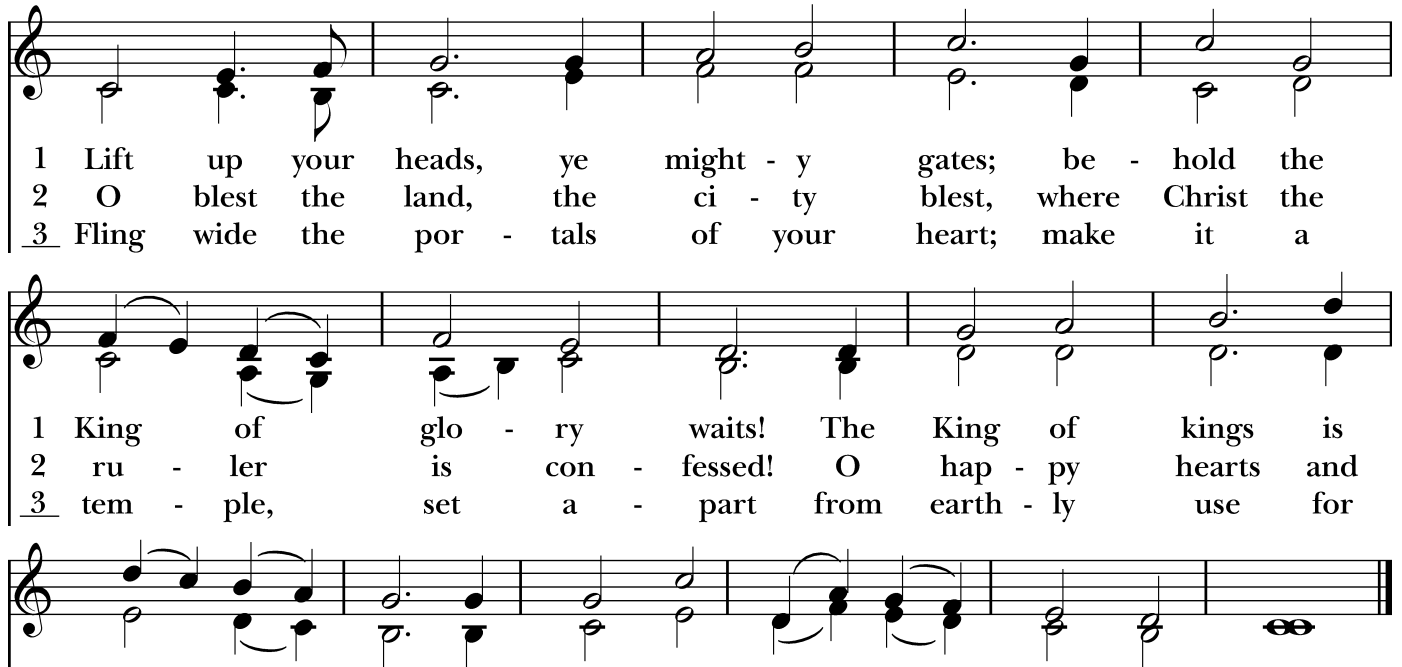
*Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, 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.*

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

Recessional Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #436 - Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates (verses 1-3)*



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
 2 O blest the land, the ci - ty blest, where Christ the
 3 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a

1 King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is
 2 ru - ler is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and
 3 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for

1 draw - ing near; the Sa - vior of the world is here.
 2 hap - py homes to whom this King of tri - umph comes!
 3 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.

Words: Georg Weissel (1590-1635); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878). Music: *Truro*, melody from *Psalmody Evangelica, Part II*, 1789; harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872), alt.

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People **Thanks be to God.**



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

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