



ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

All Are Welcome!

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025, 10:00 am Worship Service



The Prodigal Son

Welcome to St. Stephen's!

It is a joy to have you worship with us today. We believe everyone who worships with us is sent to us by God. So, welcome.

As we gather for worship, we want to remind everyone of a few important items:

- Please turn off or silence your electronic devices.
- We strongly encourage you to enter the sanctuary in silence as you prepare for worship.
- Before worship begins, we encourage you to speak to God. During worship, be ready for God to speak to you.
- After worship, we invite you to fellowship with one another, especially those God has brought to us — our visitors.

Why Are You Here?

As you come in this morning and settle into your seat, I invite you to think about the following:

- ❖ Wherever we go, we have a reason for going there. What is your reason for being here today?
- ❖ God is merciful and kind to us each and every day. What thanksgiving do you bring to God today?
- ❖ Because each day brings many challenges, what concern(s) do you bring to God today?
- ❖ As your Rector, I have come with thanksgiving for God's grace and mercy and to worship Him; because today is a reminder to me that another week has ended and a new week has begun. It is my hope that you have come to do the same. I encourage you to join me as we call upon our God and worship Him.

Canon Wilmot—a son of God

✝ *This symbol represents the point at which we sign ourselves with the sign of the cross during worship.*

Prelude

Partita on “O God Our Help”

P. Manz

The Word of God

Please stand.

Opening Hymn ***Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*** Hymnal 690

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
 pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
 hold me with thy powerful hand;
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
 feed me now and evermore.
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain,
 whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
 lead me all my journey through;
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
 be thou still my strength and shield.
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
 bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
 land me safe on Canaan's side;
songs of praises, songs of praises,
 I will ever give to thee.
I will ever give to thee.

The People standing, the Celebrant says:
Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

People *His mercy endureth for ever.*

The Celebrant and People say

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant continues

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

People *Amen.*

Celebrant Lord, have mercy upon us.

People *Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Celebrant Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Collect for The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And with thy spirit.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.

People *Amen*

The Lessons

May we hear the Word of God through these words.

A Reading from the Book of 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.

Here endeth the Reading

Psalm 32

To be read responsively by the Lay Reader and the Congregation.

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

**C Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

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

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

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

**C I said, " I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**

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

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

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

**C 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."**

L Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

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

Celebrant and People

**Glory to the † Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be
World without end. Amen.**

May we hear the Word of God through these words.

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 5:16–21

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Here endeth the Reading.

Please stand.

Gradual Hymn ***There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*** Hymnal 470

There's a wideness in God's mercy
 like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice,
 which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner,
 and more graces for the good;
there is mercy with the Savior;
 there is healing in his blood.

There is no place where earth's sorrows
 are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
 have such kindly judgment given.
There is plentiful redemption
 in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members
 in the sorrows of the Head.

When the Gospel is being announced, a cross is made,

- ✝ (on the forehead) in my mind to understand it,
- ✝ (on the lips) on my lips to proclaim it, and
- ✝ (over the heart) in my heart to live it.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 15:1–3,

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

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.'"

The Gospel of the Lord

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon Hymn

Hymnal 321

For the love of God is broader
than the measure of the mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
we should take him at his word;
and our life would be thanksgiving
for the goodness of the Lord.

❖ Sermon *Wilmot Merchant* ❖

Please use this time to silently reflect on what the Lord has spoken to you.

Please stand.

The Nicene Creed

BCP 327

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation

(We bow for the two lines in bold.)

came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and

✠ I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

Please sit or kneel for The Prayers of the People.

The Prayers of the People

The Prayer Leader and People pray responsively.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People ***And with thy spirit.***

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

People ***Lord, we beseech thee to hear our prayer.***

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to The Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean our Presiding Bishop, Ruth our Bishop, Wilmot our Priest, Kim our Deacon, and for all bishops and other ministers that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

People ***Lord, we beseech thee to hear our prayer.***

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

People ***Lord, we beseech thee to hear our prayer.***

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

People ***Lord, we beseech thee to hear our prayer.***

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

People ***Lord, we beseech thee to hear our prayer.***

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

People *Lord, we beseech thee to hear our prayer.*

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good example of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.

People *Amen.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of our loved ones and others, for the men and women who are serving in the armed forces, and all others who serve to preserve and protect lives, and those who have asked us to remember them in our prayers.

Lord, in Your mercy.

People *Hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for the people in disaster and troubled areas and those affected by acts of violence here at home and all around the world. Let us also pray for the many volunteers who are working to assist our brothers and sisters in those areas that have been devastated either by man-made or natural disaster.

Lord, in Your mercy.

People *Hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for God's people throughout the world, especially the Anglican Communion, The Episcopal Church, and The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina. Today we are praying for: Bishop Gadsden Retirement Community, Ms. Sarah Tipton, President and CEO, and The Rev. Charles Jenkins, Chaplain, *and Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo.*

Lord, in Your mercy.

People *Hear our prayer.*

A Prayer for the Human Family

BCP 815

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Amen

**Additional Prayers*

LET US GIVE THANKS FOR OUR VISITORS.

LET US PRAY FOR TRAVELERS THIS WEEK.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: Wendy Johnson (4/3), Ted Tattersall (4/3), Jerry Bart (4/5), Kate Buswell (4/5).

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO: Leon & Karen Faso (3/31).

LET US PRAY FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY.

INTERCESSORY AND THANKSGIVING PRAYER. As we continue to hold one another up in prayer in this parish, this week we are praying for:

Pam Rhodes, Wyck Richards & Bernie Walsh, Tom & Sandy Richmond, Dave Rossi, Liz Rotherham, Roberta Rowland-Raybold, Carmen Royall, Don & Joyce Saftner, Steve Saftner, Jim & Nancy Salters.

Celebrant and People

Gracious and most loving God, we join them in committing to you whatever concerns they may have, asking you to let your will be done for them. We also join them in giving you thanks, for your many blessings bestowed upon them and their loved ones. We praise you and thank you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession of Sin

The Celebrant continues

Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God.

Silence is kept

Celebrant and people

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant stands and says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

Please stand.

The Peace

Jesus said, *Peace I leave with you; my Peace I give to you . . .* John 14:27

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

At the conclusion of the peace the Celebrant says

Celebrant ***God is Good!***

People ***All the Time!***



Please sit.

The Holy Communion

Offertory ***Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled***

O. Speaks

Donna McElveen—Soloist

Please stand.

Doxology

From all that dwell below the skies

let the Creator's praise arise!

Let the Redeemer's Name be sung

through every land, by every tongue!

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 Great Thanksgiving and Sanctus Eucharistic Prayer II

BCP 340

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And with thy spirit.*

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People *We lift them up unto the Lord.*

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People *It is meet and right so to do.*

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Who dost bid thy 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 thy Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which thou hast prepared for those who love thee.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

† Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Please sit, kneel or remain standing.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

People Amen.

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

Celebrant 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

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People *Therefore let us keep the feast.*

Celebrant and People

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. O Lamb of God, that
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have
mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of
God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
world, grant us thy peace.

The People join in saying this prayer.

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Celebrant says the following Invitation.

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.

*This is the Lord's table, not of the church, but of the Lord.
It is made ready for those who love Him
and for those who want to love Him more.
So come, you who have much faith and you who have little;
You who have been here often and you who have not been here long;
You who have tried to follow and you who have failed;
Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.
It is His will that those who want Him should meet Him here.*

Please join in singing our Communion Hymns.

Spirit Song

LEVAS 118

Oh, let the Son of God enfold you,
with His Spirit and His love,
Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.
Oh, let Him have the things that hold you,
and His Spirit like a dove,
Will descend upon your life,
and make you whole.

*Jesus. Oh, Jesus, come and fill your lambs.
Jesus. Oh, Jesus, come and fill your lambs.*

Oh, come and sing this song with gladness,
as your hearts are filled with joy,
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name.
Oh, give Him all your tears and sadness,
give Him all your years of pain,
And you'll enter into life
in Jesus' name.

Refrain

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

LEVAS 101

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
Calling for you and for me;
See, on the portals He's waiting and watching,
Watching for you and for me.

*Come home, Come home,
Ye who are weary, come home!
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
Calling, O sinner, come home!*

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
Pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not His mercies,
Mercies for you and for me?

Refrain

Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing,
Passing for you and for me;
Shadows are gathering, death beds are coming,
Coming for you and for me.

Refrain

Oh! For the wonderful love He has promised,
Promised for you and for me;
Though we have sinned, He has mercy and pardon,
Pardon for you and for me.

Refrain

Celebrant The Lord be with you
People ***And with thy spirit.***
Celebrant Let us Pray

The People join in saying this prayer

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Priest says the following prayer and gives the blessing.

Look with compassion, O Lord, upon this your people; that, rightly observing this holy season, they learn to know you more fully, and to serve you with a more perfect will; through Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and your loved ones far and near, and remain with all of you for ever.

People Amen.

Please sit for a brief announcement.

Benediction *to be sung*

God be with you till we meet again;

By His counsels guide, uphold you,

With His sheep securely fold you,

God be with you till we meet again.



O for a thousand tongues to sing
my dear Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim
and spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of thy Name.

Jesus! the Name that charms our fears
and bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.

He speaks; and, listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive,
the mournful broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

Hear him, ye deaf; ye voiceless ones,
your loosened tongues employ;
ye blind, behold, your Savior comes;
and leap, ye lame, for joy!

Glory to God and praise and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heaven.

The Celebrant dismisses the people.

Celebrant We are called to be one with God and each other in Christ.
People ***By living the Gospel with love and compassion.***

Celebrant Let us go in peace to love and serve God and one another.
People ***Thanks be to God.***

Postlude ***Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*** F. Peeters

THE WORSHIP HAS ENDED. LET THE SERVICE BEGIN.

“... what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” *Micah 6:8*

God is good! All the time!

Cover: Robert Barnum, Canada, b. 1951, The Prodigal Son, 1998, Watercolor, Calvin University – Center Art Gallery, Larry & Mary Gerbens Collection.

Music not in Public Domain covered by One License #729456-A and St. James Music Press #15729.



HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, April 13, Holy Eucharist Worship Services, 8 and 10:30 am

Holy Monday Holy Eucharist Worship Service, 5 pm

Holy Tuesday Holy Eucharist Worship Service, 5 pm

Holy Wednesday Holy Eucharist Worship Service, 5 pm

Maundy Thursday Holy Eucharist & Anointing, 5 pm

Good Friday Stations of the Cross, 12 noon

Holy Saturday Waiting in the Tomb with Jesus, 5-7 pm

EASTER SUNDAY

April 20, 2025

Joint Sunrise Service on the Beach

St. Stephen's Episcopal and
King of Glory Lutheran

10th Avenue North, Beach Access, NMB
~ 6:00 am ~

~ and ~

St. Stephen's Sanctuary Services

801 11th Avenue North, NMB
9:00 and 11:00 am



St. Stephen's Spring Rummage Sale 2025

May 8th, 9th, and 10th

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
801 11th Avenue North
North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582
843-249-7865



Find us on 

St. Stephen's NMB Rummage Sale
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church NMB

Thursday, May 8: 9 am to 1 pm Full Price
Friday, May 9: 9 am to 1 pm Half Price
Saturday, May 10: 9 am to 1 pm Bag Day/Let's Make a Deal

FURNITURE ~ HOUSEWARES ~ JEWELRY ~ CLOTHING
BOOKS ~ COLLECTIBLES ~ NEW ITEMS ~ LINENS
CHILDREN'S CLOTHES ~ TOYS ~ AND MUCH MORE!

This Week

- ◆ Today: Soup and Sandwich Lunch and Open Forum Discussion.
- ◆ Monday, 10:00 am, Daughters of the King Classes, PHCR.
- ◆ Monday, 6:00—9:00 pm, Parish Hall and PHCR in use.
- ◆ Tuesday, 9:00 am, Rummage Ministry.
- ◆ Tuesday, 12:00 noon, Rummage Ministry Volunteer Meeting.
- ◆ Tuesday, 4:00—5:00 pm, Parish Hall in use.
- ◆ Wednesday, 10:00—11:30 am, Lenten Book Study, PHCR.
- ◆ Wednesday, 12:00—1:00 pm, Encounters with God, Parish Hall.
- ◆ Wednesday, 5:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal.
- ◆ Wednesday, 5:00—6:30 pm, Lenten Book Study, PHCR.
- ◆ Wednesday, 6:00—9:00 pm, Parish Hall and PHCR in use.
- ◆ Thursday, 10:00 am, Alzheimer's Support Group, PHCR.
- ◆ Friday, Parish Hall Reserved for ECW Fashion Show Set-up.
- ◆ Saturday, 12:00 noon, ECW Fashion Show, Parish Hall.
- ◆ Saturday, Parish Life Sunday Coffee Hour Preparation, Kitchen.
- ◆ Saturday, Outreach Feeding Ministry, Kitchen.
- ◆ Saturday, CANCELLED—First Saturday Rummage Sale.

Upcoming

- ◆ Thursday, April 10, 10:00 am—2:00 pm, American Red Cross Blood Drive, Parish Hall.
- ◆ Saturday, April 12, 1:00 pm, Committal Service for Joyce Burns.



Our Mission
is to be one with God and
humanity in Christ
by living the Gospel
with love and compassion.



Our Vision
is to become comfortable
with Jesus Christ
and boldly proclaim Him.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE CELEBRATION AT ST. STEPHEN'S

Ministers: The Congregants of St. Stephen's, Family, Friends and Visitors
Celebrant: The Very Rev. Canon Dr. Wilmot T. Merchant II, Rector
Deacon: The Rev. Kim Hoop
Dir of Music: Roberta Rowland-Raybold, c.a.g.o.
Vergers: Cathy Fellows and Robert Dunn

MINISTERS, LAYLEADERS AND STAFF

The Most Rev. Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop, The Episcopal Church
The Right Rev. Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, Bishop, The Diocese of SC
The Very Rev. Canon Dr. Wilmot T. Merchant, II, Rector

Vestry Members

❖ Will Bridges, Senior Warden (2025) ❖ Sue Crouch, Junior Warden (2026)
❖ Veronica Brown (2025) ❖ Marrjo Shattuck (2025) ❖ Robert Dunn (2026)
❖ Wayne Mumford (2026) Mike Raley (2027) ❖ Tracy Thompson (2027)
❖ Chris Welborn (2027)

Associate Vestry Members

❖ Harry Austin, Jr. (2025) ❖ Kathy Finch (2025) ❖ James Uzun (2025)

Vestry Officers

❖ Bill Mann, Treasurer ❖ Cheri Spence, Assistant Treasurer
❖ Jane Buckner, Parish/Vestry Clerk

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 801 11th Avenue North, North Myrtle Beach SC 29582, 843.249.1169