



# ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*All Are Welcome!*

## First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025, 8:00 and 10:30 am Worship Services



## 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

*Reflection on “Kingsfold”*

M. Howell

## **The Word of God**

### **The Great Litany**

BCP 148

O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,

***Have mercy upon us.***

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

***Have mercy upon us.***

O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful,

***Have mercy upon us.***

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,

***Have mercy upon us.***

Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy preserve us for ever.

***Spare us, good Lord.***

From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the devil; and from everlasting damnation,

***Good Lord, deliver us.***

From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all want of charity,

***Good Lord, deliver us.***

From all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,

***Good Lord, deliver us.***

From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word and commandment,

***Good Lord, deliver us.***

From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague, pestilence, and famine,

***Good Lord, deliver us.***

From all oppression, conspiracy, and rebellion; from violence, battle, and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared,

***Good Lord, deliver us.***

By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation; by thy holy Nativity and submission to the Law; by thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation,

***Good Lord, deliver us.***

By thine Agony and Bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion; by thy precious Death and Burial; by thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension; and by the Coming of the Holy Ghost,

***Good Lord, deliver us.***

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment,

***Good Lord, deliver us.***

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in the right way,

***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to illumine all bishops, priests, and deacons, with true knowledge and understanding of thy Word; and that both by their preaching and living, they may set it forth, and show it accordingly,

***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to bless and keep all thy people,

***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to send forth laborers into thy harvest, and to draw all mankind into thy kingdom,

***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to give to all people increase of grace to hear and receive thy Word, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit,

***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred, and are deceived,

***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to give us a heart to love and fear thee, and diligently to live after thy commandments,

***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee so to rule the hearts of thy servants, the President of the United States (or of this nation), and all others in authority, that they may do justice, and love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth,

***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to make wars to cease in all the world; to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord; and to bestow freedom upon all peoples,

***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to show thy pity upon all prisoners and captives, the homeless and the hungry, and all who are desolate and oppressed,

***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to give and preserve to our use the bountiful fruits of the earth, so that in due time all may enjoy them,

***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to inspire us, in our several callings, to do the work which thou givest us to do with singleness of heart as thy servants, and for the common good,

***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to preserve all who are in danger by reason of their labor or their travel,

***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to preserve, and provide for, all women in childbirth, young children and orphans, the widowed, and all whose homes are broken or torn by strife,

***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to visit the lonely; to strengthen all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit; and to comfort with thy presence those who are failing and infirm,

***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to support, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation,

***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to have mercy upon all mankind,

***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to thy holy Word,

***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts,

***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand; to comfort and help the weak-hearted; to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet,

***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to grant to all the faithful departed eternal life and peace,

***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to grant that, in the fellowship of St. Stephen's and all the saints, we may attain to thy heavenly kingdom,

***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

***Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.***

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

***Have mercy upon us.***

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

***Have mercy upon us.***

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

***Grant us thy peace.***

O Christ, hear us.

***O Christ, hear us.***

*Please stand.*

## INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF A HOLY LENT

*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 First Sunday in Lent**

*Celebrant*     The Lord be with you.

**People**     **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant*     Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted of Satan: Make speed to help thy servants who are assaulted by manifold temptations; and, as thou knowest their several infirmities, let each one find thee mighty to save; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**People**     **Amen**

*Please be seated.*

## **The Lessons**

May we hear the Word of God through these words.

*A Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy 26:1–11*

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.” When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.” You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

*Here endeth the Reading*



**Psalm 91:1—2, 9—16**

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

L He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, \*  
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.

**C He shall say to the LORD,  
“You are my refuge and my stronghold, \*  
my God in whom I put my trust.”**

L Because you have made the LORD your refuge, \*  
and the Most High your habitation,

**C There shall no evil happen to you, \*  
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.**

L For he shall give his angels charge over you, \*  
to keep you in all your ways.

**C They shall bear you in their hands, \*  
lest you dash your foot against a stone.**

L You shall tread upon the lion and adder; \*  
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.

**C Because he is bound to me in love,  
therefore will I deliver him; \*  
I will protect him, because he knows my Name.**

L He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; \*  
I am with him in trouble;  
I will rescue him and bring him to honor.

**C With long life will I satisfy him, \*  
and show him my salvation.**

*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 First Letter of Paul to the Romans 10:8b–13*

“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

*Here endeth the Reading.*

*Please stand.*

Gradual Hymn ***Lord, Who Throughout These 40 Days*** Hymnal 142

Lord, who throughout these forty days  
for us didst fast and pray,  
teach us with thee to mourn our sins,  
and close by thee to stay.

As thou with Satan didst contend,  
and didst the victory win,  
O give us strength in thee to fight,  
in thee to conquer sin.

As thou didst hunger bear and thirst,  
so teach us, gracious Lord,  
to die to self, and chiefly live  
by thy most holy word.

*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 4:1–13*  
**People      *Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

After his baptism, Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’” Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

Sermon Hymn

And through these days of penitence,  
    and through thy Passiontide,  
yea, evermore, in life and death,  
    Jesus! with us abide.

Abide with us, that so, this life  
    of suffering overpast,  
an Easter of unending joy  
    we may attain at last!

*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** *Please sit or kneel.*

*The Prayer Leader and People pray responsively.*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**People** *And with thy spirit.*

Celebrant Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

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: The Racial Justice and Reconciliation Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina, *and The Anglican Church of Canada.*

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:*** Bill Finch (3/9), Dick Hunter (3/11), Rosey King (3/11).

***HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:*** Hollis & Mike Colie (3/13).

***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:

**Richard** Martin, Jr. & **Lanell** Ramsey, **Pam & Al** Matthews, **Greg, Denise, Davis, Michael, & Tyler** Maxey, **Monica** McCarthy, **Stan & Donna** McElveen, **Marion** McGrath, **Ann** McIntyre, **Hazen** McLaren, Jr., **Robert & Judy** McLellan, **Maureen** Miller.

*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 10:30

***How Beautiful***

T. Paris

Kate McDaniel & Ariel Roebuck — soloists

*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.*

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 musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The score begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "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, 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 score ends with a double bar line and a key signature change to D major (two sharps).

*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.*

***Break Thou the Bread of Life***

LEVAS 146

Break thou the bread of life,  
Dear Lord, to me,  
As thou didst break the loaves  
Beside the sea;  
Beyond the sacred page  
I seek thee, Lord;  
My spirit pants for thee,  
O living word!

Bless thou the truth, dear Lord,  
To me, to me,  
As thou didst bless the bread  
By Galilee;  
Then shall all bondage cease,  
All fetters fall,  
And I shall find my peace,  
My all in all.

Teach me to live, dear Lord,  
Only for thee,  
As thy disciples lived  
in Galilee;  
Then, all my struggles o'er,  
Then, vict'ry won,  
I shall behold thee, Lord,  
The living one.

## ***Yield Not to Temptation***

LEVAS 170

Yield not to temptation,  
For yielding is sin;  
Each vict'ry will help you,  
Some other to win;  
Fight, still pressing onward,  
Dark passions subdue;  
Look ever to Jesus,  
He will carry you through.

*Ask the savior to help you,  
Comfort, strengthen and keep you;  
He is willing to aid you,  
He will carry you through.*

Shun evil companions,  
Bad language disdain;  
God's name hold in rev'ence,  
Nor take it in vain;  
Be thoughtful and earnest,  
Kind-hearted and true;  
Look ever to Jesus,  
He will carry you through.

*Refrain*

To him that o'ercometh,  
God giveth a crown;  
Through faith we will conquer,  
Though often cast down;  
He who is our savior,  
Our strength will renew;  
Look ever to Jesus,  
He will carry you through.

*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.**



Closing Hymn    ***God is Love, Let Heaven Adore Him***    Hymnal 379

God is Love, let heaven adore him;  
    God is Love, let earth rejoice;  
let creation sing before him  
    and exalt him with one voice.  
God who laid the earth's foundation,  
    God who spread the heaven above,  
God who breathes through all creation:  
    God is Love, eternal Love.

God is Love; and Love enfolds us,  
    all the world in one embrace:  
with unfailing grasp God holds us,  
    every child of every race.  
And when human hearts are breaking  
    under sorrow's iron rod,  
then we find that selfsame aching  
    deep within the heart of God.

God is Love; and though with blindness  
    sin afflicts all human life,  
God's eternal loving-kindness  
    guides us through our earthly strife.  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
    o'er us final triumph gain;  
God is Love, so Love for ever  
    o'er the universe must reign.

*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.***

**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!

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**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

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