



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 22, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church & Richmond, Virginia

Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. We are glad you are here. We welcome and include all people without exception and we extend a special greeting to any visitors. Throughout this bulletin, helpful guidance is printed in italics. Visitor guides are found in racks at the entrance doors. When you wish to be known here, please fill out a welcome card (found in each pew or online); you may drop the card into the offering plate as it is passed. Children are very welcome in this service, and child care is also available for infants and children through age four in our nursery on the lower level near the main parking lot entrance; greeters are happy to guide you. The church is open for prayer from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday. We hope to see you again soon!

Voluntary *Freu dich sehr, O meine Seele* (Rejoice greatly, O my soul)

Johann Gottfried Walther

The Word of God

Hymn 265 The angel Gabriel from heaven came

Gabriel's Message

Sung by all, standing as you are able. All hymns are found in The Hymnal 1982, the blue book in your pew rack.

Opening Acclamation

Enriching Our Worship 1, page 50

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People **You come to your people and set them free.**

The Collect for Purity

Said by all.

Prayer Book, page 355

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

Kyrie

Sung by all, standing.

William Trafka

All: Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, Ky-ri-e e-lei-son,
Ky-ri-e e-lei-son. *Cantor or choir sings "Christe eleison."*
All: Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, Ky-ri-e, Ky-ri-e e-lei-son.

Translation: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Prayer Book, page 212

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. *A period of silence is kept.*

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lesson Micah 5:2-5a *Please sit.*

Reader A reading from the Book of Micah.

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.** *A period of silence is kept.*

Psalm 80:1-7

Prayer Book, page 702; antiphon: Diana Chou; chant: plainsong

The antiphon will be sung once by the choir, then repeated by all. The verses will be sung by the choir.



Stir up your strength, O Lord, and come to help us.

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. *Antiphon*
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. *Antiphon*
Silence is kept.

Hymn 56, vs. 7, 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel *Sung by all, standing.*

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

The Gospel Luke 1:39-55 *Please remain standing and face the reader of the Gospel.*

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
 and holy is his name.
 His mercy is for those who fear him
 from generation to generation.
 He has shown strength with his arm;
 he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
 and lifted up the lowly;
 he has filled the hungry with good things,
 and sent the rich away empty.
 He has helped his servant Israel,
 in remembrance of his mercy,
 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
 to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

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

The Sermon The Rev. William S. Stanley

The Nicene Creed *Said by all, standing.*

Prayer Book, page 358

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son
he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Celebrant Let us pray for the church and the world.

You may stand or kneel. In the silence following each petition, please offer your own prayers, silently or aloud.

Leader We bring to God our gratitude for all that is lovely, gracious, and true, [especially _____].

Silence.

Celebrant Lord in your mercy.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We bring to God someone whom we have met or remembered today and for whom we want to pray.

Silence.

Celebrant Lord in your mercy.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We bring to God someone who is hurting today and needs our prayer.

Silence.

Celebrant Lord in your mercy.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We bring to God a troubled situation in our world today, especially the suffering in the Holy Land, Eastern Europe, and all places of conflict.

Silence.

Celebrant Lord in your mercy.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We bring to God someone whom we find hard to forgive or trust.

Silence.

Celebrant Lord in your mercy.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We bring to God those who have died, [especially _____,] and all who grieve.

Silence.

Celebrant Lord in your mercy.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We bring ourselves to God.

All **that we might be healed
and drawn to love each other
as God loves us. Amen.**

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A period of silence is kept.

All **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.**

Celebrant 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 *Please stand.*

Prayer Book, page 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord. After exchanging the Peace, please be seated.

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

All comes from God, so from what God has given, we offer gifts as we participate in God's work in the world. You may offer your gift online (scan the QR code or text STSTEPHENSRVA to 73256) or in an offering plate as they come by.



At the Offertory

Magnificat (*Collegium regale* service)
For text: see Prayer Book, page 50.

Sung by the choir.

Herbert Howells

At the Presentation

Sung by all, standing.

Winchester New

The fruits of our labor are presented to God, along with gifts for our food ministry.

All praise, O lov-ing God this day, your ad-vent fill our hearts we pray; and
for your birth may we pre-pare, your love to know, your light to share.

The Great Thanksgiving

Enriching Our Worship, Prayer 3

The people remain standing.

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 our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Sanctus

Sung by all.

William Trafka

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

You may stand or kneel.

Celebrant

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Celebrant and People

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Celebrant

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with Blessed Stephen; Blessed Mary, Mother of God; and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Celebrant and People

Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.

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

Celebrant and People

Prayer Book, page 364

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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.

A period of silence is kept.

William Trafka



Cantor: Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us. Je - sus, Re - deem - er, Re -



deem - er of the world, *All:* Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis



pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem.

Translation: Give us your peace.

Celebrant

This is the 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.

At the Communion of the People

All are welcome at the altar in this place. Communion is distributed at the chancel steps or in one of the side chapels (kneeling or standing). The altar also extends to your pew if you need us to bring the sacrament to you; just let an usher know. To receive Communion, place your hands together, palms up. You may consume the bread and then drink from the wine in the larger chalice. If you prefer to "intinct" or touch the edge of your bread to the wine, please use one of the smaller cups, available at all stations. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms against your chest.

Music at Communion

Anthem Jesus Christ, the apple tree

Sung by the choir.

Elizabeth Poston

The tree of life my soul hath seen laden with fruit and always green.

The trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel. By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
the glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought.
I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile.
Under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;
which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Hymn 60 Creator of the stars of night

Sung by all, seated

Conditor alme siderum

Sending Forth Eucharistic Visitors

When a Lay Eucharistic Visitor is scheduled to visit a parishioner, the following is said.

Deacon *N.*, we send you out to share Communion with *N.*

People **Carry the prayers of all of us as you take this sacrament of Christ's presence.**

Deacon We who are many are one body because we share one bread and one cup. **Amen.**

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray. *You may stand or kneel.*

All **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.**

Prayer Book, page 366

The Blessing *The Celebrant pronounces God's blessing.*

Hymn 438 Tell out, my soul *Sung by all, standing.*

Woodlands

Dismissal

Prayer Book, page 366

Deacon Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary Epilogue on *Genevan Psalm 42*

Rachel Laurin



Flowers and Vigil Candle

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the leadership of Catherine Whitham and Kyle Huske, former co-chairs of St. Stephen's Flower Guild, by Carol McCoy. The vigil candle in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit is given in memory of John Dartez.

Participants

CELEBRANT: The Rev. William L. Sachs; DEACON: The Rev. John W. A. Jenkins; SUBDEACON: Blair Nelsen; READER/ INTERCESSOR: Chip Jamerson; PREACHER: The Rev. William S. Stanley; ASSISTING PRIEST: The Rev. John D. Rohrs; CHALICE BEARERS: Iffet Araniti-Davis, Charlie Caldwell, Dave Davis, Scott Finn; ACOLYTE: Claire Wise; LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITOR: Cheryl Blackwell; MUSICIANS: St. Stephen's Choir, Brent te Velde, *director*; Diana Chou, *organ*; VERGER: Kathy Brock

The Parish Prayer List

Copies of the parish prayer list are available at Information Central (the large table outside the parish office) and in the narthex (the vestibule inside the Three Chopt Road entrance to the church).

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