



CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. We welcome and include all people without exception and invite you to participate fully in worship and after the service to enjoy the community supper in the fellowship hall. Throughout this bulletin, helpful guidance is printed in italics. Nursery care is available (infant-4); speak with a door greeter. Visitor guides are available at entrances. When you want to be known here, place a Welcome card (in all pews, or submit online) in the basket by the baptismal font. The church is open for prayer from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday. From 5:10, the church is ready for prayer and rest. Please observe silence inside the church and remember to silence all devices.

Prelude *Across the Bay*

Brian Crain

Please stand at the sound of the bell.

Opening

Deacon "Make peace with yourself and both heaven and earth will make peace with you."

- Abba Isaac the Syrian, c.700

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant I confess to God, and in the presence of all God's people, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and have not loved my neighbor as myself; and I pray God to have mercy on me.

People **May God have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from your sins, and give you time to amend your life.**

Celebrant Amen.

People **We confess to God, and in the presence of all God's people, that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and have not loved our neighbors as ourselves, and we pray God to have mercy on us.**

Celebrant May God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from your sins, and give you time to amend your life.

People **Amen.**

Deacon Look upon us, O God, and give us life;

People **That your people may rejoice in you.**

Deacon Create in us clean hearts, O God;

People **And renew a right spirit within us.**

Deacon Give us the joy of your saving help again;

People **And sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Amen.**

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.

A Prayer for the Evening

Teach us, loving God, not to hold on to life too tightly. Teach us to hold it lightly, not carelessly, but lightly, easily. Teach us to take it as a gift, to enjoy and cherish while we have it, and to let it go gracefully and thankfully when the time comes. The gift is great, but the Giver is greater still. You, O God, are the giver, and in you is the life that never dies. **Amen.**

The Reading Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 *Please sit.*

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

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.'"

Silence is held for one minute of reflection.

Reflection The Rev. James Marsh

Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.

Music for Meditation Wayfaring Stranger

trad. American, arr. Brent te Velde

Prayers for Ourselves and Others *Please stand.*

Deacon Let us pray for ourselves and others.

In the silence following each petition the people may add their prayers either silently or aloud.

Leader We hold before God those for whom life is very hard, those who have thorny decisions to make, and who honestly do not know what is the right thing to do.

Leader Lord, in your mercy.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We hold before God those who have demanding tasks to face, and who fear they may fail in them; those who face challenging temptations, and who know only too well that they may fall to them, if they try to meet them alone.

Leader Lord, in your mercy.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We hold before God those who know that they can be their own worst enemies.

Leader Lord, in your mercy.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We hold before God those who have difficult people to work with, those who have to suffer unjust treatment, unfair criticism, unappreciated work, and those who are unemployed and frightened.

Leader Lord, in your mercy.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We hold before God those who are victims of violence, especially all who suffer the consequences of war, genocide, and armed conflict.

Leader Lord, in your mercy.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We hold before God those who are neglected or misunderstood, those who are struggling with any kind of illness or infirmity, and those who have no one to pray for them.

Leader Lord, in your mercy.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We hold before God the people, encounters, and blessings of life that elicit our gratitude and joy, [especially for ____].

Leader Lord, in your mercy.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We hold before God those who grieve for one who has died, and we pray for those known to us who have died, [especially ____].

Leader Lord, in your mercy.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Lord God, may our prayers, rising before you like incense, be pleasing to you, and may our outstretched hands be filled with your mercy, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Candle Lighting, Additional Prayers

Lighting candles is as potent a symbol of offering one's prayer to God as candlelight is of God's abiding presence. All may light one votive at any station, now and hereafter. This Church is open daily for prayer and rest, and a permanent votive station is located near the piano in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit.

Music for Meditation I heard the voice of Jesus say trad. English, arr. Valerie Floeter

Hymn God is forgiveness *Sung by all, standing.* Jacques Berthier

The congregation will repeat this refrain several times.

God is for - give - ness. Dare to for - give, and God will be with you.

God is for - give - ness. Love and do not fear.

The image shows two systems of musical notation for a hymn. Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The first system has the lyrics 'God is for - give - ness. Dare to for - give, and God will be with you.' The second system has the lyrics 'God is for - give - ness. Love and do not fear.'

The Peace May Christ, the Good Shepherd, bind us with a bond of love that cannot be broken. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

All greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying "peace."

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

All comes from God, so from all God has given into our care, we offer gifts from our gratitude. Please place offerings into the basket near the baptismal font or food pantry items into the baskets by the main entrance, or make a gift online by scanning the QR code or texting STSTEPHENSVA to 73256.



At the Offertory Madison

Ola Gjeilo

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand.

A New Zealand Prayer Book, Prayer II

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 offer thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right indeed, it is our joy and delight, O holy, everlasting God, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise through Christ your only Son.

You are the source of all life and goodness; through your eternal Word you created all things from the beginning and formed us in your own image; male and female you created us.

When we turned away from you, you called us back to yourself and gave your Son to share our human nature. Through Christ Jesus you have made us your holy people.

Therefore, with the faithful who rest in him, with the angels who sing “Glory,” and with all the saints and ancestors who have known you to be with us, we proclaim your great and glorious name together:

Sanctus

Sung by all.

William Trafka

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

Celebrant Blessed are you, most holy, in your Son, who washed his followers' feet.

All **“I am among you,” he said, “as one who serves.”**

Celebrant On that night before he died, he shared a meal with his friends. He took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to them saying:

All **“Take and eat. This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me.”**

Celebrant After supper he took a cup of wine, gave thanks to you, and gave it to them saying:

All **“This is my life-blood given for you. Do this to remember me.”**

Celebrant Therefore with this bread and wine we recall your goodness to us. In this sacrament of the suffering and death of your Son, we now celebrate the wonder of your grace and proclaim the mystery of our faith,

All **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come in glory.**

Celebrant God of all creation, you bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and these your gifts that we who receive them may indeed be the body of Christ, and we who share his cup draw strength from the one true vine.

All **Called to follow Christ, help us to reconcile and unite. Called to suffer, give us hope in our calling.**

Celebrant For you, O heavenly one, make all things new; you are the beginning and the end, the last and the first.

All All praise, glory and love be yours, O Holy God, this and every day, from us and all people, here and everywhere. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

Cantor
As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

All
Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.
For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,
now and for ev - er. A - men.

The Breaking of the Bread *The Celebrant breaks the bread. A period of silence is held.*

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
All **We who are many are one body, for we all share the one bread.**

William Trafka

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

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

The Invitation

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 who seek God's presence through Communion or God's blessing are welcome to come forward. *Extend your hands, one upon another, to receive a bread wafer (request gluten-free) or, to receive God's blessing instead, cross your arms over your chest in an "X". Wine for sipping is offered next to the bread or dip the edge of your wafer in the small cup by the pillars. Healing prayer and anointing are offered to all at the side chapels from the beginning of Communion through the end of the service. More information is found at the end of this bulletin.*

Music for Communion

Spiegel im Spiegel
The Lover's Waltz
Wondrous Love

Arvo Pärt
Jay Ungar, Molly Mason
arr. Justin McCarthy

After Communion

Please stand.

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Creator of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
May we who share Christ's body
live his risen life;
we who drink his cup
bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights
give light to the world. Amen.**

The Blessing

Celebrant Deep peace of the running waves to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the gentle night to you.
Deep peace of the God of peace to you.
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn

I heard the voice of Jesus say

Sung by all, standing.

Kingsfold

1.I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest:
2.I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give light;
3.I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;
and in your wea - ri - ness lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirs - ty one, stoop down and drink, and live."
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."
I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my Sun;
I found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I'll walk till pil - grim days are done.

Dismissal

Deacon

Go out into the world in peace, have courage, hold on to what is good, return no one evil for evil, strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor everyone, love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People

Thanks be to God.

Music for Meditation Arran Boat Song

traditional Scottish, arr. Kim Robertson

Postlude

Beach Spring

arr. Anne Krentz Organ

Please feel free to depart during or after the Postlude, holding silence.



Memorials

The arrangements are given to the glory of God and in memory of William Astor Stanley by his family. The vigil candle in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit is given in memory of Dr. Lionel Lane.

Participants

Celebrant: The Rev. John Jenkins; **Deacon:** The Rev. John Rohrs; **Reflector:** The Rev. James Marsh;

Subdeacon: Susan Wilkes; **Reader:** Alisa Booze Troetschel; **Intercessor:** Tyler Curtis; **Chalice Bearers:** Al Albiston, Tony Anthony, Guy Frank, Katie Kirkley; **Musicians:** Quinn Bitsas, *cantor*; Peter Greydanus, *cello*; Brent te Velde, *piano*

The Parish Prayer List

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

Prayers and blessings adapted from the following sources: The Northumbria Community, *Celtic Daily Prayer: Prayers and Readings from the Northumbria Community*, Harper Collins, © 2002; *Intercessions for the Christian People*, The Liturgical Press, ©1990; *A New Zealand Prayer Book*, Harper Collins, © 1997; Philip Newell, *Celtic Benediction: Morning and Night Prayer*, William B. Eardmans Publishing Company, © 2000; Iona Community, *Iona Community Worship Book*. Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, © 2017; Wild Goose Worship Group, *Big Book of Liturgies*, Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, © 2023. Rite Planning, © 2021, by Church Publishing Incorporated, all rights reserved, used by permission. All copyrighted music by permission, under OneLicense #A710911.

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