



The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 30, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist: Rite One

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ☞ Richmond, Virginia

Welcome to St. Stephen's Church. We are so glad you are here. This service of Holy Eucharist follows the order found in the Book of Common Prayer (the red book in the pew rack) beginning on page 323. This bulletin provides page numbers and other information to guide you through the service.

The Word of God

A Penitential Order *Please kneel as you are able.* The Book of Common Prayer, page 319

Trisagion page 324

The Collect of the Day *Found on page 3.*

The First Lesson *Found on page 3; please sit.*

The Psalm *Found on page 3; please remain seated and read responsively.*

The Gospel *Found on page 3-4; please stand.*

The Sermon *Please sit.*

The Nicene Creed *Please stand.* page 326

The Prayers of the People *Please kneel as you are able.* pages 328-330

The Peace *Please stand.* page 332

Welcome and Announcements *Please sit.*

The Holy Communion

At the Presentation of Alms

All comes from God, so from what God has given, we offer gifts to sustain God's work in the world. If you wish to make your offering electronically, please scan the QR code or text STSTEPHENSVA to 73256.



*All things come of thee, O Lord.
And of thine own have we given thee.*

The Great Thanksgiving *Please stand.* pages 340-343
Please kneel after the Sanctus.

The Lord's Prayer page 336

The Breaking of the Bread page 337

The Prayer of Humble Access page 337

The Distribution of Holy Communion

All are welcome at the altar in this place. Communion is distributed at the Communion rail in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, and you may stand or kneel to receive. 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 the smaller cup. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms against your chest. If you need us to bring the sacrament to you, please let the usher know.

The Post-Communion Prayer page 339

The Blessing and Dismissal page 339-340

The Collect and Readings

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

The Collect of the Day

The Book of Common Prayer, page 167

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. **Amen.**

The Lesson 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 *Please sit.*

Reader A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

Psalm 32 *Said responsively by whole verse, seated.*

Prayer Book, page 624

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**10 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."**

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

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

The Gospel Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 *Please stand and face the reader of the Gospel.*

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

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

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.'"

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

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 AND PREACHER: The Rev. William L. Sachs; READER AND CHALICE BEARER: Mary Ball

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.