



CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026 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 She moved through the fair trad. Irish ballad

Please stand at the sound of the bell.

Opening

Deacon The time has come for us to realize that to be satisfactory, any interpretation of the universe, even a positivistic one, must cover the inside as well as the outside—spirit as well as matter.

*—Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, *The Human Phenomenon**

A period of silence is kept.

Confession

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 on you, pardon and deliver you from your sins, and give you time to amend your life.

People **Amen.**

The Grace

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.**

Kyrie

Sung by all.

from *Mass for St. Bartholomew's*, William Trafka

The musical score consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in a simple, rhythmic style. Below the first staff, the lyrics "All: Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Ky - ri - e e - lei - son," are written. The second staff continues the melody, with a key signature change to three sharps (F#, C#, G#) indicated by a sharp sign and the number 9. Below the second staff, the lyrics "Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Cantor or choir sings 'Christe eleison.'" are written. The third staff continues the melody, with a key signature change to one sharp (F#) indicated by a sharp sign and the number 2. Below the third staff, the lyrics "All: Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, Ky-ri-e, Ky-ri-e e - lei - son." are written.

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

A Prayer for the Evening

from the Wild Goose Big Book

We gather at this solemn time, O God, aware of the costliness of human history. In the face of hostility between nations and neighbors, you have come to us in Jesus Christ, offering us the gift of peace, calling us to serve as peacemakers. In this time of worship, renew in us the hope that you will turn our swords into ploughshares, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, lead the world you love away from the study of war to the promise of peace with justice for all your peoples. **Amen.**

The Reading John 11:1-45 *Please sit.*

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to John.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary

get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Silence is held for one minute of reflection.

Reflection Pat Githens

Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.

Music for Meditation Prelude

Manuel Ponce

Prayers for Ourselves and Others *Please stand.*

Deacon Let us pray for ourselves and others.

After each petition, you may offer 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 all victims of violence, especially those we name now, either silently or aloud.

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 We hold before God our losses...

those who grieve for one who has died...

and we pray for those known to us who have died, [especially ____].

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 Ye banks and braes trad. Scottish, arr. Skaila Kanga

Hymn O Lord, hear my prayer *Sung by all, standing.* Jacques Berthier

The congregation will repeat this refrain several times.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, an - swer me. O
Lord hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me.

Blessing of Oil for Healing Ministries

Celebrant To Jesus came the untouchable sick, sinners and outcasts, foreigners and foes alike;

All **He touched and healed, welcomed and forgave. Jesus loved them all.**

Celebrant Jesus receives all who seek God's loving mercy.

All **We come to Jesus in our need, bringing with us the needs of the world.**

Celebrant Spirit of God, come upon this oil and upon all who seek the anointing of your healing; pour upon them the gift of your wholeness and the healing of your love, in the holy name of Christ. **Amen.**

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.



The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand.

A New Zealand Prayer Book, Prayer II

Celebrant The Lord is here.

People **God's Spirit is with us.**

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.

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.

from Mass for St. Bartholomew's, 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.**

Sung by all.

from Mass for St. Bartholomew's, William Trafka

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

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	Flow, my tears	John Dowland
	Follow the Heron	Karine Polwart, arr. Blake
	<i>Cloches lointaines</i> (Distant bells), Op. 121	Mélanie Bonis

After Communion Please stand.

Celebrant Let us pray.
All **Lord Jesus Christ,**
you have put your life into our hands;
now we put our lives into yours.
Take us, renew us and remake us.
What we have been is past;
what we shall be, through you,
still awaits us.
Lead us on.
Take us with you. 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 God's blessing be with you,
 Christ's peace be with you,
 the Spirit's outpouring be with you,
 now and always. **Amen.**

Hymn

Let us now depart in your peace

Sung by all, standing.

A la puerta

1. Let us now de - part in your peace, bless - ed Je - sus. Send us to our
2. Let us now de - part in your love, bless - ed Je - sus. Send us on our
homes with God's love in our hearts. Let not the bus - y world
way with your joy in our hearts. Help us to show your love,
claim all our loy - al - ties. Keep us ev - er mind - ful of you, O Lord.
lead us to do your will. Keep us ev - er faith - ful to you, O Lord.

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 What are they doing in heaven today

arr. Martin Simpson

Postlude Norwegian Wood

John Lennon and Paul McCartney

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



Memorial

The Lenten arrangements are given to the glory of God and in memory of Michal Richard Oman by Mirriam Oman.

Participants

Celebrant: The Rev. Will Stanley; **Deacon:** The Rev. John Jenkins; **Reflector:** Pat Githens; **Subdeacon:** Susan Wilkes; **Reader:** Josh Rockett; **Intercessor:** Susan Wilkes; **Chalice Bearers:** Chip Jamerson, Pam Redd, Kim Spensieri, Anne Townsend; **Musicians:** Lauren Clay, *cantor*; Amy Blake, *flute*; Cory Blake, *guitar*; Robert McCormick, *piano*

The Parish Prayer List

The parish prayer list is available in the narthex (the church vestibule) and at Information Central (the large table 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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