

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**  
**DAILY MORNING PRAYER LITURGY**  
**RITE TWO**



**Prelude**

played by Marshall Foster, St. Stephen's Organist-Choirmaster

The Officiant begins the service with an Advent Scripture

Watch, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning, lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. Mark 13:35, 36

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence.

Officiant and People together,

**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**

Officiant

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen**

## **The Invitatory and Psalter**

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

**People And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Officiant and People

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Officiant Our King and Savior now draws near: Come let us adore him.

### **Officiant and People**

Venite Psalm 95:1-7

**Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.**

**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

**For the Lord is a great God, \*and a great King above all gods.**

**In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*and the heights of the hills are his also.**

**The sea is his, for he made it, \*and his hands have molded the dry land.**

**Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

**For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

Officiant Our King and Savior now draws near: Come let us adore him.

Reader:

A Reading from the Third Chapter of the Second Letter of Peter, beginning at the Eighteenth verse.

11 Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? 13 But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

14 Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; 15 and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, 16 speaking of this as he does in all his letters. There are some things in them hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other scriptures. 17 You therefore, beloved, since you are forewarned, beware that you are not carried away with the error of the lawless and lose your own stability. 18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

### **Psalm 148** *Laudate Dominum*

Officiant:

1Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; \*praise him in the heights.

2Praise him, all you angels of his; \*praise him, all his host.

3Praise him, sun and moon; \*praise him, all you shining stars.

4Praise him, heaven of heavens, \*and you waters above the heavens.

5Let them praise the Name of the Lord; \*for he commanded, and they were created.

6He made them stand fast for ever and ever; \*he gave them a law which shall not pass away.

7Praise the Lord from the earth, \*you sea-monsters and all deeps;

8Fire and hail, snow and fog, \*tempestuous wind, doing his will;

9Mountains and all hills, \*fruit trees and all cedars;

10Wild beasts and all cattle, \*creeping things and winged birds;

11Kings of the earth and all peoples, \*princes and all rulers of the world;

12 Young men and maidens, \*old and young together.

13 Let them praise the Name of the Lord, \*for his Name only is exalted, his splendor is over earth and heaven.

14 He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants, \*the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Hallelujah!

Officiant and People

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Reader:

A Reading from the Seventh Chapter of the Gospel of St. Luke beginning at the Twenty-eighth verse

28 I tell you, among those born of women no one is greater than John; yet the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” 29 (And all the people who heard this, including the tax collectors, acknowledged the justice of God, because they had been baptized with John’s baptism. 30 But by refusing to be baptized by him, the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God’s purpose for themselves.)

31 “To what then will I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? 32 They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another,

‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we wailed, and you did not weep.’

33 For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon’; 34 the Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ 35 Nevertheless, wisdom is vindicated by all her children.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

**Reflection: The Reverend Alan Neale**

**The Prayers**

Officiant     The Lord be with you.  
**People        And also with you.**

Officiant     Let us pray.

### **Officiant 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**

Officiant     Show us your mercy, O Lord;

**People        And grant us your salvation.**

Officiant     Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

**People        Let your people sing with joy.**

Officiant     Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

**People        For only in you can we live in safety.**

Officiant     Lord, keep this nation under your care;

**People        And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

Officiant     Let your way be known upon earth;

**People        Your saving health among all nations**

Officiant     Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

**People        Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Officiant     Create in us clean hearts, O God;

**People        And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

Officiant:

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance  
and prepare the way for our salvation:

Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins,  
that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

Dear Lord,

At this time of pandemic,

Let us foster respect and solidarity with others, especially those who are weak or poor.

Let us remain calm and ignore unsubstantiated rumours.

Let us take advantage of living together as a family.

Let us attend to moments of prayer.

Let us cultivate responsibility, patience and hope. **Amen.**

Almighty God, you know the needs of your Church in every place: look graciously upon us, the people of St. Stephen's, and grant us the guidance of your Holy Spirit as we seek a new Rector for this parish.

Give us discernment, wisdom, and confidence in your timing.

Guide the members of our Search Committee, as they labor to be faithful in seeking your will.

We pray for the life of our parish, that we may continue to be strengthened in our mission to be Jesus Christ's heart, hands and feet to our neighbors no matter where they are on their journey of faith.

Bless us with mutual trust and respect, courage, and foresight as you shepherd our community through its journey.

Grace us with continuous direction and inspire us toward genuine self-reflection.

All this we ask as we walk in your ways to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

Interim Rector – Alan Neale

Go out into the world in peace. Have courage!

Hold fast to what is good. Return no one evil for evil.

Strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering.

Honor all people.

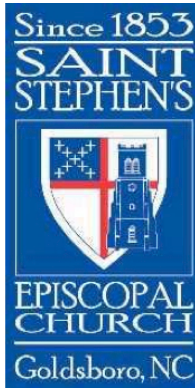
Love and serve the Lord your God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,  
Be with you now, today and always. **Amen**

Minister      Let us bless the Lord  
**People**      **Thanks be to God**

Postlude      played by Marshall Foster, St. Stephen's Organist-Choir Master

Officiant      Catherine Freemon  
Crucifer      Louise Gurley  
Organist      Marshall Foster  
Minister      Alan Neale

Recording      Xena Markine-Morrison



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**CLERGY**

The Rt. Rev. Robert Skirving, Bishop

The Rev. Alan Neale, Interim Rector

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**VESTRY**

Senior Warden: Adam Livengood; Junior Warden: Lori Allen; Mary Mills Borden,  
Todd Brantley, Tom Brown, Duffy Fleming, Kathy Harris, Mary Susan Heath,  
Mary Lee Jeffreys, Alice Royal, Paul Rutter and Mike Saylor