

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
HOLY COMMUNION LITURGY
RITE TWO



Sunday, January 10, 2021
The First Sunday after the Epiphany

The Word of God

The Celebrant says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Celebrant

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.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

A Reading from Genesis (1:1–5)

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Minister The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 29 *Afferte Domino*

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, *
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; *
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; *
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; *
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.

5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; *
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

**7 The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; *
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

**8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe *
and strips the forests bare.**

**9 And in the temple of the Lord *
all are crying, "Glory!"**

**10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; *
the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore.**

**11 The Lord shall give strength to his people; *
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

Minister The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark (1:4-11)
People Glory to you, Lord Christ

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Minister The Gospel of the Lord
People Praise to you, Lord Christ

Sermon

The Reverend Alan Neale

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and People

**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.**

The Priest, stands and says

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

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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 him thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant gives thanks to God the Father for his work in creation and his revelation of himself to his people;

And so we join the saints and angels in proclaiming your glory, as we sing (say),

Celebrant and People

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Almighty, Creator God we praise you for entering into our world, our lives, so deeply, so personally, so powerfully as a baby, a child and a man.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Recalling now his suffering and death, and celebrating his resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Accept, O Lord, our sacrifice of praise, this memorial of our redemption.

Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts. Let them be for us the Body and Blood of your Son. And grant that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may be filled with your life and goodness. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

A Prayer to receive Spiritual Communion

My Lord Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there

and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
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.**

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Minister	Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People	Thanks be to God.

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

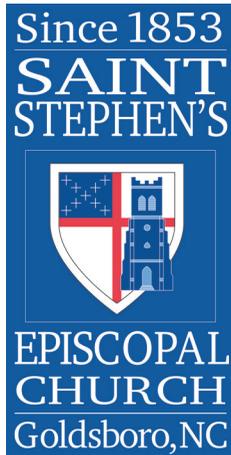
Crucifer: Louise Gurley

Reader: Thomas Gurley

Organist: Marshall Foster

Minister: Alan Neale

Recording: Xena Markine-Morrison



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
200 N. James St., Goldsboro, NC 27530

Church: (919) 734-4263

www.ststephenschurch.com

email: admin@ststephenschurch.com

CLERGY

The Rt. Rev. Robert Skirving, Bishop

The Rev. Alan Neale, Interim Rector

CHOIRMASTER

Marshall Foster

marshallfoster@gmail.com

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Xena Markine-Morrison

xmorrison@ststephenschurch.com

VESTRY

Senior Warden: Lori Allen; Junior Warden: Mike Saylor;

Will Bland, Tom Brown, Duffy Fleming, Kathy Harris, Mary Susan Heath,
Mary Lee Jeffreys, Katherine MacDonald, Paul Rutter, Leon Stockton and Sallie Wahl