

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



**Sunday, December 20, 2020**

**The Word of God**

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Our Lord Jesus says, Surely I come quickly

**People**                    **Even so, come Lord Jesus. Amen.**

The Celebrant may say

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 says to the people

The Lord be with you.

**People**      **And also with you.**

Celebrant      Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

A Reading from the Sixteenth Chapter of St. Paul's Letter to the Romans beginning at the twenty-fifth verse

25 Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages 26 but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— 27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Minister      The Word of the Lord

**People**      **Thanks be to God**

### **The Song of Mary Magnificat**

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,**

**my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \***

**for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will call me blessed: \***

**the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.**

**He has mercy on those who fear him \***

**in every generation.**

**He has shown the strength of his arm, \***

**he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

**He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \***

**and has lifted up the lowly.**

**He has filled the hungry with good things, \***

**and the rich he has sent away empty.**

**He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \***

**for he has remembered his promise of mercy,**

**The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

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

Minister: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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.**

Form 2

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.**

The Celebrant now praises God for the salvation of the world through Jesus Christ our Lord.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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.

Celebrant

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.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer rest upon you all, now and forevermore.

AMEN

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

Officiant: Tom Brown

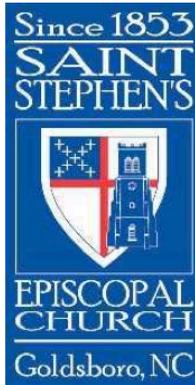
Crucifer: Daniel Sharp      ??????????????

Reader: Margaret Sharp

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