

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



Sunday, February 7, 2021
Fifth 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.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life
which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns
with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Epistle — 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Psalm 147:1-12, 21c *Laudate Dominum*

1 Hallelujah!

**How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!**

**2 The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.**

**3 He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.**

**4 He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names.**

**5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.**

**6 The Lord lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.**

**7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.**

**8 He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;**

**9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.**

**10 He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.**

**11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;**

**12 But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.**

21 Hallelujah!

The Gospel

Minister The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark (1:29-39)
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

After Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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.**

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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

A Prayer to receive Spiritual Communion

My Lord Jesus,
I believe that You are present in this 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 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.

Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness

Johann Cruger

Soloist: Judy Carpenter

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.**

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth.

In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Go forth into the world in peace.
Be of good courage.
Hold fast that which is good.
Render to no one evil for evil.
Strengthen the fainthearted.
Support the weak.

Help the afflicted.
Show love to everyone.
Love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the+ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **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

SERVING TODAY

Reader: Linda Edsall-Huard

Soloist: Judy Carpenter

Crucifer: Will Fickling

Recording: Xena Markine-Morrison

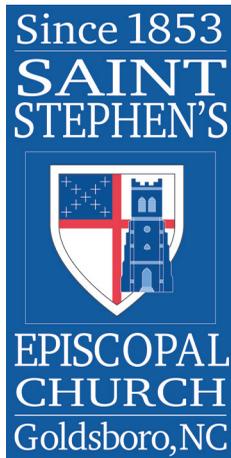
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CLERGY

The Rt. Rev. Robert Skirving, Bishop

The Rev. Alan Neale, Interim Rector

CHOIRMASTER

Marshall Foster

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DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Xena Markine-Morrison

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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