

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
First Sunday after Christmas
DAILY MORNING PRAYER
RITE TWO



Sunday, December 31, 2023, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Voluntary

Processional Hymn 497 (10:30 a.m. only) *(Please stand as you are able.)*

How bright appears the Morning Star

Wie schön leuchtet

Officiant: Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy, which will come to all the people; for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10, 11

Confession of Sin

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together, all kneeling

**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 our 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 *(Please stand as you are able.)*

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 for ever. Amen.

Officiant: Alleluia. To us a child is born:

People: O come, let us adore him. Alleluia.

Jubilate *(Hymn 377 – 10:30 a.m. service only)*

Psalm 100

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
For the Lord is good;**

his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Officiant: Alleluia. To us a child is born:

People: **Come let us adore him.**

The Psalm

People may be seated

(Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse)

Psalm 147 *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.]**

13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;

**14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.**

15 He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

**16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.**

17 He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

**18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?**

19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

**20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.**

21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

**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.**

THE LESSONS *(Please remain seated.)*

The First Reading: *Isaiah 61:10-62:3*

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

13 A Song of Praise (*Hymn S636 — 10:30am service only*)

Benedictus es, Domine

Song of the Three Young Men, 29-34

Officiant and People all standing

**Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; *
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.**
**Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**
**Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; *
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.**
**Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**
**Glory to you, beholding the depths; *
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.**
**Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

People may be seated

The Epistle: *Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7*

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

15 The Song of Mary (*Hymn 437 — 10:30am service only*)

Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

Officiant and People all standing

**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.**

People may be seated

The Gospel: John 1:1-18

Reader: A reading from the Gospel according to John.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Sermon

The Rev. David Wylly

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together, all standing

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,**

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

The People stand or kneel

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.

Then follows one of these sets of Suffrages

A

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. And grant us your salvation.
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. Let your people sing with joy.
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. For only in you can we live in safety.

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. Your saving health among all nations.
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

The Collects

Officiant: Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Officiant: Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

Officiant: We pray this morning for those on our Parish Prayer List; for Randy Anderson, Glenda Futch, Ed Futch, Debby Hickey, Marguerite Pennington, Pat Sasser, Marjorie Snyder, Betsy Toomey and John Wolfe.

Officiant: We pray for this parish and all its ministries. May we, as a community, hear your call in our lives and grant us your grace to be the light of Christ in a dark and dangerous world.

Officiant: Give to the departed eternal rest; Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Officiant: I bid your prayers of intercession or thanksgiving now. You may offer them silently or aloud.

Hymn 82 (*10:30 a.m. only*) (*Please stand as you are able.*)
Of the Father's love begotten

Divinum mysterium

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People all standing

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we you unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

Closing Hymn 108 (10:30 a.m. only) (Please stand as you are able.)

The first Nowell

The First Nowell

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Closing Voluntary

SERVING TODAY

8:00 a.m. Service

Officiant: The Rev. David Wyly

10:30 a.m. Service

Celebrant: The Rev. David Wyly

Organist: Pete Armstrong

Live Stream Technician: James Ruggles

Eucharistic Visitors: Mike & Martie Saylor

Ushers: Geoff Hulse & Mike Saylor



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CLERGY

The Rt. Rev. Robert Skirving, Bishop

The Rev. David Wyly

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CHURCH STAFF

Organist and Choirmaster: Patrick Ritsch

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Church Sexton: Alfie Barnes

VESTRY

Senior Warden: Katherine MacDonald, Junior Warden: Betty Duncan,

Treasurer: Bob Cagle, Clerk: Nancy Headen

Other Vestry Members Include: Meredith Adams, Don Barnes, Will Bland, Todd Brantley

Susan Brown, Betty Duncan, David Huard, Gwyn LaFave, Larry Tingen, Sallie Wahl