

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN
HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE TWO
JANUARY 14, 2024 ■ 10:30 A.M.**



Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

St. Stephen's is a community of people made more complete by the grace of a perfect God, who proclaim the Gospel by sharing the reconciling love of Christ with others through redeeming acts of hospitality, forgiveness, justice, and peace.

ORDER OF SERVICE

VOLUNTARY

Improvisation on *Ratisbon*

HYMN 7

Christ, whose glory fills the skies

Ratisbon

(Please stand as you are able.)

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

People: **And blessed be His kingdom, now and forever. Amen**

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.

GLORIA S273



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, hea - ven - ly King, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive



our prayer. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Setting: Plainsong, Mode 7; Mass 13 (12th cent.); adapt. Mason Martens (b. 1933)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

(Please stand or kneel as you are able.)

We give you thanks, O Lord of glory, for the example of the first martyr Stephen, who looked up to heaven and prayed for his persecutors to your Son Jesus Christ, who stands at your right hand; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS *(Please be seated.)*

The First Reading: *Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15*

At the beginning of the reign of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah, this word came from the Lord: Thus says the Lord: Stand in the court of the Lord's house, and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house of the Lord; speak to them all the words that I command you; do not hold back a word. It may be that they will listen, all of them, and will turn from their evil way, that I may change my mind about the disaster that I intend to bring on them because of their evil doings. You shall say to them: Thus says the Lord: If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law that I have set before you, and to heed the words of my servants the prophets whom I send to you urgently — though you have not heeded — then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth.

The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the Lord. And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the Lord had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, "You shall die! Why have you prophesied in the name of the Lord, saying, 'This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant'?" And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the Lord.

Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, "It is the Lord who sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. Now therefore amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the Lord your God, and the Lord will change his mind about the disaster that he has pronounced against you. But as for me, here I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will be bringing innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its

inhabitants, for in truth the Lord sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31 *In te, Domine, speravi*

(Please stand as you are able. The psalm will be read responsively by whole verse.)

1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.

**2 Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.**

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

**4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.**

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me,
O Lord, O God of truth.

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 Second Reading: *Acts 6:8-7:2a, 51c-60 (Please be seated.)*

Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated some men to say, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.” They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. They set up false witnesses who said, “This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us.” And all who sat in the

council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Then the high priest asked him, “Are these things so?”

And Stephen replied: “Brothers and fathers, listen to me. You are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.”

When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN 231

By all your saints still striving

King’s Lynn

congregation should use text under St. Stephen for verse 2

(Please stand as you are able.)

The Gospel: *Matthew 23:34-39 (Please stand.)*

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “Therefore I send you prophets, sages, and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town, so that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. Truly I tell you, all this will come upon this generation.

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her

brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you, desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

Ms. Catherine Freemon

THE NICENE CREED *(All stand.)*

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

**he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FORM IV

Deacon or other leader

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Randy Anderson, Glenda Futch, Ed Futch, Debby Hickey, Marguerite Pennington, Pat Sasser, Marjorie Snyder, Betsy Toomey and John Wolfe; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays this week: Vicky Bailey, John Lewis, Archer Watkins, Florence Hine and David Huard.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESSION OF SIN

**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 PEACE

(Please stand as you are able.)

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

OFFERTORY

Lead Me Lord

S.S. Wesley

AT THE PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERINGS

(Please stand as you are able.)



THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer B)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (Here a Proper Preface is added.)

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

Sanctus S130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues:

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues:

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

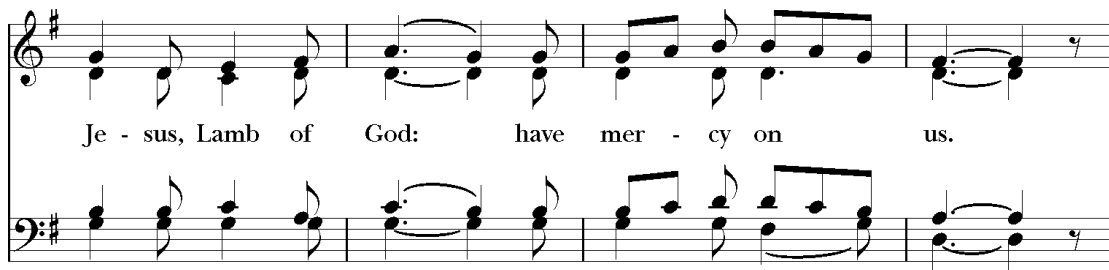
**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

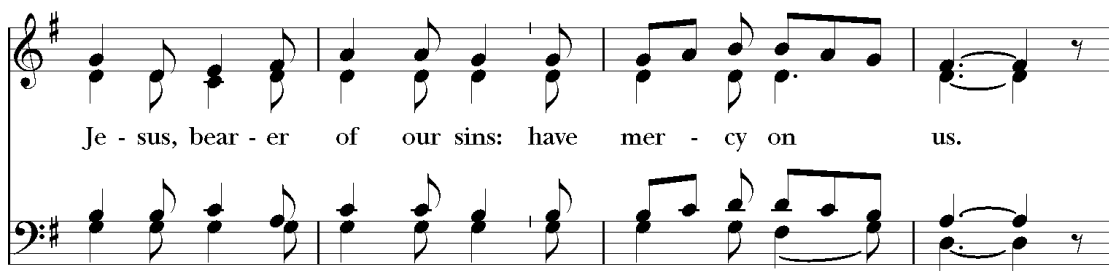
THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.

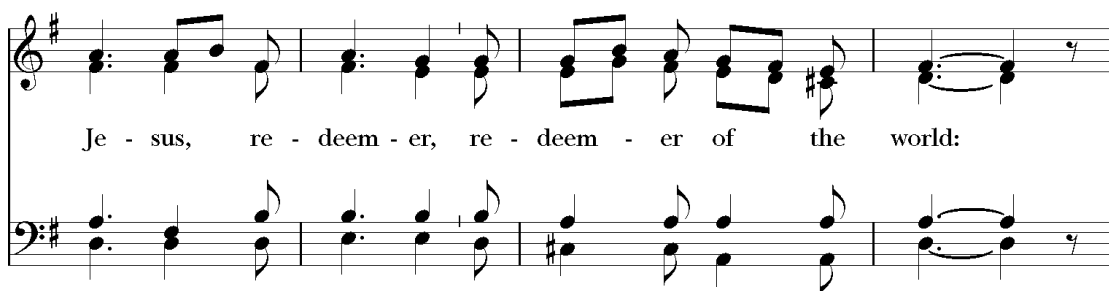
FRACTION ANTHEM S164



Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:



give us your peace, give us your peace.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation:

The Gifts of God for the People of God

All baptized Christians, regardless of denomination or age, are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please come forward at the appropriate time. You may receive both the bread and wine, one or the other, come forward for a blessing, or remain seated.

HYMN 321

My God, thy table now is spread

Rockingham

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

(Please kneel as you are able.)

Celebrant and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

THE BLESSING

HYMN

A Heart that Centers, Lord, on You

(Please stand as you are able.)

A Heart that Centers, Lord, on You

to the congregation of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Goldsboro, NC
on the occasion of the sesquicentennial celebrations of the church

Words: Thomas H. Troeger

Music: "James Street" by David Hurd

descant

4. We want to live as Ste - phen did: to

1. A	heart that	cen - ters.	Lord, on	you	be -
2. Saint	Ste - phen	preached	your word	to cast	clear
3. Saint	Ste - phen's	faith and	sac - ri - fice		in -
4. We	want to	live as	Ste - phen	did:	to

3

wor - ship you a-lone, to name hard things that fear has hid, and

comes a ves - sel	filled	with	o - ver - flow - ing	faith to	do	what
light up - on his	age,	and	when the vio - lence	of the past		re -
spired our foun - ders'	dreams	of	risk - ing all for Je - sus	Christ,		whose
wor - ship you a - lone,		to	name hard things that fear	has hid,		and

5

make the gos-pel known, to live the faith your word im-parts, to

your own heart has	willed.	Saint	Ste - phen	drew up - on	the strength	a
turned as hate and	rage,	the	faith he brave - ly	dared to	live	en -
con - stant, liv - ing	streams	poured	through their lives	and o - ver - flowed		this
make the gos-pel	known,	to	live the faith your	word im - parts,		to

7

do what's right and true, and by our wit-ness lead all hearts to

faith - ful heart sup-plies: the height and depth, the breadth and length of
 dured to his last breath: he prayed that you, Lord, would for - give those
 house of song and prayer and on a wound - ed world be-stowed Christ's
 do what's right and true, and by our wit - ness lead all hearts to

9

cen - ter, Lord, on you.

love that nev - er dies.
 ston - ing him to death.
 heal - ing love and care.
 cen - ter, Lord, on you.

THE DISMISSAL

The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses them with these words

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY

Herr Gott, Dich Loven Alle Wir

J.G. Walther

SERVING TODAY

Celebrant: The Rev. David Wyly

Organist: Patrick Ritsch

Ushers: Amy and Todd Brantley

Eucharistic Visitors: Geoff & Lee Hulse

Live Stream Technician: James Ruggles

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for our family and our St. Stephen's family by David and Linda Huard.

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St. Stephen's Parish Prayer List

We pray for our parishioners:

Randy Anderson, Glenda Futch, Ed Futch, Debby Hickey, Marguerite Pennington, Pat Sasser, Marjorie Snyder, Betsy Toomey and
John Wolfe

And for our family and friends:

John Adams, Dennis Blake, Ruth Ann Brame, Charlotte Bridgers, Nancy Brookes, Howard Churchill, Lee Clayton, Robin R Coates, Will Cox, Donna Crumpler, Josh Davenport, Hallie Hulse Evans, Viola Figueroa, Leah Fulkerson, Rachel Golden and family, Elaine Gregory, Bonnie Hale, David Hesmer, Nolan Hill, Annice Davis Hodges, Jinny (friend of Leigh Broadfoot), Cynthia Johnson, Tisha Johnson, David Jones, Nancy and David Knott, Janet LaFave Kurtz, Cailee Ladd, Chrissie Lewis, Regina LuKosik, Sherry Monhollen, Greg Morris, Diana Myhre, Mary Beth Parker, Alex Peacock, Jodi Power, Gene Pryor, Jackie Reindl, Adylene Rohrer, Drue Seefeld, Donna Shibley, Wiley Sloan, Chris Smith, Jackson Smith, Yvonne Stovall, Steve Synder, Sue Villa-Arce, Bob Williams, Jennifer WinterRose, Patricia Worley,
Natalie Young

In the Armed Forces:

Jeff Bland, Logan McDevitt,
Wes Morrison, Steven S. and Jay Womble

In the Peace Corps

Paul Rutter

Partner in Education:

Dillard Middle School, its students, faculty, and staff.

Happy Birthday!

January 14 — Vicky Bailey and John Lewis

January 17 — Archer Watkins

January 18 — Florence Hine

January 19 — David Huard

WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

Phone Numbers: Home _____ Cell _____

I am new to the parish, I would like the Clergy to call.

I am interested in _____ ministry.

Marital Status: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Anniversary Date: _____

Baptism Date and Location: _____

Confirmation Date and Location: _____

Please list the people who reside with you and their ages:

Any additional information you wish to include?

Please tear off this sheet with your information entered and place in the offering plate or give to an usher or greeter. Thank you! We look forward to meeting you!



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. David Wylly

Rector@ststephenschurch.com

CHURCH STAFF

Organist and Choirmaster: Patrick Ritsch

organist@ststephenschurch.com

Church Administrative Assistant: Vicky Bailey

admin@ststephenschurch.com

Communications Coordinator: Jane Cunningham

cunninghamjane04@gmail.com

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