

The Third Sunday of
EASTER

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR HOLY EUCHARIST

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 19th, 2026

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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St Stephen's is called, with God's help, to follow Jesus, and to be a source of transformation and Christian hope and inspiration to those within our community and those in our respective neighborhoods.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Preceding the service, a singing bowl will be rung as we prepare ourselves interiorly for worship.

GATHERING HYMN

#178 Alleluia #1

OPENING BLESSING

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY *The Kenyan Anglican Church*

Almighty God, You bring to light things hidden in darkness, and know the shadows of our hearts; Cleanse and renew us by your Spirit, that we may walk in the light and glorify your name, through Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Amen.

GLORIA

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and on earth peace to peo-ple
of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we a -
dore you, we glo-ri-fy you, we give you

thanks for your great glo - ry, Lord God, heav-en - ly
King, O God, al-might-y Fa - ther.
Lord Je - sus Christ, On-ly Be - got-ten Son, Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a -
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us; you take a -
way the sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer; you are seat-ed
at the right hand of the Fa - ther, have mer -
cy, have mer - cy on us. 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 Spir-it,
in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men, a - men.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Lord of the gathering feast, you walk with us on the shadowed road: burn our hearts with scripture's open flame; unveil our darkened eyes as bread is torn and shared and from the broken fragments bless a people for yourself; through Jesus Christ, the host of the world. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSORY

Psalm 16:12-13, 15-18



I ___ will take ___ the cup of sal-va-tion, ___ and call on the name ___ of the Lord. ___

How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good he has done for me?

The cup of salvation I will take up, and I will call upon the name of the Lord. **R.**

Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.

I am your servant, the son of your handmaid; you have loosed my bonds. **R.**

To you will I offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and I will call upon the name of the Lord.

My vows to the Lord I will pay in the presence of all his people. **R.**

THE SECOND READING

1 Peter 1:17-23

If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God. Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mass of Renewal Alleluia



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Clergy: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him."

Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is

almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Clergy: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE HOMILY

NICENE CREED

S
A

We be-lieve in God al - migh - ty, Au - thor of all things that be.
 We be-lieve that Je - sus su - ffered, scourged and scorned and cru - ci - fied;
 We be-lieve in God's own Spi - rit, bon - ding all the saints with - in

T
B

5

Ma - ker of the earth and hea - vens, Keep - er of the sky and sea.
 ta - ken from the cross, was bu - ried, True Life there had tru - ly died.
 one church cath' - lic, one church ho - ly, where for - give - ness frees from sin;

9

We be - lieve in God's Son, Je - sus, now for us both Lord and Christ,
 We be - lieve that on the third day Christ was raised up from the grave,
 in the bo - dy's re - surr - ec - tion, for the brea - king of death's chain

10

13

of the Spi - rit and of Ma - ry born to bring a - bun - dant life.
 then, a - scen - ded to God's right hand. He will come to judge and save.
 gives the life that's ev - er - la - sting. This the faith that we have claimed.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

V. To you we offer praise eternal; **R. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Those in need of healing and support:

Bishop Gretchen, Kerry, Ron and Linda, Josh, Joey and Family, Tiffany, Tonya, Stephanie, Dan, Jessica, Casey, Steve, Kristin, Daniel, Bahati, Jason, Ashley, Braden, Bev, Chris, Jayne, Vance, Aidan, Jeanne, Leon, Larry, Colin, Connie, Russell, Kadie

THE PEACE

WELCOME SONG

God Welcomes All

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

OFFERTORY*To give online, please see the QR code in the back of the bulletin***OFFERTORY HYMN**

He Comes to Us as One Unknown



1 He comes to us as one un-known, a
 2 He comes when souls in si-lence lie and
 3 He comes to us in sound of seas, the
 4 He comes in love as once he came by



breath un-seen, un-heard; as though with-in a
 thoughts of day de-part; half-seen up-on the
 o-cean's fume and foam; yet small and still up-
 flesh and blood and birth; to bear with-in our



heart of stone, or shriv-eled seed in dark-ness sown, a
 in-ward eye, a fall-ing star a-cross the sky of
 on the breeze, a wind that stirs the tops of trees, a
 mor-tal frame a life, a death, a sav-ing name, for



pulse of be-ing stirred, a pulse of be-ing stirred.
 night with-in the heart, of night with-in the heart.
 voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.
 ev-'ry child of earth, for ev-'ry child of earth.

DOXOLOGY

†

Praise God, from whom all blessings
flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise
God above, ye heavenly host: Praise
1, 2. 3. Fine
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Praise Ghost.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE PREFACE

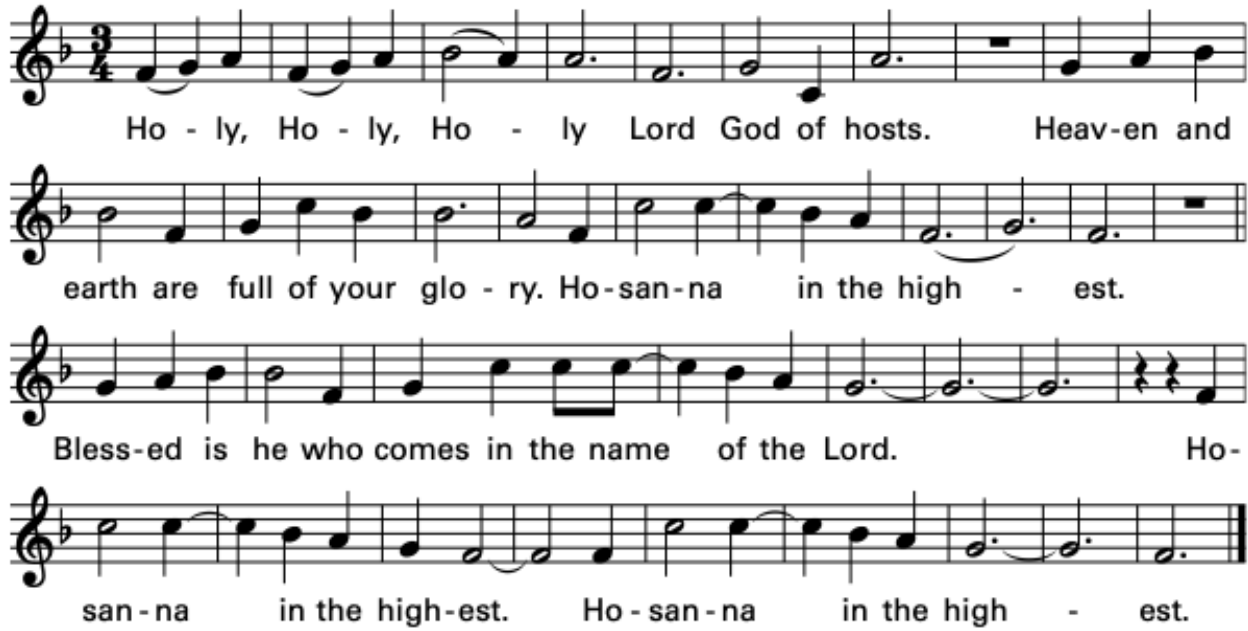
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

SANCTUS

Mass of Renewal



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en and
earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER



Voice
Our Fa-ther who art in hea - ven hal-lowed be thy name; thy king-dom come; thy will
be done on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our dai - ly bread, and
for-give us our tres-pass-es as we for-give those who tres - pass a-gainst us; and lead
us not in - to temp-ta - tion, but de-liv - er us from e - vil. For the king-dom, the
pow'r, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er.

D B E A F#m
B A B7 E F#m
D Bm C#m A B 7 E

THE FRACTION

Alleluia, Alleluia. Christ our Lord is risen for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, Alleluia.

HOLY COMMUNION

Christ is the Host of this Holy Feast: All are welcome to receive God's blessing. You may choose to receive wine from the little cups or from the common chalice. To receive from the chalice, please help guide the cup by grasping the bottom of the cup. Please do not dip your wafer (intinct) into the cup. Gluten-free hosts are available—please mention your need for a gluten-free host to the clergy distributing the Body of Christ when you approach to receive Holy Communion.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Domine Deus

Grace Rowe, soprano

Translation: Lord God, Heavenly King, Almighty God and Father

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**God of abundance,
you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one with all your people
in heaven and on earth.**

**Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

BLESSING

PARISH PRAYER CENTER

SENDING HYMN

Because He Lives

1. God sent His Son, — they called Him Je - sus; — He came to love, —
 2. How sweet to hold — a new - born ba - by, — And feel the pride, —
 3. And then one day — I'll cross the riv - er; — I'll fight life's fi -

1. — heal, and for - give; — He lived and died — to buy my
 2. — and joy he gives; — But great - er still — the calm as -
 3. - nal war with pain; — And then as death — gives way to

1. par - don, — An emp - ty grave is there to prove my Sav - ior lives. —
 2. sur - ance, — This child can face un - cer - tain days be - cause He lives. —
 3. vic - t'ry, — I'll see the lights of glo - ry and I'll know He lives. —

Be - cause He lives — I can face to - mor - row; — Be - cause He lives —

— all fear is gone; — Be - cause I know — He holds the

fu - ture, — And life is worth the liv - ing just be - cause He lives. —

SENDING

The People's Response: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.



He Is Risen!

Thanks to all those who serve in St. Stephen's liturgical ministries!

SATURDAY

Eucharistic Ministers

Greg Stevens | Karen Williams

SUNDAY

Eucharistic Ministers

Dan and Joanne Cenis

Ushers

Glenn and Vanita Davis

St. Stephen's Choir

Sopranos: Esther Matuku | Cassie Roeder | Grace Rowe* | Maude Hales
Altos: Suzanne Capstick | Zenny Chen | Scarlett Hepworth* | Debbie Campbell
Tenors: Trevor Bushnell* | Kelson Johansing | Dan Roeder
Basses: Marc Anthony | Chuck Harris | Mike Henneberry | Nathan Hoyt* | Don Lamp
Logan Shevalier, Choral Director | Christian Skok, Music Director
*Section Leaders

St. Martha's Altar Guild

Pam Bernardo | Karen Bushnell | Vanita Davis | Lyla Henderson | The Henry Family
Suzy Jefferies | Lisa Johnston, President | Meg Jones | Laura Lindsey | Paula Oty
Mary Lou Redmond | Lolita Sutton | Pam Strickland | Karen Williams

ST. STEPHEN'S VESTRY

Sheryll Shepard, Sr. Warden
Tim Farley, Jr. Warden
Greg Stevens, Jr. Warden
Karen Bushnell

Mary Hedrick
Scarlett Hepworth
Charlotte Lamp
Kate Mietus

Karen Williams
Karen Winston
Kathleen Henry, Treasurer
Stuart Hales, Clerk

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