

The Sixth Sunday of  
EASTER

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR HOLY EUCHARIST

## THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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### 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.*



Welcome! If you are unfamiliar with the rituals of the Episcopal Church, simply let the congregation carry you in worship. The order of worship is found in this service booklet and the hymns are in the blue hymnal in your pew.



#### Parish Discernment Prayer:

Gracious God,

You know our needs even before we ask.

Open our hearts and minds to a deeper awareness of Your presence.

Help us to listen for Your voice as we share our experiences and our hopes.

Help us recognize Your directions and to clearly hear Your plan for us as a congregation and in our community.

Be with our Parish Profile Team as they guide us in the process of discerning St. Stephen's role in Your plan.

Lead us to call a priest who will help us walk the path You put before us.

We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

#### GATHERING HYMN

#291 We Plow the Fields and Scatter

#### SALUTATION

*Celebrant:* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

GLORIA

Mass for Grace

Glo - ry,

Glo-ry, hal-le-lu - jah, Lord we praise your Ho - ly name,\_\_\_ Glo-ry,

Glo-ry hal-le-lu - jah, Lord we praise your Ho - ly name. \_\_\_

1. Glo-ry to God... in the high-est, and peace to His peo - ple on earth. \_\_\_

2. Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - migh - y God and Fa-ther, we

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

*Unison*

3. Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, Glo-ry,

Glo-ry, hal-le-lu - jah, Lord we praise your Ho - ly name,\_\_\_ Glo-ry,

Glo-ry hal-le-lu - jah, Lord we praise your Ho - ly name. \_\_\_ 4. You

take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us, 5. You are

seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. 6. For  
 you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, You a - lone are the Lord,  
*Unison*  
 7. You a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the  
 glo - ry of the Fa - ther. Glo - ry, Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah, Lord we  
 praise your Ho - ly name, — Glo - ry, Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah, Lord we  
 Praise your Ho - ly name.  
 A - - - - - men.

**COLLECT FOR THE DAY—**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
 Let us pray.

Holy One, you breathe the word of love and the promise of new creation into the secret places of the soul, opening heart to heart: in the wildness of your Spirit, uncaptured in the wide world, teach us the costly way of fearless love and priceless peace; through Jesus Christ, through whom God dwells with us. **Amen.**

**THE FIRST READING**

Acts 16:9-15

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We

remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

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

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

## THE PSALM RESPONSORY

Psalm 67

Optional Descant

O God, we praise you!

O God, let all the nations praise you!

G Am7/G C Dsus4 D G

May God have pity on us and bless us; may he let his face shine upon us. So may your way be known upon earth; among all nations, your salvation. **R.**

May the nations be glad and exult because you rule the peoples in equity; the nations on the earth you guide. **R.**

May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the people praise you! May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear him! **R.**

## THE SECOND READING

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

In the spirit the angel carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month;

and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Celtic Alleluia*

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

5

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

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in G major. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 6/8 time signature. The melody is written on a five-line staff with a common rest on the first line. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the notes. The second staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 6/8 time signature. It starts with a measure rest, followed by the melody for 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The time signature changes to 9/8 for the final measure, which ends with a double bar line.

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

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

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:23-29

Jesus said to Judas (not Iscariot), “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me. I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.”

**Clergy:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## THE HOMILY

## NICENE CREED



1 We be - e - lieve in God al - migh - ty, Au - th - or of all  
2 We be - e - lieve that Je - sus suf - fered, scourged a - nd scorned a - nd  
3 We be - e - lieve in God's o - wn Spi - rit, bond - i - ng all the\_\_



thi - ngs th - at be, Ma - k - er of the earth and hea - vens,  
or - u - oi - fi - ed; Ta - k - en from the cross, was bu - ried,  
sa - ints wi - th - in one church oath - olic, one church ho - ly,



Kee - per of th - e sky and sea. We be - lieve in God's Son,  
True li - fe there had tru - ly died. We be - lieve that on the  
Where for - give - ness frees from sin. In the bo - dy's re - sur -



Je - sus, Now for us both Lord and Chr - ist, of the Spi - rit  
third day. Christ was raised up from the gr - ave, then as - cend - ed  
rec - tion for the breaking of death's oh - ain. Give the life that's



and of Ma - ry born to bring a - bun - dant life.\_\_\_\_  
to God's right hand, He will oome to\_\_ judge and save.  
ev - ver last - ting. This the faith that we\_\_ have olaimed

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*V.* Let the peoples praise you, O God, *R.* Let all the peoples praise You.

## THE PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be always with you

And also with you

## DOXOLOGY

H-281

Praise God, from whom all blessings

flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise

him above, ye heavenly host: Praise

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Praise Ghost. *Fine*

## 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

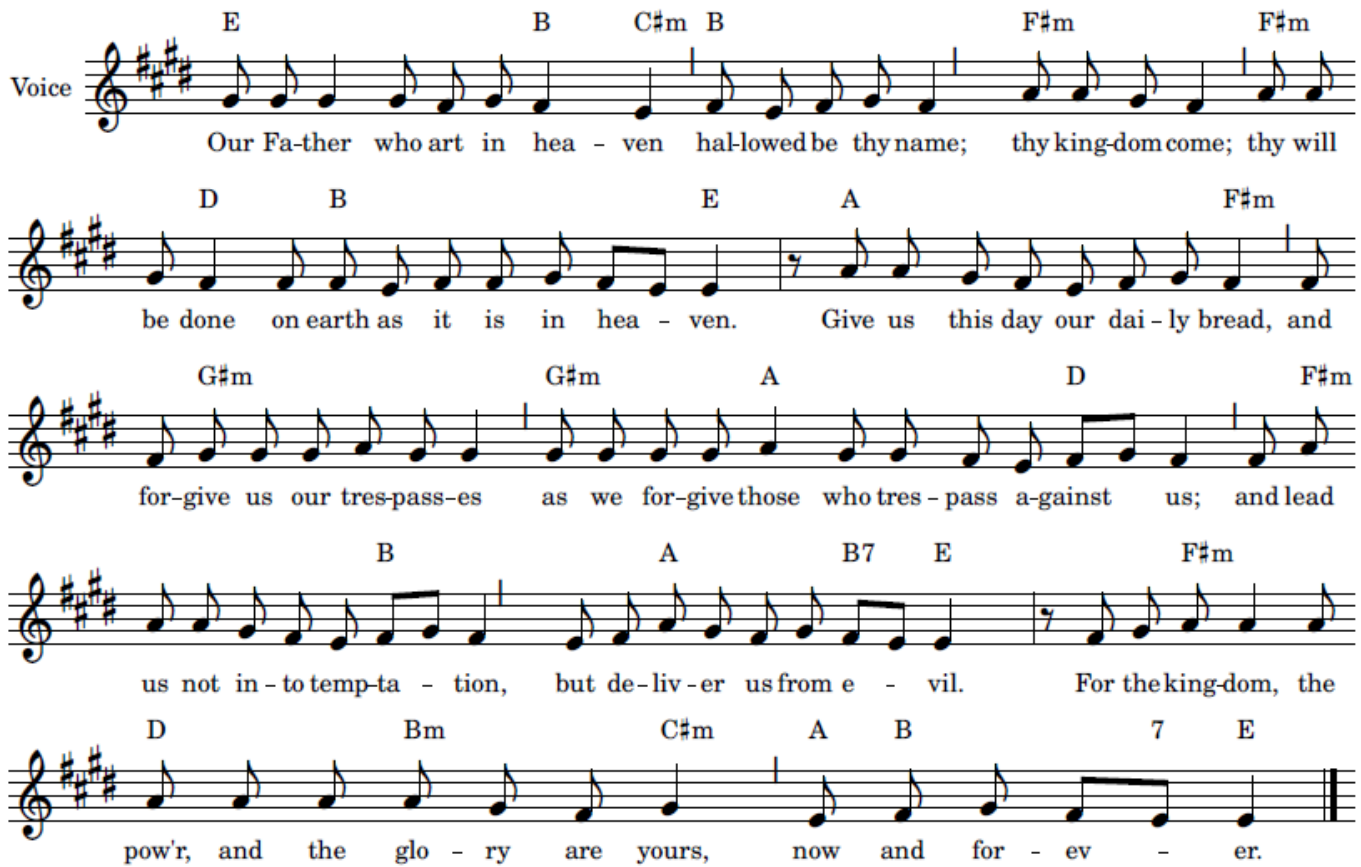
*Mass for a Soulful People*

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho-ly, ho - ly, ho-ly Lord God of  
hosts. Heav-en and earth are filled with your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He who comes in the  
name of the Lord, 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



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-against 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.

# THE FRACTION

Alleluia Christ our Lord is risen for us.  
Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia

# AGNUS DEI

*Mass of the Resurrection*



\*Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the  
world, have mer - cy on us. world, grant us peace.

# 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 HYMN

Shall We Gather at the River

D A7

1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have  
 2 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - ery bur - den  
 3 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will

A D

trod, with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing  
 down; grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro -  
 cease; soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the

A A7 D G Refrain

by the throne of God? Yes, we'll gath - er at the  
 vide a robe and crown.  
 mel - o - dy of peace.

D A7 D

riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;

G D A A7 D

gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

## COMMUNION HYMN

#374 Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

## BLESSING

## SENDING

## SENDING HYMN

#204 Now the Green Blade Riseth

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

### **St. Stephen's Choir**

Grace Rowe\* | Dan Roeder | Cassie Roeder | Maria Roeder | Debbie Campbell | Don Lamp | Suzanne Capstick | Esther Matuku | Scarlett Hepworth\* | Trevor Bushnell\* | Mike Henneberry | Ele Henry | Nathan Hoyt\*  
Logan Shevalier, Choral Director | Christian Skok, Music Director  
\*Section Leaders

### **St. Martha's Altar Guild**

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



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