

The Fourth Sunday after the  
**EPIPHANY**

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR HOLY EUCHARIST

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

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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.

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

### GATHERING HYMN

#441 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

### OPENING BLESSING

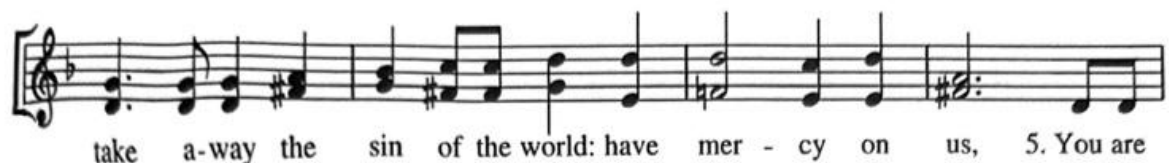
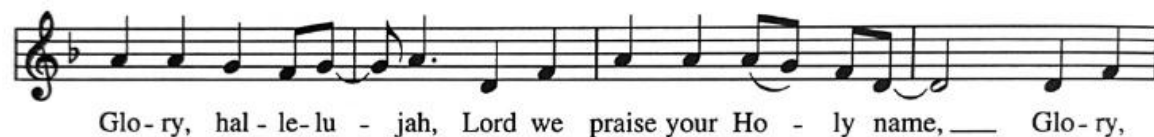
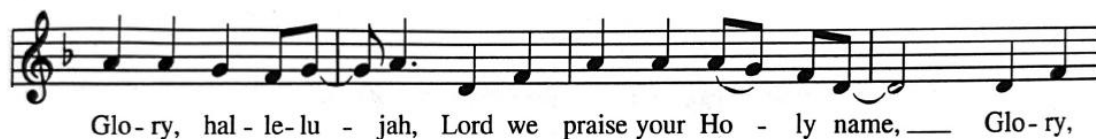
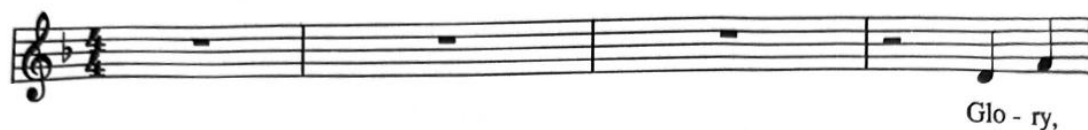
**Celebrant:** Blessed be God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

**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.





you a-lone \_ are the Ho - ly One, You a - lone are \_ the Lord,



7. You a-lone \_ are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi-rit, in the

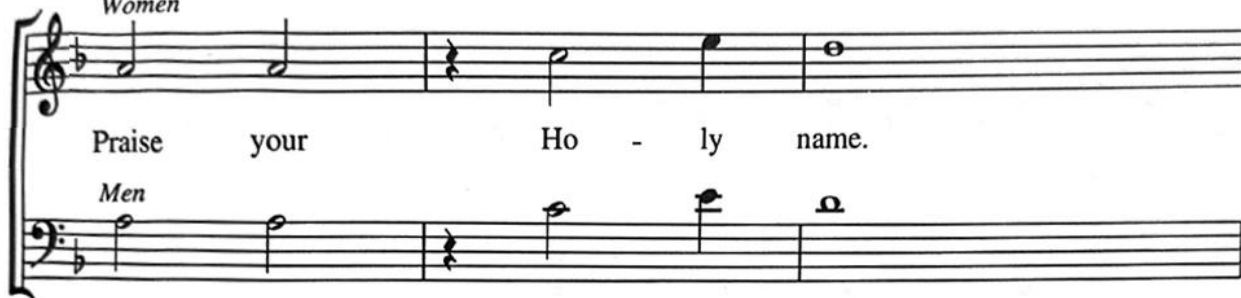


glo - ry of \_ the Fa - ther. Glo-ry, Glo-ry, hal - le-lu - jah, Lord we



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

*Women*



Praise your Ho - ly name.

*Men*



Praise your Ho - ly name.



A - - - - - men.

## **COLLECT FOR THE DAY—**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Foolish God, shaming the strong through the weakness of love; turning upside down the wisdom of the world: may your blessing dwell with the poor and hungry, the grieving and abused; may your peaceful revolution be our joy and our reward through Jesus Christ the power of God. **Amen.**

## **THE FIRST READING**

**Micah 6:1-8**

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.” “With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.





O God, who may dwell in your **tabernacle**;  
 who may abide upon your holy **hill**?  
 Those who lead blameless lives and do what is  
**right**,  
 who speak truthfully from the **heart**.  
 There is no guile upon their **tongues**;  
 they do no evil to their **friends**;  
 they do not heap contempt upon their  
**neighbors**;

In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they  
 honor those who fear **God**.  
 They have sworn to do no wrong and do not  
 take back their **word**.  
 They do not give their money in hope of **gain**,  
 nor do they take a bribe against the **innocent**.  
 Whoever does these things shall never be  
**overthrown**.

## SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

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

**People:** Thanks be to God

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Mass of Renewal Alleluia*



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

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

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

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

## THE HOMILY

# NICENE CREED

Werde Munter

S.A. We be - lieve in God al - migh - ty, Au - thor of all  
 We be - lieve in that Je - sus su - ffered, scourged and scorned and  
 We be - lieve in God's own Spi - rit, bon - ding all the

6  
 S.A. things— that be. Ma - ker of the earth and hea - vens. Keep - er  
 cru - ci - fied; ta - ken from the cross, was bu - ried, True Life  
 saints— with - in one church cath' - lic, one church ho - ly, where for -

13  
 S.A. of the skies— and sea. We be - lieve in God's Son,  
 there had tru - ly died. We be - lieve in that on the  
 - give - ness frees— from sin; in the bo - dy's re - surr -

19  
 S.A. Je - sus, now for us both Lord and Christ, of the  
 third day, Christ for was the raised up from the grave, then, a -  
 - ec - tion, for the brea - king of death's chain gives the

25  
 S.A. Spi - rit and of Ma - ry, born to bring a - bun - dant life.  
 - scen - ded to God's righthand. He will come to judge— and save.  
 life that's ev - er - la - sting. This the faith that we— have claimed.

T.B.



## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*V. Let us pray;* **R. Hear us, God of Glory**

## CONFESSION

*Enriching Our Worship*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**God of all mercy,**

**we confess that we have sinned against you,**

**opposing your will in our lives.**

**We have denied your goodness in each other,**

**in ourselves, and in the world you have created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us,**

**the evil we have done,**

**and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us**

**through our Savior Jesus Christ,**

**that we may abide in your love**

**and serve only your will. Amen.**

## THE PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be always with you

**And also with you**

## WELCOME SONG

God Welcomes All

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

The first line of musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The treble staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter). The bass staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass line is: G3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), B3 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter). The lyrics "God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;" are written below the staves.

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

The second line of musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The treble staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter). The bass staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass line is: G3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), B3 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter). The lyrics "God's love is strong and it nev - er ends." are written below the staves.

## OFFERTORY

*To give online, please see the QR code on last page of the bulletin*

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

When The Poor Ones

## DOXOLOGY

*Tallis Canon*

SA

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise

TB

4

S.A.

God above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

T.B.

## 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 in remembrance of Christ, we proclaim the great mystery  
**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.

## THE FRACTION

**Celebrant:** Alleluia, Christ is manifest at this table.

**The People:** Therefore let us keep the feast. 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 bread (intinction) 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

## Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit

1 Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, claim - ing noth - ing as their  
 2 Bless - ed are the strong but gen - tle, trained to serve a high - er  
 3 Blessed are they who show their mer - cy to the guilt - y and the  
 4 Bless - ed are the brave and peace - ful, bring - ing peace wher - e'er they

own, but as giv'n them by their Fa - ther that his  
 will, wise to know th'e - ter - nal pur - pose which their  
 poor, for to them, set free from judg - ment, shall be  
 live, God shall own them as his chil - dren and through

good - ness may be shown. Blessed are they who share the  
 Fa - ther shall ful - fill. Blessed are they who with true  
 o - pened heav - en's door. Bless - ed, the sin - cere and  
 them his peace will give. All for love and truth who

sor - row of their God's un - chang - ing love, they shall  
 pas - sion strive to make the right pre - vail, for the  
 truth - ful from the lie's de - cep - tion free, for the  
 suf - fer, in your God re - joice and sing, he, the

know his pres - ence with them and his prom - ised com - fort prove.  
 earth is God's pos - ses - sion and his pur - pose will not fail.  
 God of truth and beau - ty they in joy will sure - ly see.  
 end of all your striv - ing, he, your Fa - ther, Lord, and King.

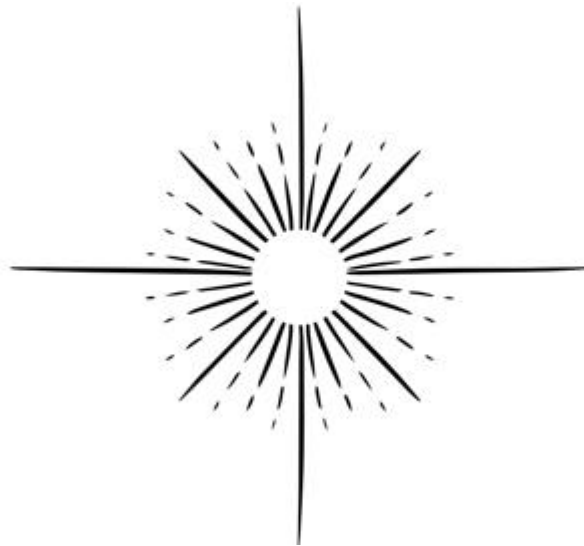
**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

*(found by Linda Besse from Grace Episcopal Church, Vineyard Haven, MA)*

God of all, we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

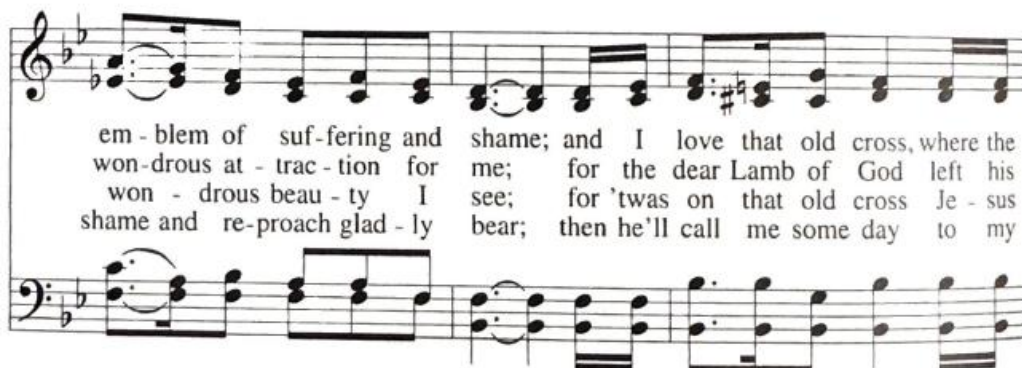
**PARISH PRAYER CENTER**

**BLESSING**





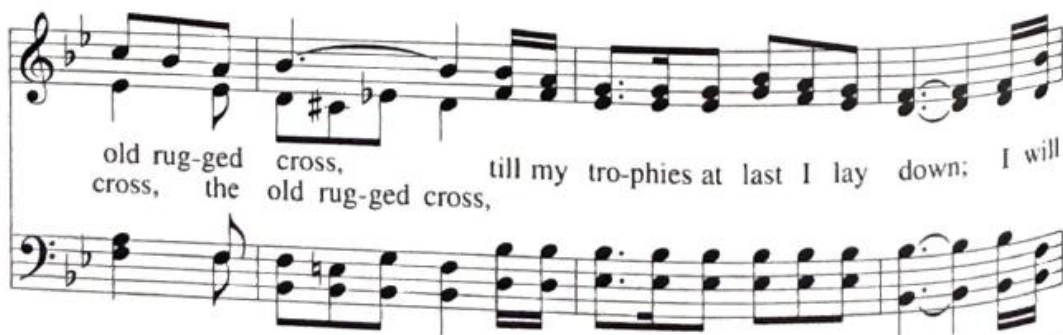
1 On a hill far a - way stood an old rug - ged cross, the  
 2 O that old rug - ged cross, so de - spised by the world, has a  
 3 In the old rug - ged cross, stained with blood so di - vine, a  
 4 To the old rug - ged cross I will ev - er be true, its



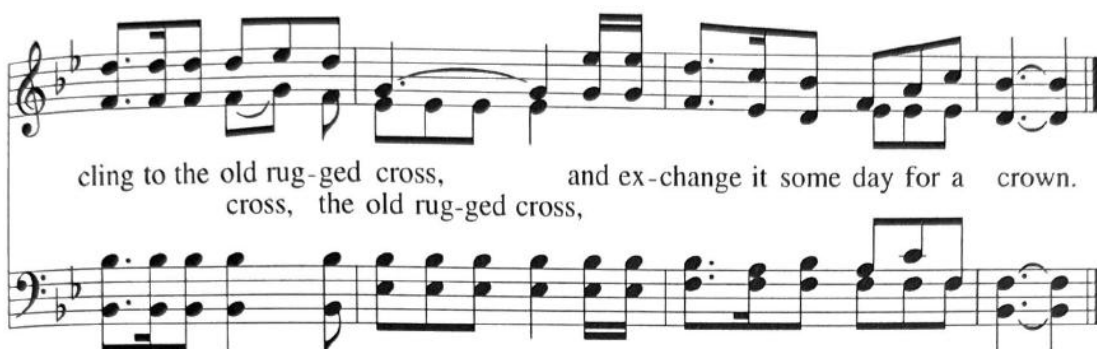
em - blem of suf - fer - ing and shame; and I love that old cross, where the  
 won - drous at - trac - tion for me; for the dear Lamb of God left his  
 won - drous beau - ty I see; for 'twas on that old cross Je - sus  
 shame and re - proach glad - ly bear; then he'll call me some day to my



*Refrain*  
 dear - est and best for a world of lost sin - ners was slain.  
 glo - ry a - bove to bear it to dark Cal - va - ry. So I'll cher - ish the  
 suf - fer - ed and died to par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.  
 home far a - way, where his glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.



old rug - ged cross, till my tro - phies at last I lay down; I will  
 cross, the old rug - ged cross,



cling to the old rug - ged cross, and ex - change it some day for a crown.  
 cross, the old rug - ged cross,



## **SENDING**

**The People's Response: Thanks be to God**

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

### **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

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