

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*All Are Welcome!*

The Sunday of the Passion  
The Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist

~ April 13, 2025, 8:00 and 10:30 am Worship Services ~



*The Transport of Christ to the Sepulcher*

## Welcome to St. Stephen's!

It is a joy to have you worship with us today. We believe everyone who worships with us is sent to us by God. So, welcome.

As we gather for worship, we want to remind everyone of a few important items:

- Please turn off or silence your electronic devices.
- We strongly encourage you to enter the sanctuary in silence as you prepare for worship.
- Before worship begins, we encourage you to speak to God. During worship, be ready for God to speak to you.
- After worship, we invite you to fellowship with one another, especially those God has brought to us — our visitors.

## Why Are You Here?

As you come in this morning and settle into your seat, I invite you to think about the following:

- ❖ Wherever we go, we have a reason for going there. What is your reason for being here today?
- ❖ God is merciful and kind to us each and every day. What thanksgiving do you bring to God today?
- ❖ Because each day brings many challenges, what concern(s) do you bring to God today?
- ❖ As your Rector, I have come with thanksgiving for God's grace and mercy and to worship Him; because today is a reminder to me that another week has ended and a new week has begun. It is my hope that you have come to do the same. I encourage you to join me as we call upon our God and worship Him.

***Canon Wilmot—a son of God***

The Flag for April is raised by David and Carolyn Huyck, in loving memory of Dave's father, Rexford L. Huyck, who served in the U.S. Navy during WWII, and in honor of our son-in-law, Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan E. Eldridge (Retired) who served in the U.S. Air Force.

**✝ *This symbol represents the point at which we sign ourselves with the sign of the cross during worship.***

## **The Word of God**

*The Congregation gathers at the Columbarium.*



## **The Liturgy of the Palms**

*The Celebrant says:*

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

**People**     ***Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.***

*Celebrant*     Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People**     ***Amen.***

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 19:28—40  
**People      Glory be to thee, O Lord**

After telling a parable to the crowd at Jericho, Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

"Blessed is the king  
    who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven,  
    and glory in the highest heaven!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

The Gospel of the Lord,  
**People      Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

*The Blessing of the Palms*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* ***And with thy spirit.***  
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

*Celebrant* Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
*People* ***Hosanna in the highest.***

### *Distribution of the Palms*

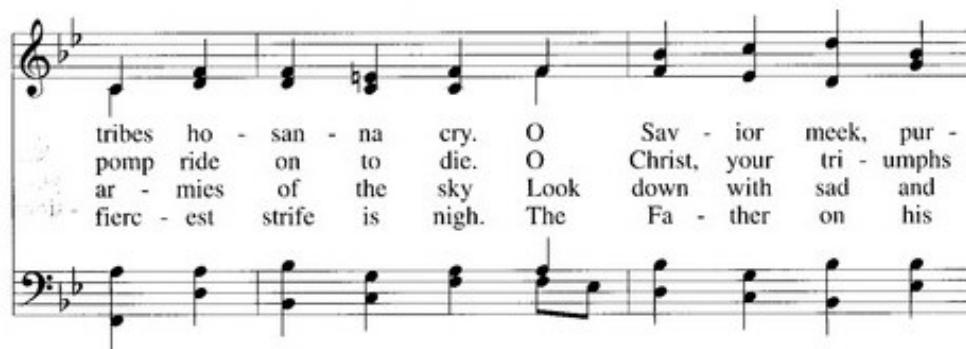
*Celebrant* Let us go forth in peace.  
*People* ***In the name of Christ. Amen.***

Opening Hymn and Choir Processional  
**Ride On! Ride On In Majesty**

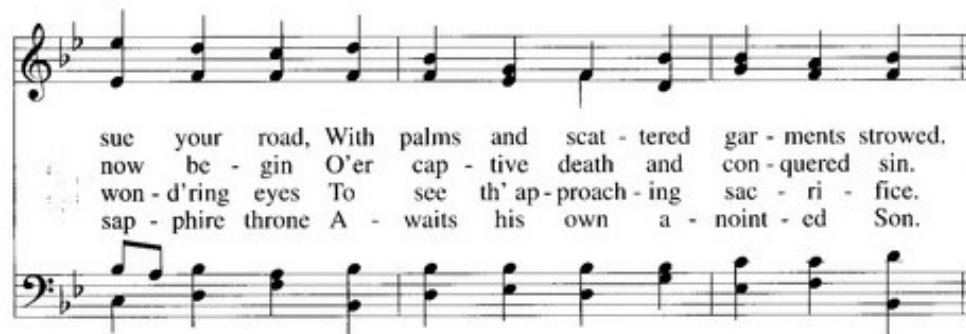
Hymnal 156



1 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Hark! All the  
2 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly  
3 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! The an - gel  
4 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Your last and



tribes ho - san - na cry. O Sav - ior meek, pur -  
pomp ride on to die. O Christ, your tri - umphs  
ar - mies of the sky Look down with sad and  
fierc - est strife is nigh. The Fa - ther on his



sue your road, With palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.  
now be - gin O'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.  
won - d'ring eyes To see th' ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.  
sap - phire throne A - waits his own a - noint - ed Son.

- 5 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die.  
Bow your meek head to mortal pain,  
Then take, O Christ, your power and reign.

**The Collect** *At the entrance of the Church.*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**People** *And with thy spirit.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People** *Amen*

*Hymn during the Procession with branches to the entrance of the church*

**All Glory, Laud, and Honor**

Hymnal 154

*Refrain*



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,  
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing thee on high;  
3 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;  
4 To thee be - fore thy pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;  
5 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,



1 who in the Lord's Name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One.  
2 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.  
3 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.  
4 to thee, now high ex - al - ted, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
5 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.



*arranged by...*



*The People standing, the Celebrant says:*

Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

**People**     ***His mercy endureth for ever.***

*The Celebrant and People say*

**Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Celebrant continues*

*Celebrant*     Lord, have mercy upon us.

***People***     ***Christ, have mercy upon us.***

*Celebrant*     Lord, have mercy upon us.

### **The Collect for Sunday of the Passion**

*Celebrant*     The Lord be with you.

***People***     ***And with thy spirit.***

*Celebrant*     Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who, of thy tender love towards humanity, hast sent thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all people should follow the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

***People***     ***Amen.***



## The Lessons

May we hear the Word of God through these words.

*A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah 50:4–9a*

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens — wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

*Here endeth the Reading.*

## Psalm 31:9–16

*(to be read responsively by the Lay Reader and the Congregation)*

L Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; \*  
my eye is consumed with sorrow,  
and also my throat and my belly.

C **For my life is wasted with grief,  
and my years with sighing; \*  
my strength fails me because of affliction,  
and my bones are consumed.**

L I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my  
neighbors,  
a dismay to those of my acquaintance; \*  
when they see me in the street they avoid me.

C **I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; \*  
I am as useless as a broken pot.**

L For I have heard the whispering of the crowd;  
fear is all around; \*  
they put their heads together against me;  
they plot to take my life.

**C But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. \*  
I have said, "You are my God.**

**L My times are in your hand; \*  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me.**

**C Make your face to shine upon your servant, \*  
and in your loving-kindness save me."**

*Celebrant and People*

**Glory to the † Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be  
World without end. Amen.**

May we hear the Word of God through these words.

*A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians 2:5–11*

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*Here endeth the Reading.*

Lead on, O King eternal, the day of march has come;  
 henceforth in fields of conquest thy tents shall be our home:  
 through days of preparation thy grace has made us strong,  
 and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle-song.

Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
 and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace;  
 for not with swords loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums,  
 but deeds of love and mercy, the heavenly kingdom comes.

*Please stand.*

*When the Gospel is being announced, a cross is made,*

✝ *(on the forehead) in my mind to understand it,*

✝ *(on the lips) on my lips to proclaim it, and*

✝ *(over the heart) in my heart to live it.*

***The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ  
 According to Luke***

Sermon Hymn

Lead on, O King eternal: we follow, not with fears;  
 for gladness breaks like morning where'er thy face appears.  
 Thy cross is lifted o'er us; we journey in its light:  
 the crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might!

Lead on, O King eternal, the day of march has come;  
 henceforth in fields of conquest thy tents shall be our home:  
 through days of preparation thy grace has made us strong,  
 and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle-song.

*Please use this time to silently reflect on what the Lord has spoken to you.*

## **The Nicene Creed**

BCP 327

**I believe in one God**, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

**And in one Lord, Jesus Christ**, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation

*(We bow for the two lines in bold.)*

**came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man;**

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

**And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord**, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and

✠ I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Please sit or kneel for The Prayers of the People.*

## **The Prayers of the People**

*The Prayer Leader and People pray responsively.*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**People** *And with thy spirit.*

Celebrant Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

**People** *Lord, we beseech thee to hear our prayer.*

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to The Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean our Presiding Bishop, Ruth our Bishop, Wilmot our Priest, Kim our Deacon, and for all bishops and other ministers that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

**People** *Lord, we beseech thee to hear our prayer.*

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

**People** *Lord, we beseech thee to hear our prayer.*

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, for Donald our President, Henry our Governor, and Marilyn our Mayor, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

**People** *Lord, we beseech thee to hear our prayer.*

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

**People**     ***Lord, we beseech thee to hear our prayer.***

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

**People**     ***Lord, we beseech thee to hear our prayer.***

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good example of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.

**People**     ***Amen.***

Let us pray for our own needs and those of our loved ones and others, for the men and women who are serving in the armed forces, and all others who serve to preserve and protect lives, and those who have asked us to remember them in our prayers.

Lord, in Your mercy.

**People**     ***Hear our prayer.***

Let us pray for the people in disaster and troubled areas and those affected by acts of violence here at home and all around the world. Let us also pray for the many volunteers who are working to assist our brothers and sisters in those areas that have been devastated either by man-made or natural disaster.

Lord, in Your mercy.

**People**     ***Hear our prayer.***

Let us pray for God's people throughout the world, especially the Anglican Communion, The Episcopal Church, and The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina. Today we are praying for: St. David's Cheraw, Mr. Phil Powell, Sr. Warden, *and The Church of England.*

Lord, in Your mercy.

**People**     ***Hear our prayer.***

## ***A Prayer for the Human Family***

BCP 815

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***People      Amen***

*\*Additional Prayers*

***LET US GIVE THANKS FOR OUR VISITORS.***

***HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:*** Linda Crocker (4/14), Roberta Rowland-Raybold (4/15), Barb DiMartini (4/16), Jane Willard (4/17), Alex Bobir (4/19), Gary Strouse (4/19).

***HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:*** Ted & Judy Tattersall (4/14), Len & Cathy Arruzzo (4/15), Jerry & Andrea Deberry (4/15), Dennis & Deb Davidson (4/16).

***LET US PRAY FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY.***

**INTERCESSORY AND THANKSGIVING PRAYER.** As we continue to hold one another up in prayer in this parish, this week we are praying for: **Lynn Simmonds, Bill & Peggy Simpson, Carol Smith, Darleen Smith, Carole Solak, Norma Spence, Russ & Cheri Spence, David & Johnnie Springett, Gary Strouse, Ted & Judy Tattersall.**

*Celebrant and People*

**Gracious and most loving God, we join them in committing to you whatever concerns they may have, asking you to let your will be done for them. We also join them in giving you thanks, for your many blessings bestowed upon them and their loved ones. We praise you and thank you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Litany of Penitence:** Let us confess our sins.

*The Celebrant and People say the following Confession together, all kneeling*

**Most holy and merciful Father: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

*A moment of silence follows.*

*The Celebrant continues*

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

**People      *Have mercy on us, Lord.***

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**People      *Have mercy on us, Lord.***

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

**People      *We confess to you, Lord.***

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

**People      *We confess to you, Lord.***

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**People      *We confess to you, Lord.***

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

**People      *We confess to you, Lord.***

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

**People      *We confess to you, Lord.***



Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**People**     ***Accept our repentance, Lord.***

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

**People**     ***Accept our repentance, Lord.***

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

**People**     ***Accept our repentance, Lord.***

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

**People**     ***Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.***

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

**People**     ***That we may show forth your glory in the world.***

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

**People**     ***Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.***

*The Priest stands and says*

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People**     ***Amen.***

*Please stand.*

## **The Peace**

Jesus said, *Peace I leave with you; my Peace I give to you . . .* John 14:27

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* ***And with thy spirit.***



***At the conclusion of the peace the Celebrant says:***

*Celebrant* God is Good!  
*People* ***All the Time.***

## **The Holy Communion**

Offertory      ***When I Survey the Wondrous Cross***      G. Martin

*Please stand.*

*Doxology*

**From all that dwell below the skies  
let the Creator's praise arise!  
Let the Redeemer's Name be sung  
through every land, by every tongue!**

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**The Great Thanksgiving and Sanctus  
Eucharistic Prayer II**

BCP 340

*People remain standing*

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

**People** *And with thy spirit.*

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

**People** *We lift them up unto the Lord.*

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People** *It is meet and right so to do.*

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Who dost bid thy faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by thy Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which thou hast prepared for those who love thee.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

*Celebrant and People*

*Bow during the underlined text*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:  
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.**

**✠ Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*Please sit, kneel or remain standing*

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

**People      Amen.**

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

*Celebrant 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.**



# The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 337

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**People** *Therefore let us keep the feast.*

*The following is sung*

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -  
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -  
on us. O Lamb of God, that  
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have  
mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of  
God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the  
world, grant us thy peace.

*The People join in saying this prayer*

**We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

*The Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith,  
with thanksgiving.

*This is the Lord's table, not of the church, but of the Lord.*

*It is made ready for those who love Him  
and for those who want to love Him more.*

*So come, you who have much faith and you who have little;  
You who have been here often and you who have not been here long;*

*You who have tried to follow and you who have failed;  
Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.*

*It is His will that those who want Him should meet Him here.*

*The congregation is asked to join in singing the communion hymns.*

**Let Us Break Bread Together on Our Knees**

Hymnal 325

Let us break bread together on our knees;  
Let us break bread together on our knees;

*when I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.*

Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
Let us drink wine together on our knees;

*when I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.*

Let us praise God together on our knees;  
Let us praise God together on our knees;

*when I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.*

**My Jesus, I Love Thee**

LEVAS 89

My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine,  
For thee all the follies of sin I resign;  
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior are thou:  
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I love thee because thou hast first loved me,  
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree,  
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow:  
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death,  
And praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath;  
And say when the death-dew lies cold on my brow,  
"If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now."



In mansions of glory and endless delight,  
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;  
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow,  
"If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now."

***Near the Cross***

LEVAS 29

Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain;  
Free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

*In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;  
Till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.*

Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;  
There the Bright and Morning Star sheds its beams around me.

*Refrain*

Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;  
Help me walk from day to day with its shadows o'er me.

*Refrain*

Near the cross, I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,  
Till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river.

*Refrain*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says: Let us pray.*

***The People join in saying this prayer***

**Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

*The Priest says the following prayer and gives the blessing*

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**People     Amen.**

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and your loved ones far and near and remain with all of you for ever.

**People     Amen.**

*Please be seated for a brief announcement.*

**Benediction** *to be sung*

**God be with you till we meet again;  
By His counsels guide, uphold you,  
With His sheep securely fold you,  
God be with you till we meet again.**



Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,  
 the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,  
 a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,  
 from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus mine eyes at times can see  
 the very dying form of one who suffered there for me;  
 and from my smitten heart with tears two wonders I confess:  
 the wonders of redeeming love, and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;  
 I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;  
 content to let my pride go by, to know no gain nor loss,  
 my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

*The Celebrant dismisses the people.*

*Priest* We are called to be one with God and each other in Christ.

*People* ***By living the Gospel with love and compassion.***

*Priest* Let us go in peace to love and serve God and one another.

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

**THE WORSHIP HAS ENDED. LET THE SERVICE BEGIN.**

“... what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)

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**Our Mission**  
is to be one with God and  
humanity in Christ  
by living the Gospel  
with love and compassion.



**Our Vision**  
is to become comfortable  
with Jesus Christ  
and boldly proclaim Him.



### ***PARTICIPANTS IN THE CELEBRATION AT ST. STEPHEN'S***

Ministers: The Congregants of St. Stephen's, Family, Friends and Visitors  
Celebrant: The Very Rev. Canon Dr. Wilmot T. Merchant II, Rector  
Deacon: The Rev. Kim Hoop  
Dir of Music: Roberta Rowland-Raybold, c.a.g.o.  
Vergers: Cathy Fellows and Robert Dunn

### ***MINISTERS, LAYLEADERS AND STAFF***

The Most Rev. Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop, The Episcopal Church  
The Right Rev. Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, Bishop, The Diocese of SC  
The Very Rev. Canon Dr. Wilmot T. Merchant, II, Rector

### ***Vestry Members***

❖ Will Bridges, Senior Warden (2025) ❖ Sue Crouch, Junior Warden (2026)  
❖ Veronica Brown (2025) ❖ Marrjo Shattuck (2025) ❖ Robert Dunn (2026)  
❖ Wayne Mumford (2026) Mike Raley (2027) ❖ Tracy Thompson (2027)  
❖ Chris Welborn (2027)

### ***Associate Vestry Members***

❖ Harry Austin, Jr. (2025) ❖ Kathy Finch (2025) ❖ James Uzun (2025)

### ***Vestry Officers***

❖ Bill Mann, Treasurer ❖ Cheri Spence, Assistant Treasurer  
❖ Jane Buckner, Parish/Vestry Clerk