

# ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 26, 2023, 8:00 and 10:30 am Worship Services



*Resurrection of Lazarus*

**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.

## 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 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 I am reminded 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*

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

## **The Word of God**

*Please stand.*

Opening Hymn ***All My Hope on God is Founded*** Hymnal 665

All my hope on God is founded; he doth still my trust renew,  
me through change and chance he guideth, only good and only true.  
God unknown, he alone calls my heart to be his own.

Mortal pride and earthly glory, sword and crown betray our trust;  
though with care and toil we build them, tower and temple fall to dust.  
But God's power, hour by hour, is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness e'er endureth, deep his wisdom passing thought:  
splendor, light, and life attend him, beauty springeth out of nought.  
Evermore from his store newborn worlds rise and adore.

Daily doth the almighty Giver bounteous gifts on us bestow;  
his desire our soul delighteth, pleasure leads us where we go.  
Love doth stand at his hand; joy doth wait on his command.

Still from earth to God eternal sacrifice of praise be done,  
high above all praises praising for the gift of Christ, his Son.  
Christ doth call one and all: ye who follow shall not fall.

*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*

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

**People**     ***Amen.***

*Celebrant*     Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

*Celebrant*     Lord, have mercy upon us.

## **The Collect for The Fifth Sunday in Lent**

*Celebrant*     The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant*     Let us pray.

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**People**     ***Amen***

## **The Lessons**

May we hear the Word of God through these words.

*A Reading from the Prophet Ezekiel 37:1–14*

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.” So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act,” says the LORD.

*Here endeth the Reading*

## **Psalm 130**

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

L Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;  
LORD, hear my voice; \*  
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

**C If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, \*  
O Lord, who could stand?**

L For there is forgiveness with you; \*  
therefore you shall be feared.

**C I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; \*  
in his word is my hope.**

L My soul waits for the LORD,  
more than watchmen for the morning, \*  
more than watchmen for the morning.

**C O Israel, wait for the LORD, \*  
for with the LORD there is mercy;**

L With him there is plenteous redemption, \*  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

*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 Romans 8:6–11*

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law — indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

*Here endeth the Reading.*

Gradual Hymn

***I Am the Bread of Life***

Hymnal 335

I am the bread of life;  
they who come to me shall not hunger;  
they who believe in me shall not thirst.

No one can come to me  
unless the Father draw them.

*And I will raise them up, and I will raise them up,  
and I will raise them up on the last day.*

The Bread that I will give  
is my Flesh for the life of the world,  
and they who eat of this bread,  
they shall live for ever, they shall live for ever.

*Refrain*

*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 Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 11:1–45*  
**People      *Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.” After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.” When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.” When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.

Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord

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

Sermon Hymn

I am the resurrection,  
I am the life.  
They who believe in me,  
even if they die,  
they shall live for ever.

*And I will raise them up, And I will raise them up,  
and I will raise them up on the last day.*

*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.*

## The Prayers of the People

BCP 328

*The Prayer Leader and People pray responsively*

Prayer Leader      The Lord be with you.

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

Prayer Leader    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 Justin, The Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, Ruth our Bishop, Wilmot our Priest, Mike our Celebrant, 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, 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 — especially Christopher Nelson — 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:

Lord, in Your mercy.

**People**     ***Hear our prayer.***

*\*Additional Prayers*

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

**LET US PRAY FOR TRAVELERS THIS WEEK.**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:** Lewis Houghtaling (3/26), Blanche Welborn (3/29).

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:** Leon & Karen Faso (3/31).

**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: **Roberta** Rowland-Raybold, **Carmen** Royall, **Lois** Ruth, **Don & Joyce** Saftner, **Steve** Saftner, **Vivian** Salem, **Jim & Nancy** Salters, **Henry** Saunders & **Donna** Dowell, **Joan** Saunders, **Maggie** Schlehuber.

*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.**

**Confession of Sin**

*The Celebrant says:*

Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God.

*Silence is kept.*

*Celebrant and people*

**Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Celebrant stands and says*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; 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

8:00 *Ah, Holy Jesus*

Pam Morrill ~ soloist

10:30 *Rock of Ages*

S. Strite

### *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

*Please 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*

**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 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***

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.*

## ***Beneath the Cross of Jesus***

Hymnal 498

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.

*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:*

Look with compassion, O Lord, upon this your people; that, rightly observing this holy season, they learn to know you more fully, and to serve you with a more perfect will; through 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.***

**Benediction** *To be sung — please stand.*

**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.**



Closing Hymn      ***The Church's One Foundation***      Hymnal 525

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
she is his new creation by water and the word:  
from heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
one holy Name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed;  
yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, "How long?"  
and soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war  
she waits the consummation of peace for evermore;  
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blessed,  
and the great Church victorious shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God, the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we  
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

*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.*

Postlude

***Choral in A minor***

C. Franck

**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)

God is good! All the time!

### Calendar Items

- ❖ Sunday, March 26, *Music for the Seasons Spring Organ Concert*, 3:01 pm (after the 3:00 bells toll), Church.
- ❖ Week of March 27, *St. Stephen’s Delivers Mobile Meals*.
- ❖ Monday, March 27, *St. Stephen’s Crochet & Knitters*, 10:00 am.
- ❖ Tuesday, March 28, *Rummage Ministry*, 9:00 am.
- ❖ CANCELLED—Wednesday Public Service of Healing & Holy Eucharist, 12:00 noon.
- ❖ Wednesday, March 29, *Community Lenten Service*, 12:00 noon, Little River United Methodist Church.
- ❖ Thursday, March 30 or Friday, March 31, *Acolyte/Lector Refresher and Training*, 1:00—3:00 pm, Church.
- ❖ Saturday, April 1, *Rummage Saturday*, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.

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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 Rev. Michael "Mike" Bye  
Dir of Music/Organist: Roberta Rowland-Raybold, c.a.g.o.

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

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

### ***Vestry Members***

- ❖ B.J. Mills, Senior Warden (2023) ❖ Betty Berginski, Junior Warden (2024)
- ❖ Pete Barr (2023) ❖ Babs Raley (2023) ❖ Richard B. Martin, Jr. (2024)
- ❖ Bill Simpson, Jr. (2024) ❖ Will Bridges (2025) ❖ Veronica Brown (2025)
- ❖ Marrjo Shattuck (2025)

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

- ❖ Becky Baker (2023) ❖ Scott Collier (2023) ❖ Robert Dunn (2023)

### ***Vestry Officers***

- ❖ Bill Mann, Treasurer ❖ Cheri Spence, Assistant Treasurer
- ❖ Jane Buckner, Parish/Vestry Clerk, ❖ Cheryl Brugier, Asst Parish/Vestry Clerk

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