

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

All Are Welcome!

The First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026, 8:00 & 10:30 am Worship Services



Jesus Tempted

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

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

Prelude

My Song is Love Unknown

D. Wood

Please be seated

The Great Litany

BCP 148

O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,

Have mercy upon us.

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

Have mercy upon us.

O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful,

Have mercy upon us.

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,

Have mercy upon us.

Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy preserve us for ever.

Spare us, good Lord.

From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the devil; and from everlasting damnation,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all want of charity,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word and commandment,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague, pestilence, and famine,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From all oppression, conspiracy, and rebellion; from violence, battle, and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation; by thy holy Nativity and submission to the Law; by thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By thine Agony and Bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion; by thy precious Death and Burial; by thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension; and by the Coming of the Holy Ghost,

Good Lord, deliver us.

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment,

Good Lord, deliver us.

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in the right way,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to illumine all bishops, priests, and deacons, with true knowledge and understanding of thy Word; and that both by their preaching and living, they may set it forth, and show it accordingly,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to bless and keep all thy people,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to send forth laborers into thy harvest, and to draw all mankind into thy kingdom,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give to all people increase of grace to hear and receive thy Word, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred, and are deceived,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give us a heart to love and fear thee, and diligently to live after thy commandments,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee so to rule the hearts of thy servants, the President of the United States (or of this nation), and all others in authority, that they may do justice, and love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to make wars to cease in all the world; to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord; and to bestow freedom upon all peoples,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to show thy pity upon all prisoners and captives, the homeless and the hungry, and all who are desolate and oppressed,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give and preserve to our use the bountiful fruits of the earth, so that in due time all may enjoy them,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to inspire us, in our several callings, to do the work which thou givest us to do with singleness of heart as thy servants, and for the common good,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to preserve all who are in danger by reason of their labor or their travel,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to preserve, and provide for, all women in childbirth, young children and orphans, the widowed, and all whose homes are broken or torn by strife,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to visit the lonely; to strengthen all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit; and to comfort with thy presence those who are failing and infirm,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to support, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to have mercy upon all mankind,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to thy holy Word,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand; to comfort and help the weak-hearted; to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to grant to all the faithful departed eternal life and peace,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to grant that, in the fellowship of St. Stephen's and all the saints, we may attain to thy heavenly kingdom,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

Grant us thy peace.

O Christ, hear us.

O Christ, hear us.

Please stand.

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF A HOLY LENT

The People standing, the Celebrant says:

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People ***His mercy endures for ever.***

The Celebrant and People say

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

The Celebrant continues

Jesus said: "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."

People ***Amen.***

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

People ***Christ, have mercy.***

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

The Collect for The First Sunday in Lent

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People ***Amen***

Please be seated.

The Lessons

May we hear the Word of God through these words.

A Reading from the Book of Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.” Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden’?” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32 *To be read responsively by the Lay Reader and Congregation.*

- L Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!
- C **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**
- L While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.
- C **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

- L Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.
- C **I said," I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." ***
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- L Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you
in time of trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- C **You are my hiding-place;**
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- L "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.
- C **Do not be like horse or mule,**
which have no understanding; *
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."
- L Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.
- C **Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; ***
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Celebrant and People

Glory to the ✠ Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

May we hear the Word of God through these words.

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Romans 5:12–19

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-- sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn ***Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*** H142

Lord, who throughout these forty days
for us didst fast and pray,
teach us with thee to mourn our sins,
and close by thee to stay.

As thou with Satan didst contend,
and didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight,
in thee to conquer sin.

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 Matthew 4:1—11

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

And through these days of penitence,
and through thy Passiontide,
yea, evermore, in life and death,
Jesus! with us abide.

Abide with us, that so, this life
of suffering overpast,
an Easter of unending joy
we may attain at last!

❖ Sermon Wilmot T. Merchant, II ❖

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



Please stand.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation

We bow for the following two lines in bold.

he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

✝ We 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

BCP 389

The Leader and People pray responsively.

Leader The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Leader Let us pray.

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

People ***Lord have mercy***

For Sarah, The Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean our Presiding Bishop, Ruth our Bishop, Wilmot our Priest, Cathy our Deacon, and for all Bishops and other Ministers; and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

People ***Lord have mercy***

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

People ***Lord have mercy***

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

People ***Lord have mercy***

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

People ***Lord have mercy***

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

People ***Lord have mercy***

For those in positions of public trust, especially for Donald our President, Henry our Governor, and Jay our Mayor, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

People ***Lord have mercy***

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord.

People Lord have mercy

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

People Lord have mercy

For this *congregation*, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

People Lord have mercy

For our enemies and those who wish us harm; and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.

People Lord have mercy

For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord.

People Lord have mercy

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

People Lord have mercy

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed St. Stephen, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

People Lord have mercy

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: The Episcopal Church in Okatie, Ridgeland, The Rev. Pam Fahrner, Interim Priest-in-charge, *and The Church of Ireland.*

Lord, in your mercy.

People *Hear our prayer.*

**Additional Prayers*

LET US GIVE THANKS FOR OUR VISITORS.

LET US PRAY FOR TRAVELERS THIS WEEK.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: David Thomas II (2/26), Donna Wilt (2/27), Joan Jones (2/29).

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

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: **Nina Barnes, Pete & Betsy Barr, Jerry Bart, Charlie Benson, Chris & Ellen Benson, Mary Ann & Peter Berthrong, Esther Bilton, Sara Binkley & James Ginley, Iryna, Alex, Sofia, Nick & Oleksandra Bobir, Erin Bosse & Elijah Johnson.**

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 continues

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept.

Celebrant and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Celebrant stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People Amen.

Please stand.

The Peace

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

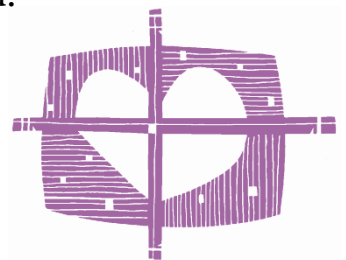
Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

At the conclusion of the peace the Celebrant says

Celebrant God is Good!

People All the Time!



Please sit.

The Holy Communion

Offertory

Lead Me Lord

S. Wesley

Please stand.

Doxology

Old Hundredth

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 B

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

***People* And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

***People* We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***People* It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People—to be said
Bow during the underlined text*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

+ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Please sit, kneel, or remain standing.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Stephen, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People Amen.

And now as our Savior Christ 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 *Celebrant and People ~ to be said.*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

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.*

Please join in singing our Communion Hymns.

God Is So Good

LEVAS 214

God is so good, God is so good,
God is so good, He's so good to me.

He cares for me, He cares for me,
He cares for me, He's so good to me.

He's all I need, He's all I need,
He's all I need, He's so good to me.

God will provide, God will provide,
God will provide, He'll provide for me.

God answers prayers, God answers prayers,
God answers prayers, He's so good to me.

What Wondrous Love is This

Hymnal 439

What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this,
O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to lay aside his crown
for my soul, for my soul,
to lay aside his crown
for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb,
I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb,
I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb
who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme
I will sing.

And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free
I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity
I'll sing on.

The People join in saying this prayer

Almighty and ever-living 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 for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant gives the blessing

May Christ, the Son of God be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and your loved ones far and near, and remain with 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.**



Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee,
yet possessing every blessing,
if our God our Father be.

Savior, breathe forgiveness o'er us;
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us;
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
yet unfearing, persevering,
to thy passion thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy;
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy;
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

The Celebrant dismisses the people.

Celebrant We are called to be one with God and each other in Christ.
People ***By living the Gospel with love and compassion.***

Celebrant 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)

This Week

- Monday, 10:00 am, Daughters of the King, PHCR.
- Monday, 11:00 am, Yarns & Threads, Parish Hall.
- Monday, 6:30—8:30 pm, Parish Hall and PHCR in use.
- Tuesday—all day, City of NMB Elections in Parish Hall.
- Tuesday, CANCELLED, Rummage Ministry.
- Tuesday, 4:00 pm, Parish Hall in use.
- Wednesday, 10:30, Men's Prayer Group, PHCR.
- CANCELLED—Wednesday Public Service of Healing & Holy Eucharist.
- Wednesday, 12:00 noon, Community Lenten Journey at Little River United Methodist Church.
- Wednesday, 5:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room.
- Wednesday, 6:30—8:30 pm, Parish Hall and PHCR in use.
- Thursday, 10:00 am, Alzheimer's Support Group, PHCR.
- Saturday, Parish Life Coffee Hour Preparation, Kitchen.
- Saturday, Outreach Feeding Ministry, Kitchen.

God is good! All the time!

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COMMUNITY LENTEN JOURNEY



Schedule of Service
Wednesdays
12:00 noon

February 25

The Very Rev. Canon Dr. Wilmot
Merchant II
Rector, St. Stephen's Episcopal
Church

March 4

Rev. Christina Johnson
Pastor, King of Glory Lutheran
Church

March 11

Rev. Tony Adams
Pastor, Little River United
Methodist Church

March 18

Bishop Terry Dance
Interim, St. Stephen's Episcopal
Church

March 25

Rev. Gene Aiken
Pastor, Trinity United Methodist
Church

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
presents



Dr. Tamar Ben-Pazi, Music Director

"Love Is a Many Splendored Thing"



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Sunday, March 15, 2026, 4 p.m.
801 11th Avenue North
North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582



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

Deacon: The Rev. Catherine A. Harper

Dir of Music: Roberta Rowland-Raybold, c.a.g.o.

Verger: Robert Dunn

MINISTERS AND LAYLEADERS

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

- ❖ Sue Crouch, Senior Warden (2026) ❖ Chris Welborn, Junior Warden (2027)
- ❖ Robert Dunn (2026) ❖ Wayne Mumford (2026) ❖ Mike Raley (2027)
- ❖ Tracy Thompson (2027) ❖ Pete Barr (2028) ❖ Dean Graves (2028)
- ❖ Richard Martin, Jr. (2028).

Associate Vestry Members

- ❖ Joe Lenhard (2026) ❖ Glenda Scherer (2026) ❖ Bill Simpson, Jr. (2026)

Vestry Officers

- ❖ Bill Mann, Treasurer ❖ Kathy Finch, Assistant Treasurer