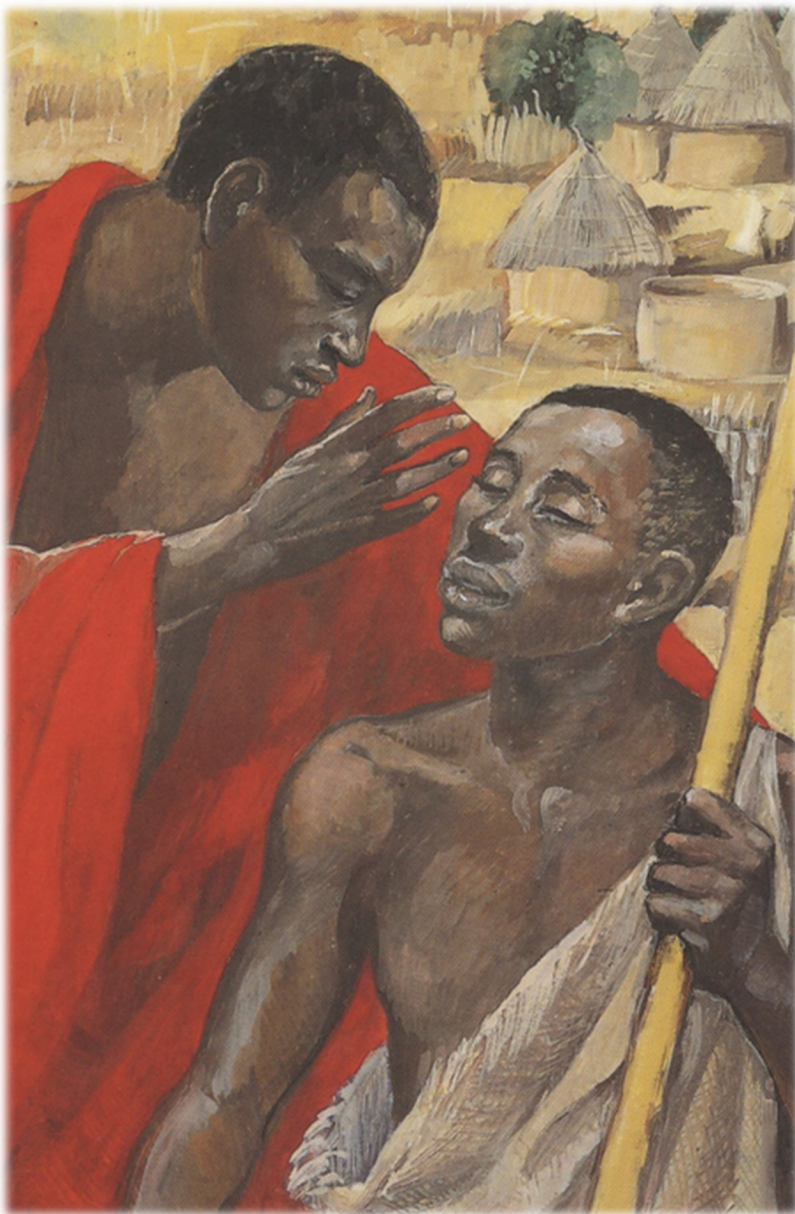


ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023, 8:00 and 10:30 am Worship Services



Jesus Cures the Man Born Blind

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

Prelude

Hark! A Voice Saith All are Mortal J.S. Bach

✝ ***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 ***O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*** Hymnal 493

O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim
and spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy Name.

Jesus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.

He speaks; and, listening to his voice, new life the dead receive,
the mournful broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.

Hear him, ye deaf; ye voiceless ones, your loosened tongues employ;
ye blind, behold, your Savior comes; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

Glory to God and praise and love be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heaven.

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 Fourth Sunday in Lent

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; 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 First Book of Samuel 16:1–13

The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the LORD.” But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Here endeth the Reading

Psalm 23

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

L The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.

**C He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.**

L He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

**C Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

L You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.

**C Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

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 Ephesians 5:8–14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Here endeth the Reading.

Gradual Hymn

Have Thine Own Way, Lord!

LEVAS 145

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!

Thou art the potter, I am the clay!

Mold me and make me After thy will,

While I am waiting, Yielded and still.

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!

Search me and try me, Master, today!

Purer than snow, Lord, Wash me just now,

As in thy presence Humbly I bow.

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 9:1—41
People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.” The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do

not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The Gospel of the Lord

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Sermon Hymn

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!

Wounded and weary, Help me, I pray!

Power all power Surely is thine!

Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!

Hold o’er my being Absolute sway!

Fill with thy Spirit ’Til all shall see

Christ only, always, Living in me!

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 388

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 Justin, The Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, Ruth our Bishop, Wilmot our Priest, 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 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: Beverly Wilson (3/19), Amy Austin (3/19), Vickie Arrington (3/23), Ann Geoghegan (3/25).

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: **Eloise** Perry, **Marialice** Phillips, **Mike & Babs** Raley, **Helen** Rapp, **Sue** Reynolds, **Glen & Pam** Rhodes, **Wyck** Richards & **Bernie** Walsh, **Tom & Sandy** Richmond, **Dave** Rossi, **Al & Liz** Rotherham.

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	<i>Of the Father's Love Begotten</i>	R. Rowland-Raybold
10:30	<i>Bread of Life</i>	J. Raney

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 Breaking of the Bread

BCP 337

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

Celebrant and People ~ To be 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.

Spirit Song

LEVAS 118

Oh, let the Son of God enfold you,
with His Spirit and His love,
Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.
Oh, let Him have the things that hold you,
and His Spirit like a dove,
Will descend upon your life,
and make you whole.

*Jesus. Oh, Jesus, come and fill your lambs.
Jesus. Oh, Jesus, come and fill your lambs.*

Oh, come and sing this song with gladness,
as your hearts are filled with joy,
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name.
Oh, give Him all your tears and sadness,
give Him all your years of pain,
And you'll enter into life
in Jesus' name.

Refrain

There Is a Balm in Gilead

LEVAS 203

*There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole;
There is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.*

Sometimes I feel discouraged,
And think my work's in vain,
But then the holy spirit
Revives my soul again.

Refrain

If you cannot preach like Peter,
If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus,
And say He died for all.

Refrain

Don't ever be discouraged
For Jesus is your friend,
And if you lack for knowledge,
He'll ne'er refuse to lend.

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:

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.

Please be seated for a brief announcement.

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 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

LEVAS 196

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

*Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

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

Sonata in c minor

A. Guilmont

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

- ❖ Monday, March 20, *St. Stephen's Crochet & Knitters*, 10:00 am, Parish Hall.
- ❖ Tuesday, March 21, *Rummage Ministry*, 9:00 am—12:00 noon.
- ❖ CANCELLED—Wednesday Public Service of Healing & Holy Eucharist, 12:00 noon.
- ❖ Wednesday, March 22, *Community Lenten Service*, 12:00 noon, Little River United Methodist Church.
- ❖ Wednesday, March 22, *Vestry Meeting*, 1:30 pm, Parish Hall Small Conference Room.
- ❖ Thursday, March 23, *American Red Cross Blood Drive*, 11:00 am—3:00 pm, Parish Hall.
- ❖ Saturday, March 25, ***Parish Hall In Use***, 8:00 am—12:00 pm.
- ❖ Sunday, March 26, *Music for the Seasons Spring Organ Concert*, 3:00 pm, Sanctuary.

Cover image: JESUS MAFA. Jesus cures the man born blind, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48383> [retrieved March 12, 2023].
Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

Music not in Public Domain covered under One License #729456-A or St. James Press License #15729.



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. Canon Dr. Wilmot T. Merchant, II
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

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 801 11th Avenue North, North Myrtle Beach SC 29582, 843.249.1169