

# ST. STEPHEN'S

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## Second Sunday after Christmas

January 3, 2021

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Welcome! We are excited to share in this service with you. You can see in our order of worship that you too can participate through presence and response.

To learn more about St. Stephen's, visit [ststephensth.org](http://ststephensth.org). For pastoral assistance, please call 812-232-5165.

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### The Word of God

*One* The people who walked in darkness

*All* **have seen a great light.**

*One* For to us a child is born

*All* **to us a Son is given.**

*One* His name will be called wonderful, counsellor, mighty God,

*All* **the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.**

*One* Glory to God in the highest

*All* **and peace to God's people on earth.**

### The Collect of the Day

*One* God be with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

*One* Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*All* **Amen.**

### First Reading

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

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

## **Psalm 84:1-8**

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! \*  
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \*  
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,  
my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*  
they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*  
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, \*  
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, \*  
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; \*  
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; \*  
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

## **The Gospel**

Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

*One* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*All* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night,

and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

*One*            The Gospel of the Lord.  
*All*            **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **The Response**

The Rev. Drew Downs

## **The Nicene Creed**

*All*            We believe in one God,  
                  the Father, the Almighty,  
                  maker of heaven and earth,  
                  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  
                  he came down from heaven,  
                  was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
                  and became truly human.  
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,

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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.

## Prayers of the People

*Deacon* As we celebrate with joy the birth of Jesus to Jews,  
let us offer prayers to God who gathers his sons and daughters in a holy family.

*Leader* By the birth of the timeless Son of God in the womb of the Virgin Mary.

*People* **Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For Michael our presiding bishop, Jennifer our bishop,  
Drew our priest, Deby our deacon, Joanna our transitional deacon,  
for all bishops, priests, and deacons,  
all who minister in Christ,  
and for all the holy people of God.

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For the Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria,  
the Dioceses of Brasilia, Haiti, and South Sudan,  
Trinity, Bloomington, our 7th Street neighbors,  
and for all believers who put their trust in the incarnate Son of God,

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For the leaders of the nations and all in authority, and for peace and justice.

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For the wall around Bethlehem and all other barriers to come down,

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed,  
for those in prison, and for the dying and the dead.

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For those who have asked our prayers:

Sheila Carl, Sally Newlin, Ray Snyder, Linda Hegedus, Robin Rolt, Megan Price,  
Richard Hillier, Jonnee Western, Terry Persinger, John Bonner, Martha Hafner,  
Ellie Thomas, Joe Kuhn, Justin Mendoza, Aaron Campbell, Kay Griswold,  
David Mier, Patrick Murphy, Jeff Vicars, Dave Thomas,

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need.

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For ourselves, our families, and all those we love,  
those celebrating birthdays,  
especially Jordan Bayles (1/5), and Susan Pflieger (1/6),  
those celebrating baptismal anniversaries,  
especially Theresa Jackson (1/3).

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

Remembering our most glorious and blessed Virgin Mary,  
St. Joseph, and all the saints,  
let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

**To you, O Lord.**

*Presider* God of all families and peoples, accept the prayers we offer in this joyful season. As we welcome this mystery of your love, may we delight in our joy as children and heirs of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer**

*One* As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,  
*All* **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

**Prayer**

*One* God of love and new life, you have given us the greatest gift in the incarnate Christ, and offered him to us in the most humble way. Lead us to know the divine presence in our mundane lives, spark our wonder so that we may see you in our neighbors, and enlighten our hearts to proclaim with joy his presence, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

**Blessing**

*Presider* May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

**Dismissal**

*One* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

*All* **Thanks be to God!**



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*[www.ststephensth.org](http://www.ststephensth.org)*

*Worship Online: Sunday 10 am*