

ST. STEPHEN'S

First Sunday after Christmas

December 27, 2020

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. For pastoral assistance, please call 812-232-5165.

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.

We give you thanks, O Lord of glory, for the example of the first martyr Stephen, who looked up to heaven and prayed for his persecutors to your Son Jesus Christ, who stands at your right hand; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

All **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 6:8-7:2a,51c-60

Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated some men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." They stirred up the

people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. They set up false witnesses who said, "This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us." And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Then the high priest asked him, "Are these things so?"

And Stephen replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me. You are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it."

When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31:1-5

1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.

2 Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me,
O Lord, O God of truth.

The Gospel

Matthew 23:34-39

One The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Therefore I send you prophets, sages, and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town, so that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. Truly I tell you, all this will come upon this generation.

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you, desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, `Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

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 join the whole creation and celebrate with joy the Word made flesh,
let us offer prayers to God who dwells among us to the end of time.

Leader By the wedding of the human and divine natures in Christ Jesus.

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 church throughout the world,
for Christians in other denominations and the work of the ecumenical movement,
the Dioceses of Brasilia, Haiti, and South Sudan,
Holy Family, Fishers, our 7th Street neighbors, and the faithful in every place,

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For Christians in other denominations and the work of the ecumenical movement,
the Dioceses of Brasilia, Haiti, and South Sudan,
Holy Family, Fishers, 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 Linda Airhart (12/30), Lauren Latta (1/2),

and Donald Layton (1/2).

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

Remembering our most glorious and blessed Virgin Mary,

St. Stephen, and all the saints,

let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

To you, O Lord.

Presider

Source of grace and truth, accept the prayers we offer on this joyful feast. May we come to see the true light who shines throughout the world and who is God for all eternity; 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 the Sun of righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before our path; 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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Worship Online: Sunday 10 am*