St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Church on Main Street...
where love begets love

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, February 22, 2026

Holy Eucharist, Rite II at 10:00am

Welcome to St. Stephen's Church. We are delighted that you are here.

All of what you need to join us is in this bulletin or in one of two hymnals:

Hymnal 1982 (the blue book)
"H" followed by a number indicates hymns.
"S" followed by a number indicates selections that appear in the front section of the blue hymnal.

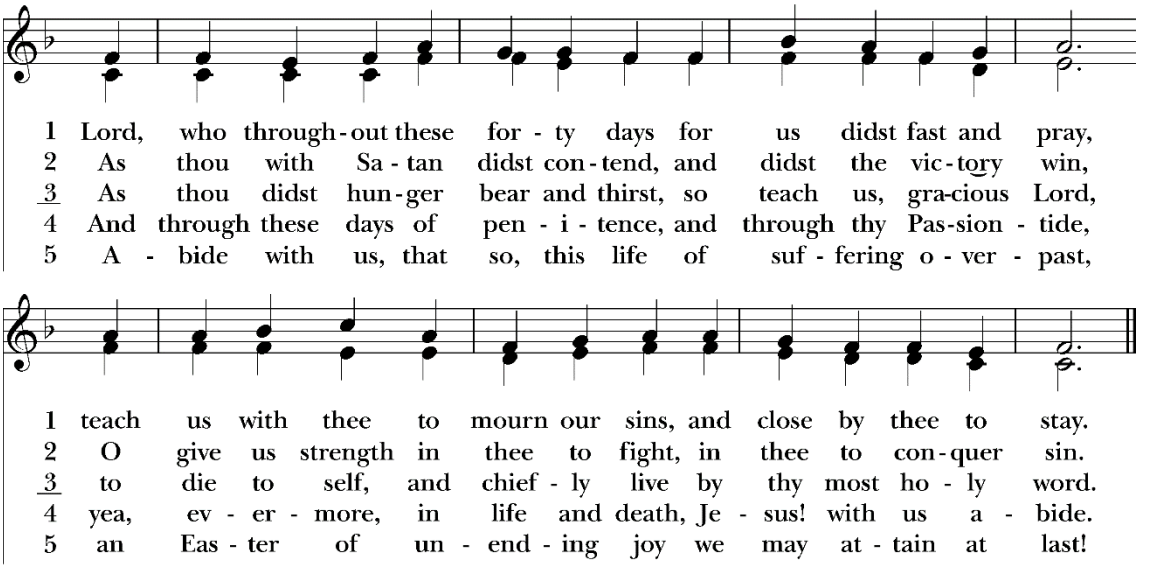
St. Stephen's Hymnal (the red spiral bound book):
"SSH" followed by a number indicates hymns.

PRELUDE

Gather
We come together to praise God.

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN
H 142 Lord, who throughout these forty days *St. Flavian*



WELCOME

Word

We hear and respond to the story of God's liberating acts.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
His mercy endures for ever.

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your 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 commandment greater than these." Mark 12:29-31

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will.

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

KYRIE

S 96 Lord, have mercy upon us *Schubert*



Word

We hear and respond to the story of God's liberating acts.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** 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. **Amen**.

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

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.
Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 32, *The Saint Helena Psalter*

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

and did not conceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to God."
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you
in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.
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."
Great are the tribulations of the wicked,
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Most High.
Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in God;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

THE SECOND LESSON

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome. 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.

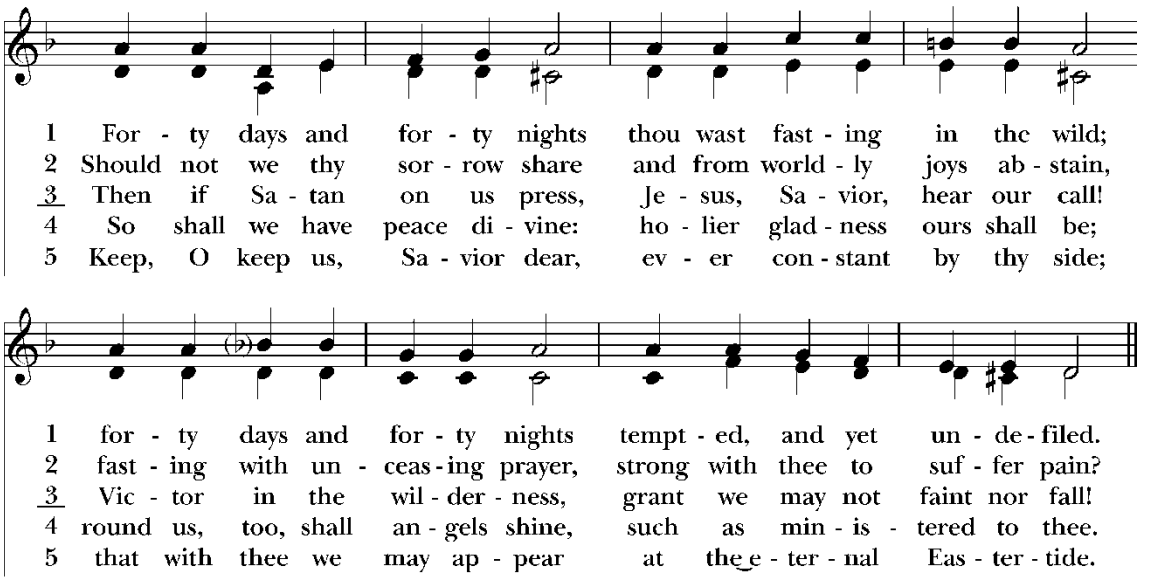
Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

SEQUENCE HYMN

H 150 Forty days and forty nights *Aus der Tiefe rufe ich*



THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. 4:1-11

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.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

THE SERMON *The Rev. Paula J. Toland*

Please stand as you are able.

THE NICENE CREED *Enriching Our Worship*

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 *for Social Justice*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

God of love, we pray for your church: For Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Carlye, our bishop; for all lay and ordained ministers; and for all who seek you in the community of the faithful. We pray for Paula, our Rector; Karen, our Deacon; and Maryalice and Roger, our Wardens. Equip us with compassion and love, to carry out your work of reconciliation in the world.
God of love, **Hear our prayers for the church.**

Silence

God of freedom, we pray for our nation, and all the nations of the world: For peace and unity across barriers of language, color, and creed; for elected and appointed leaders, that they would serve the common good. Inspire all people with courage to speak out against hatred, to actively resist evil. We pray for Donald, our President; J.D., our Vice-President; Mikie, our Governor; and Frank, our mayor. Unite the human family in bonds of love.
God of freedom, **Hear our prayers for the world.**

Silence

God of healing, we pray for healing and peace, to all who have been harmed, live in fear, or experience anxiety because of the words and actions of leaders anywhere. For those who are in detention.Give those who are at risk an awareness of your love and protection.
God of healing, **Hear our prayers for our vulnerable siblings.**

Silence

God of strength, we pray for allies and advocates everywhere that they may continue the fight to uphold the dignity and worth of every human being as they walk alongside those who have experienced dehumanizing or demoralizing treatment of any kind. Give us courage to fight injustice in all its forms**.**
God of strength, **Hear our prayers for bold resisters.**

Silence

God of justice, we pray for the earth, your creation entrusted to our care: For the animals and birds, the mountains and oceans, and all parts of your creation that have no voice of their own. Stir up in us a thirst for justice that protects the earth and all its resources, that we may leave to our children's children the legacy of beauty and abundance that you have given us.
God of justice, **Hear our prayers for the earth.**

Silence

God of peace, we pray for this community: For our local leaders; for our schools and markets; for our neighborhoods and workplaces. Kindle in every heart a desire for equality, respect, and opportunity for all. Give us courage to strive for justice and peace among all people, beginning here at home.
God of peace, **Hear our prayers for this community.**

Silence

God of mercy, we pray for all in any kind of need or trouble: For those whose lives are closely linked with ours, and those connected to us as part of the human family. For:

Gina del Russo	Martha Lipowski	Kayt and Adam Zielinski
Mary Loucas	Keith Taber	Victor Calantoni
Evie Larson	Maryann Ekberg	Jenna Mitchell
Donna Riggi	Lizzie Ekberg	Brian Nusom
Mary Ruth Stone	Boyd Hunnaman	Melissa Biren
Kris Hunt	James K.	Karen Eberhardt
Aldaiza DaSilva	Walter	Shelley T.
Antonio DaSilva	Ron G.	Sue and Larry H.
Carol & Kyle McManus	Marvin	Maureen Burke Rockaway

For refugees and prisoners; for the sick and suffering, the lonely and despairing; for those facing violence; for all held down by prejudice or injustice. Awaken in us compassion and humility of spirit, as we seek and serve Christ in all persons.
God of mercy, **Hear our prayers for all who are in need.**

Silence

God of grace, we pray for those who have died: For the faithful in every generation who have worked for justice; for prophets who called us to racial reconciliation; for martyrs who died because of hatred; and for all the communion of saints. Make us faithful to your call to proclaim your Good News, by word and example, and bring us at last into the glorious company of the saints in light.
God of grace, **Hear our prayers for those who have died.**

Silence

The Presider offers a Concluding Collect.

Hear our prayers, Holy God. Breathe your Spirit over us and all the earth, that barriers would crumble and divisions cease. Make us more fully your co-healers of the broken world. Unite us with all people in bonds of love, that the whole earth and all its peoples may be at peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

Table

We offer our gifts, give thanks, and we gather at Christ's banquet.

Please be seated.

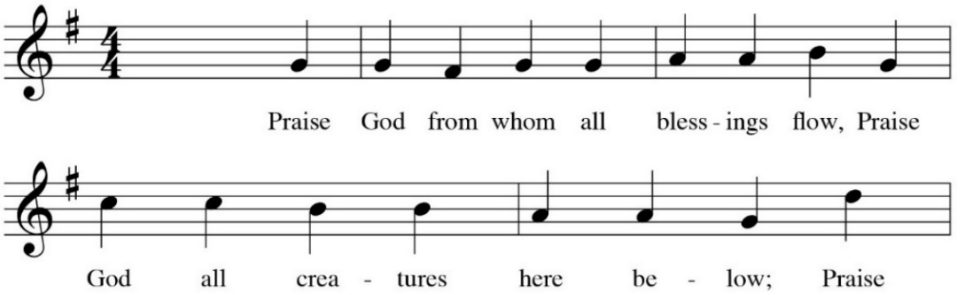
OFFERTORY ANTHEM

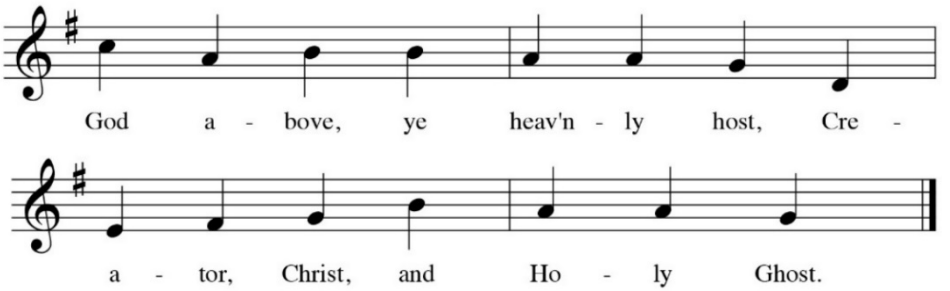
Give me — *Kwhaja Abdullah Ansarai; Carson P. Cooman*
Senior Choir

Please stand as you are able.

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow — *Tallis*





GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

You bid your 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 your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

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

SANCTUS

S 130 Holy, holy, holy Lord *Schubert*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Creator of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, our Mother, 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 & THE INVITATION

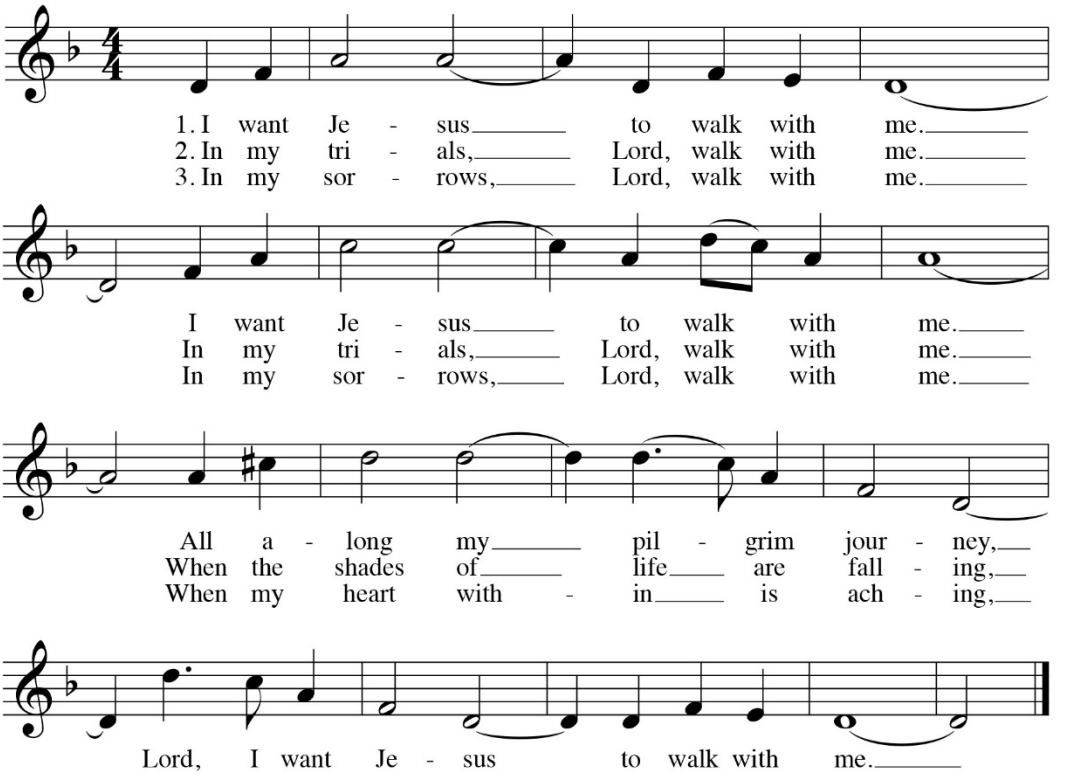
We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Whoever you are, where ever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome at Christ's table.

All are welcome at God's table to receive Communion or a blessing. Gluten-free hosts are available. Please use the hand sanitizer available in the pew before coming forward.

COMMUNION HYMN

SSH 24 I want Jesus to walk with me *Negro Spiritual*



Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual

Please stand as you are able.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Holy God, let us not leave your Table unchanged, but as people committed to loving one another as we are loved by you. Let Jesus' birth remind us to look for your image in all people, especially the most vulnerable among us. May the light of the guiding star illuminate our path as we move out into the world to share your love with others. And may the peace and promise of the Christ-child dwell within us and around us in ways that touch the lives of others and honor your creation. Amen.

Sending

We go forth as Christ's body in the world.

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

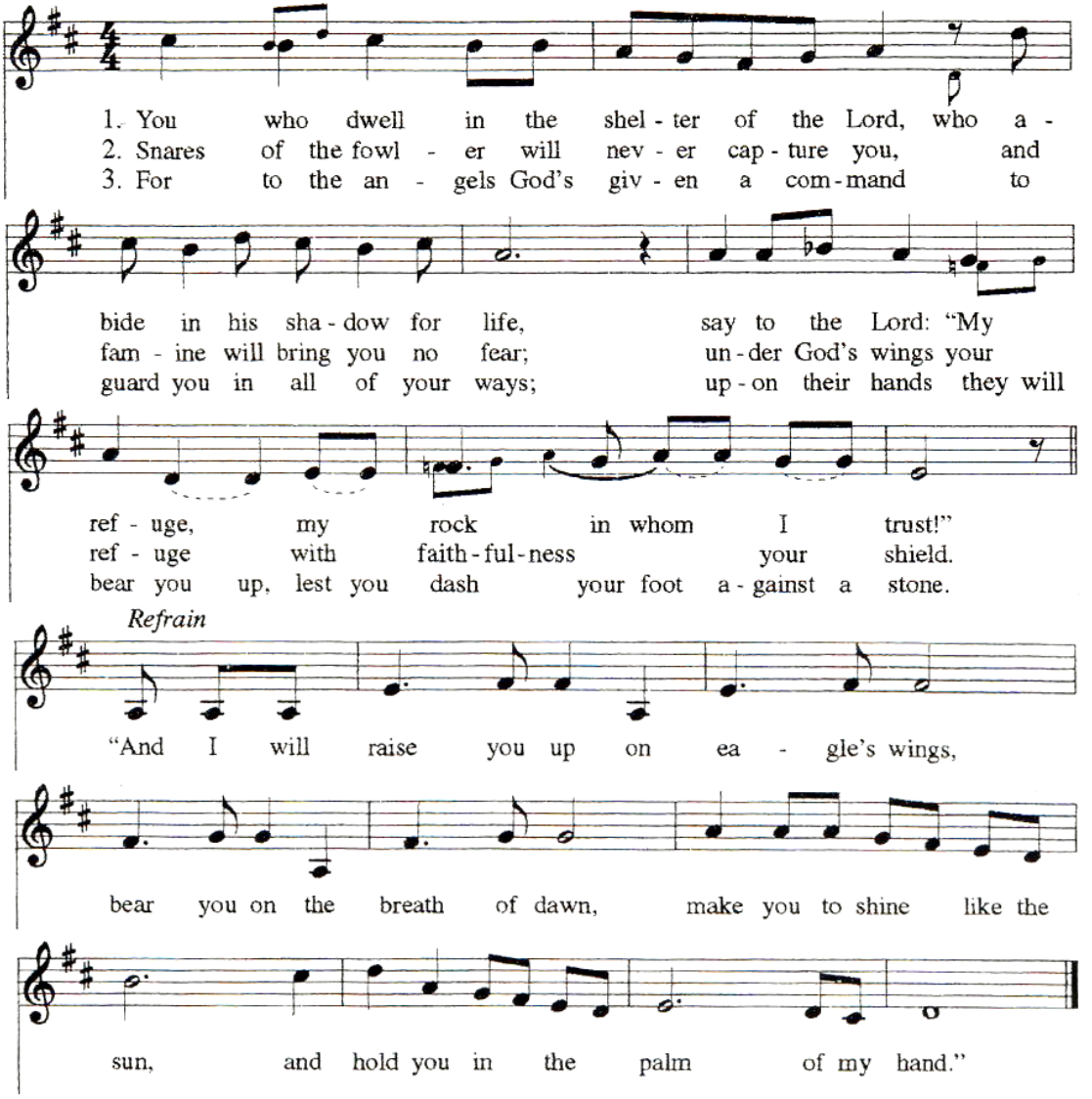
Please stand as you are able.

BENEDICTION

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice for ever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

SSH 46 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord *Michael Joncas*



Words and Music: Michael Joncas (b. 1951). © 1979, 1991 New Dawn Music, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Reprinted under LicenSingOnline #L8433.

THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE

LITURGICAL STEWARDSHIP

Officiant:	The Rev. Paula J. Toland
Deacon:	The Rev. Deacon Karen Eberhardt
Minister of Music:	Kim Williams
Organist:	John Schucker
Crucifer/Chalicer:	
Reader/Intercessor:	
Greeter/Usher:	Irene, Jennifer
Altar Guild:	Julia, Ruth, Irene, Maria N.
Tech Verger:	Ron
Coffee Hour Hosts:	Adam, Katie & Family

Source for today's lectionary: The Revised Common Lectionary (RCL)
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Upcoming Events

Details can be found in the weekly e-newsletter, which is available on our website.

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
2/22	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	11:30 AM	Lenten Series
	1:00 PM	AA Meeting
2/23	7:30 PM	MA Meeting
2/25	7:30 PM	Finance Committee Meeting
3/1	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	11:30 AM	Lenten Series
	1:00 PM	AA Meeting

ANNUAL MEETING – Mark your calendars and plan to join us on Sunday, March 8th! We will meet in the Parish Hall following Sunday service. The Vestry will be hosting coffee hour.

BECKERATH ORGAN
1970

GREAT		SWELL	
Principal	8	Gedackt	8
Rohrflöte	8	Rohrflöte	4
Gemshorn	8	Principal	2
Céleste	8	Quinte	1 1/3
Octave	4	Sesquialtera	II ranks
Waldflöte	4	Cymbel	III ranks
Flachflöte	2	Krummhorn	8
Mixture	V ranks	Tremolo	
Trumpet	8		

PEDAL			
Subbass	16	SWELL to GREAT	
Principal	8	GREAT to PEDAL	
Choralbass	4	SWELL to PEDAL	
Mixture	IV ranks		
Fagott	16		

LENT AND EASTER SERVICES

March 29 – Palm Sunday
10:00am Holy Eucharist with Procession of the Palms

April 1 – Wednesday in Holy Week
7:30pm Tenebrae Service

April 2 – Thursday in Holy Week
6:30 - 8:00pm Maundy Thursday and Agape Supper

April 3 – Good Friday
12:00pm Prayer Service
7:30pm Solemn Collects w/ Veneration of the Cross

April 4 – Holy Saturday
10:00am Liturgy of Holy Saturday

April 5 – Easter
10:00am Easter Day Service
11:30am Easter Egg Hunt

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"A diverse Episcopal parish, a life-giving sanctuary, a place where love begets love. Seekers, doubters, and believers find a comfortable place in our midst."

119 Main Street, Millburn, NJ 07041 / 973-376-0688 / ststephensmillburn.org
Rector: The Rev. Paula J. Toland; Emergency Contact: 508-542-1327
Parish Administrator: Maria T. Card

Minister of Music: Kim Williams; Organist: John Schucker

Members of the Vestry
Maryalice Chech: Warden, People & Programs; Roger Riedel, Warden, Property & Preschool; Ashley Morgan: Treasurer; Fran Taber; Kira Hanson; Linda Soughan; Steve Moran; Tom Hillemeier; Barbara Riedel: Recording Secretary & Clerk

Sheelagh Clarke; Eugene Foley: Vestry Emeriti

If you wish to receive the weekly e-newsletter, please contact the parish office at 973-376-0688 or church@ststephensmillburn.org.