St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, March 8, 2026

Holy Eucharist, Rite II at 10:00am

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

The second Sunday of the month we have our "Second Sunday Intergenerational Service." Our children and youth join us for the entirety of the service, with some serving as liturgical ministers. We use child specific resources for some of the readings and prayers, and make other changes so the liturgy is more accessible to the younger among us.

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.
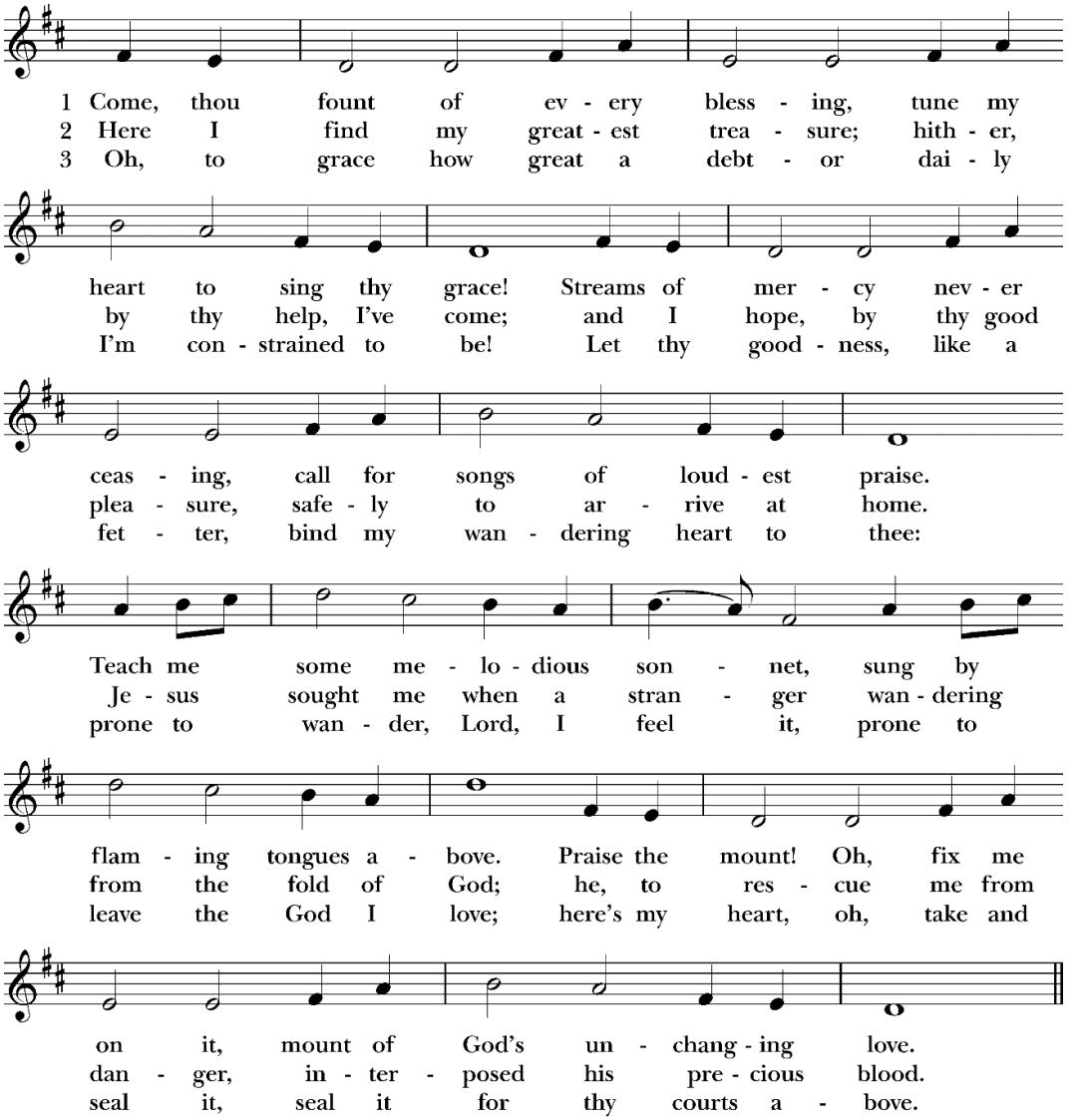
PRELUDE

Gather
We come together to praise God.

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN

H 686 Come, thou fount of every blessing *Nettleton*



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

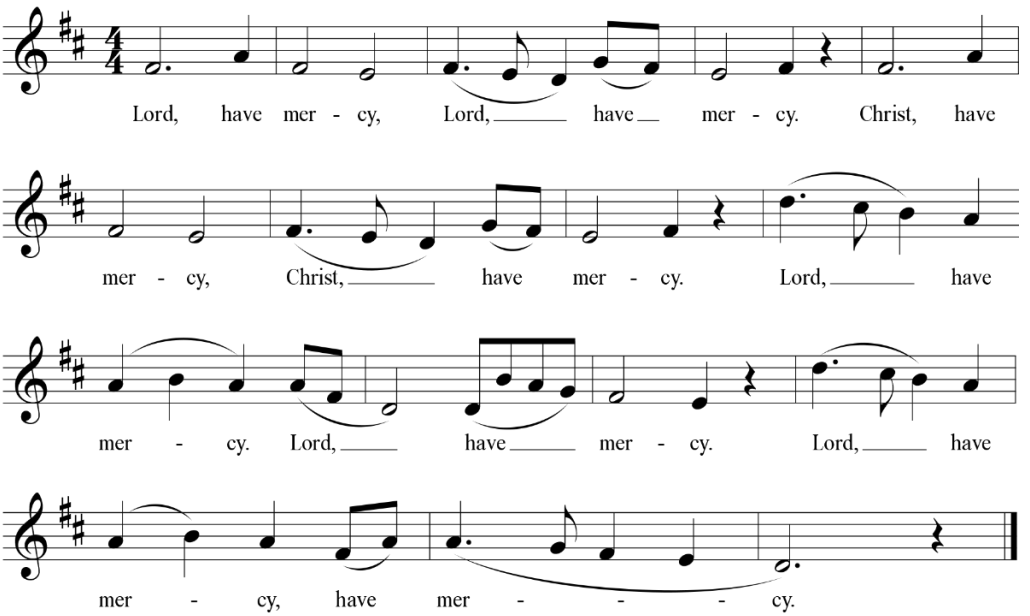
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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*



Setting: From Deutsche Messe; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**.

Please be seated.

THE LESSON

A Reading from the book of Exodus. 17:1-7

The whole Israelite community left the Desert of Sin. They traveled from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim. But there was no water there for the people to drink. 2 So they quarreled with Moses. They said, "Give us water to drink."

But Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why are you testing the Lord?"

But the people were very thirsty for water. So they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt? Was it to kill us, our children and our farm animals with thirst?"

So Moses cried to the Lord, "What can I do with these people? They are almost ready to kill me with stones."

The Lord said to Moses, "Go ahead of the people of Israel. And take some of the elders of Israel with you. Carry with you the walking stick that you used to strike the Nile River. Now go! I will stand in front of you on a rock at Mount Sinai. Hit that rock with the stick, and water will come out of it. Then the people can drink." Moses did these things as the elders of Israel watched. Moses named that place Massah because the Israelites tested the Lord. They asked, "Is the Lord with us or not?" He also named it Meribah because they quarreled.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

ICB, adapted

Let us read Psalm 95 responsively.

Come, let's sing for joy to the Lord.
Let's shout praises to the Rock who saves us.
Let's come to him with thanksgiving.
Let's sing songs to him.
The Lord is the great God.
He is the great King over all gods.
The deepest places on earth are his.
And the highest mountains belong to him.
The sea is his because he made it.
He created the land with his own hands.

The Lord is the great God.
He is the great King over all gods.

Come, let's bow down and worship him.
Let's kneel before the Lord who made us.
He is our God.
And we are the people he takes care of
and the sheep that he tends.
The Lord is the great God.
He is the great King over all gods.
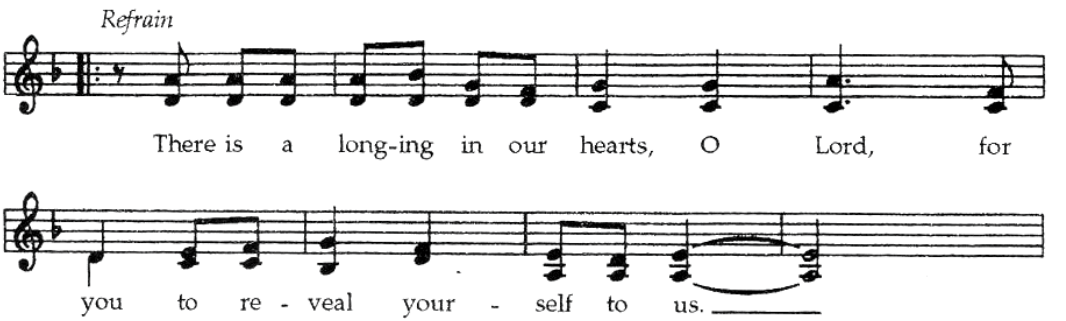
Today listen to what he says:
"Do not be stubborn, as your ancestors were at Meribah,
as they were that day at Massah in the desert.
There your ancestors tested me.
They put me to the test even though they saw what I did.
The Lord is the great God.
He is the great King over all gods.

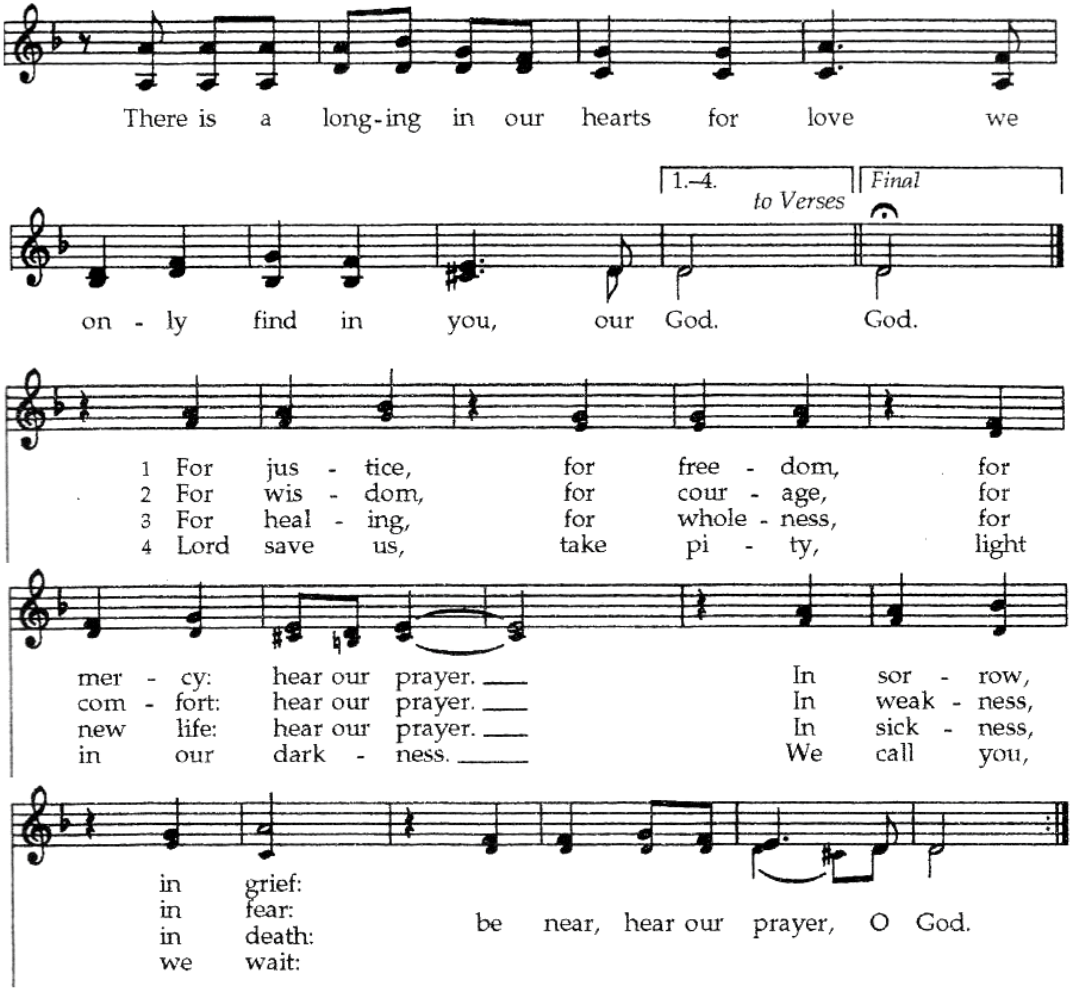
I was angry with those people for 40 years.
I said, 'They are not loyal to me.
They have not understood my ways.'
I was angry and made a promise,
'They will never enter my land of rest.'"
The Lord is the great God.
He is the great King over all gods.

Please stand as you are able.

SEQUENCE HYMN

SSH 55 There is a longing in our hearts *Anne Quigley*





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THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. 4:5-42

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a

drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

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, for all who have been harmed, live in fear, or experience anxiety because of the words and actions of leaders anywhere. 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:

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	Sue and Larry H.
Antonio DaSilva	Ron G.	Maureen Burke Rockaway
Carol & Kyle McManus	Marvin	Maggie Holland
Martha Lipowski	Kayt and Adam Zielinski	Celine Ghiara

For refugees, prisoners, and those in detention; 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.

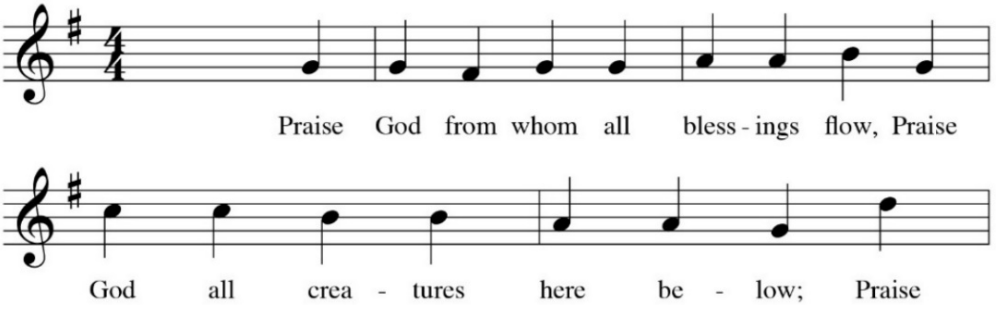
OFFERTORY ANTHEM

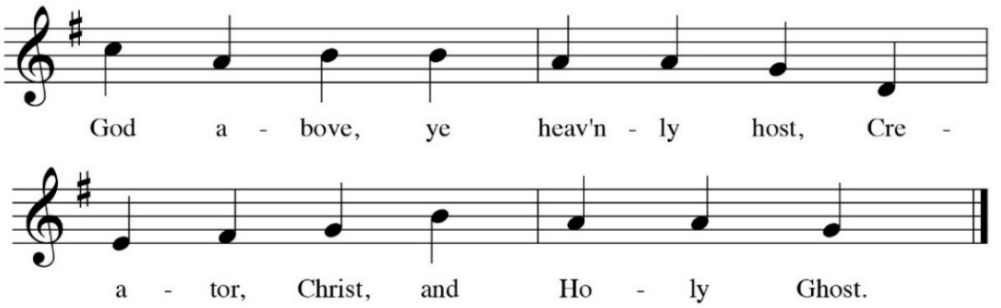
Grant me a blessing — *Joseph N. Heard*
Senior Choir

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

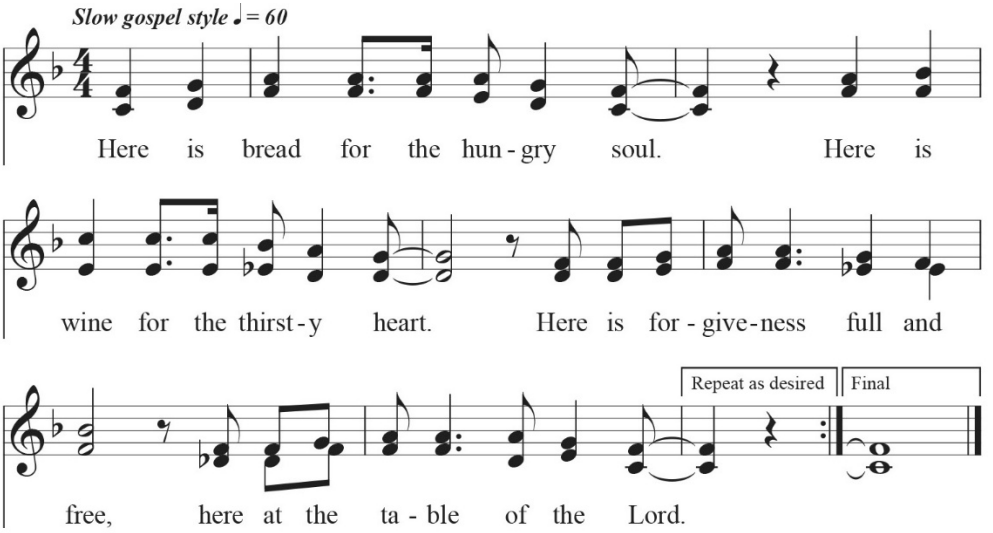
We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

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

Here is bread for the hungry soul *John Carter*



WORDS: Mary Kay Beall
MUSIC: John Carter
BOWLUS

Words and Music © 2014 Hope Publishing Company

Please stand as you are able.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Adapted from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*

Creator of all, we you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup, bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name. Amen.

Sending

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

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING OF THE SECOND SUNDAY SPECIAL GIVING
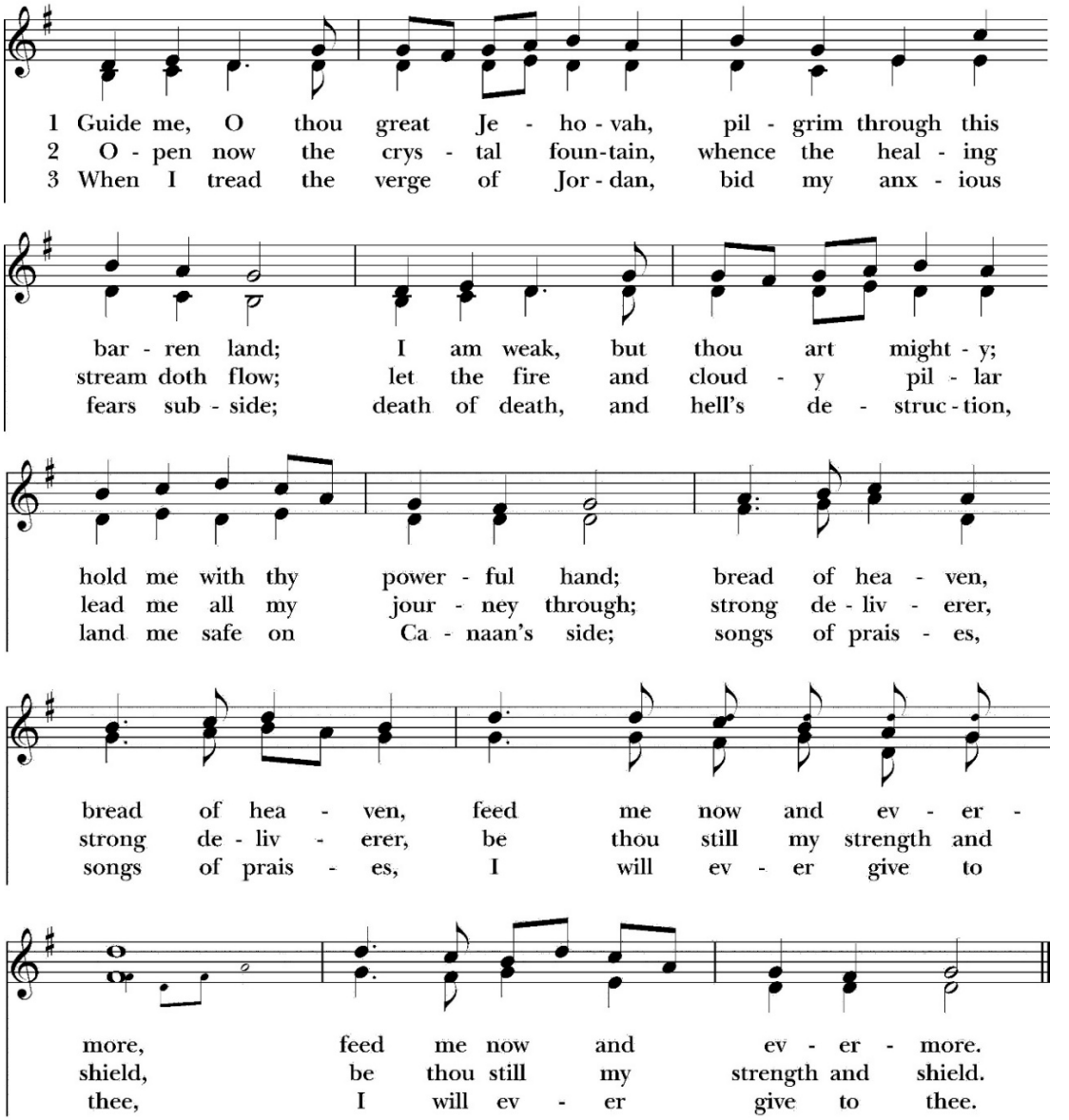
To benefit Drumming Camp

SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Look mercifully on this your family, Almighty God, that by your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

TRANSITIONAL HYMN

H 690 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah *Cwm Rhondda*



We will be dismissed at the end of the Annual Meeting.

THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth into the world to walk humbly with our God.
Thanks be to God.

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:	Eric
Reader/Intercessor:	Martin, Ava, Isabella
Oblations Bearer/Offering:	Rosie
Greeter/Usher:	Katie, Adam
Altar Guild:	Julia
Tech Verger:	Ron
Coffee Hour Hosts:	Vestry

Source for today's lectionary: The Children's International Bible
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Upcoming Events

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

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
3/8	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	11:00 AM	Annual Meeting
	1:00 PM	AA Meeting
3/9	7:30 PM	MA Meeting
3/15	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	11:30 AM	Vestry Meeting
	1:00 PM	AA Meeting

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

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