



The First Sunday of Advent
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
November 28, 2021
8:00am – Rite I
9:30am - Rite II

*“Before the service, speak silently to God.
During the service, let God speak to you.
After the service, speak to one another.”*

***A Warm Welcome** to all visitors to our parish today, and we hope that you will find St. Stephen's a spiritual home! Take a moment to introduce yourself to the clergy and greeters.*

Communion is a sign of the unity of the Church that Christ envisioned when he prayed "that they may become completely one" (John 17:23). Therefore, all baptized Christians may receive communion at the altar. Visitors who are not baptized are welcome to come forward during the Sacrament to receive a blessing. Fold your arms over your chest as indication to the priest.

Your prayers are asked for our parish, especially Byron Burgess, Tiger Warfield, Dave Brown, Louis George, Jim Duguid, Charles, Ann Gerald, Mead Parsons, Issac, Larry, Joan Parsons, Jack, Carver, Marianne, Kathy & Samuel Evans, Katie, Romana, Jeremy, Linda Kay, Angie, Mariah Patterson, Jaxon Minetti, Randal Hurst, Kim Muncy, Richard Klein, Patricia Meadows, Sandy, Jane Morton, Stephanie Bolen, Clayton, Lori, Rosanne, Catherine Newburg, Michael Quesenberry, Margaret Sayre, Preethi Naidu, and Valerie Ventura.

For those celebrating birthdays; this week: Nora Crawford-Sayre.

For those celebrating anniversaries;

In the Anglican cycle of prayer: The Episcopal Church of Brazil.

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer: Church of the Redeemer in Ansted and St. Andrew's in Oak Hill served by The Rev. Stan Holmes and The Rev. Maggie Blanchard.

For those serving in the armed forces especially: Jayson Morton, Nate Willard, Ben Sulwer, and Andrew Khalil.

For first responders, especially: Sam Tuttle and Lee Price

SERVING TODAY

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Dr. Susan Q. Claytor
Lector	Jason Hogie
Music	Donna Burnside
Choir Director	Robert Burnside
Soloist	Jason Hogie
Altar Guild	Peggy Cantley, Bessie Lively, and Doug Willis
Eucharistic Minister	Danielle Stewart

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

8:00 A.M.

The Word of God

Salutation **page 323** in the *Book of Common Prayer*

Gloria **page 324** in the *Book of Common Prayer*

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

The First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The Response: Psalm 25:1-9

The Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ: Luke 21:25-36

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Susan Claytor

The Nicene Creed

page 326 in the *Book of Common Prayer*

The Prayers of the People

page 328 in the *Book of Common Prayer*

Confession of Sin

page 330 in the *Book of Common Prayer*

The Peace

page 332 in the *Book of Common Prayer*

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer I

page 333 in the *Book of Common Prayer*

The Sanctus (*spoken*)

page 334 in the *Book of Common Prayer*

The Lord's Prayer

page 336 in the *Book of Common Prayer*

The Breaking of the Bread and Communion of the People

Post Communion Prayer

page 339 in the *Book of Common Prayer*

Blessing and Dismissal

Important News/Announcements are at the end of the bulletin following the 9:30 am service.

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Prelude

Opening Hymn: "Lo! He comes, with clouds descending,..." Hymnal page 58

The Word of God

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath "Light One Candle" Jason Hogie

Kyrie: Hymnal page S89

People The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A Reading from: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

The Word of the Lord... **Thanks be to God**

PSALM: 25:1-9

1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.

4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.

6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

EPISTLE: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord... **Thanks be to God**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 21:25-36.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.’

‘Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Susan Claytor

The Nicene Creed

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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
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 and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.

The Confession

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says

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

The Peace

 The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

Offertory Hymn: "Come, thou long expected Jesus,..." Hymnal page 66

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer D

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks;
for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light
inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all
things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to
rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you
night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence,
they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and
giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you,
and glorify your Name, as we sing (say),

Celebrant and People

S-129 Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it, and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

[Remember (NN. and) all who minister in your Church.]
[Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth.]
[Remember _____.]

[Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.]

And grant that we may find our inheritance with [the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, (with _____) and] all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. AMEN.

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

**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

[Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]

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.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

**My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present
in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.**

I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul.

**Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come spiritually into my heart.**

**I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you;
never permit me to be separated from you.**

Amen

After communion

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn: "Watchman, tell us of the night,..."

Hymnal page 640

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Announcements

*There is a sign-up sheet for St. Luke's gift wrapping at Crossroads Mall; all proceeds go to local concerns. Sign up for a time to wrap in between shopping!

*There will be an Episcopal service at St. Luke on Dec. 12th at 10am with a brunch following the service. Please take this time to connect with our sister church members. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for you to list a food item or sign up to assist in cleaning up afterwards.

*Don't forget to bring your canned meat (salmon, tuna, chicken) for the blessing boxes. Pop-top lids would be great, but all donations are appreciated.