

THE KALENDAR

S. Stephen's Church
in Providence

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT: *Laetare Sunday*

22 MARCH 2020

VIRTUAL LOW MASS 10 AM

THE OPENING RITE

OPENING ACCLAMATION *(Please stand)*

Celebrant ✠ Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

People His mercy endureth for ever.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

KYRIE ELEISON

Kyrie eleison. **Kyrie eleison.** Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison. Christe eleison. **Christe eleison.**

Kyrie eleison. **Kyrie eleison.** Kyrie eleison.

COLLECT OF THE DAY *(Fourth Sunday in Lent)*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which giveth life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING – 1 Samuel 16:1-13 *(Please be seated)*

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, seeing I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the Lord said,

“Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me him whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” And he said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he consecrated Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eli’ab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is before him.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abin’adab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen these.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and fetch him; for we will not sit down till he comes here.” And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. And the Lord said, “Arise, anoint him; for this is he.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 23 *Dominus regit me (Read in unison)*

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd * **therefore can I lack nothing.**
- 2 **He shall feed me in a green pasture, * and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.**
- 3 **He shall convert my soul, * and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness for his Name’s sake.**
- 4 **Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; * for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.**
- 5 **Thou shalt prepare a table before me in the presence of them that trouble me; * thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.**
- 6 **Surely thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; * and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son *
and to the Holy Ghost.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be *
world without end. Amen.**

EPISTLE READING – *Ephesians 5:8-14*

For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness,

but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light.”

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL – *John 9:1-41 (Please stand)*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant ✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man’s eyes with the clay, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Silo’am” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, “Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?” Some said, “It is he”; others said, “No, but he is like him.” He said, “I am the man.” They said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Silo’am and wash’; so I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.” The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if any one should confess him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age, ask him.” So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, “Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?” And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Why, this is a marvel! You do not know

where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if any one is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that any one opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you.” He said, “Lord, I believe”; and he worshiped him. Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this, and they said to him, “Are we also blind?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

HOMILY *(Please be seated)*

Fr. Mead

NICENE CREED *(Please stand)*

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;

*(Genuflect or
bow)*

**I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
✠ and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE – FORM V

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of thy coming, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who fear God and believe in thee, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as thou and the Father are one, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in positions of public trust, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this congregation for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth thy glory in all that we do, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers, for our families, friends and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace and health, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have ✠ died in the communion of thy Church, and those whose faith is known to thee alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Stephen our patron and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of thy people; in the multitude of thy mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to thee for help; for thou art gracious, O lover of souls, and to thee we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Celebrant says the following

Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

or this

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Celebrant & People, all kneeling

Almighty God, **Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, ✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE *(Please stand)*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY PRAYERS *(Please be seated)*

Celebrant Blessed art thou, Lord God of all creation; through thy goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth hath given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

People **Blessed be God for ever.**

Celebrant Blessed art thou, Lord God of all creation; through thy goodness we have this wine to offer: fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.

People **Blessed be God for ever.**

ORATE, FRATRES *(Please stand)*

Celebrant Pray, my brothers and sisters, that this my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.

People **May the Lord receive this Sacrifice at thy hands, to the praise and glory of his Name, both to our benefit, and that of all his holy Church.**

SURSUM CORDA

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

✠ Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER I *(Kneeling or standing)*

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat,

THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU.
Do this in remembrance of me."



Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this;

FOR THIS IS MY BLOOD,
OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, WHICH IS SHED FOR YOU,
AND FOR MANY, FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS.
Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."



Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, ✠ be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

✠ By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Celebrant & People

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

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the Flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his Blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his Body, and our souls washed through his most precious Blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION: *ECCE AGNUS DEI*

Celebrant ✠ Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him that taketh away the sins of the world. Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof:

People But speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

In union, O Dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of thy Church, where thy blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer thee praise and thanksgiving. I present to thee my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may ever be united to thee. And since I cannot now receive thee sacramentally, I beseech thee to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to thee, and embrace thee with all the affections of my soul. O let nothing ever separate me from thee. Let me live and die in thy love. Amen.

Grant, O Lord Jesus Christ, that as the hem of thy garment, touched in faith, healed the woman who could not touch thy Body, so the soul of thy servant may be healed by like faith in thee, whom I cannot now sacramentally receive; through thy tender mercy, who livest and reignest with the Father in the unity of the Holy Ghost ever one God. Amen.

THE CLOSING RITE

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Celebrant Bow down before the Lord.

Look down in mercy, Lord, on thy people who kneel before thee; and grant that those whom thou hast nourished by thy Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL *(Please stand)*

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

S. STEPHEN'S CHURCH
in Providence

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(401) 421-6702

The Rev'd Andrew C. Mead, OBE, DD, *Priest-in-Charge*

The Rev'd Michael A. Pearson, *Assisting Priest*

The Rev'd William Locke, *Assisting Priest*

The Rev'd Gary K. Sturni, *Assisting Priest*

James Busby, D.Mus., *Organist & Choirmaster*

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