

THE KALENDAR

S. Stephen's Church
in Providence

CHRISTMAS DAY

25 DECEMBER 2020

LOW MASS 10 AM

THE OPENING RITE

Please stand when the bell is rung.

OPENING ACCLAMATION *(Standing)*

Celebrant ✠ Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY *(Standing)*

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 *(Standing)*

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 *(Standing)*

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

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

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

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee. We give thanks to thee for thy great glory. O Lord God, heavenly king, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY *(Christmas III)*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, who hast given us thine only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, being regenerate and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING – *Isaiah 52:7-10 (Please be seated)*

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good tidings, who publishes peace, who brings good tidings of good, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” Hark, your watchmen lift up their voice, together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 98 *Cantate Domino*

- 1 O sing unto the Lord a new song; * **for he hath done marvelous things.**
- 2 **With his own right hand, and with his holy arm, * hath he gotten himself the victory.**
- 3 **The Lord declared his salvation; * his righteousness hath he openly showed in the sight of the heathen.**
- 4 **He hath remembered his mercy and truth toward the house of Israel; * and all the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God.**
- 5 **Show yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all ye lands; * sing, rejoice, and give thanks.**
- 6 **Praise the Lord upon the harp; * sing to the harp with a psalm of thanksgiving.**
- 7 **With trumpets also and shawms, * O show yourselves joyful before the Lord, the King.**
- 8 **Let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is; * the round world, and they that dwell therein.**
- 9 **Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills be joyful together before the Lord; * for he is come to judge the earth.**
- 10 **With righteousness shall he judge the world, * and the peoples with equity.**

**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 – *Hebrews 1:1-12*

In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature, upholding the universe by his word of power. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has obtained is more excellent than theirs. For to what angel did God ever say, “Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? And again, when he brings the first-born into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.” Of the angels he says, “Who makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.” But of the Son he says, “Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever, the righteous scepter is the scepter of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, thy God, has anointed thee with the oil of gladness beyond thy comrades.” And, “Thou, Lord, didst found the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of thy hands; they will perish, but thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But thou art the same, and thy years will never end.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL – *John 1:1-14 (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.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (*here genuflect*) AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

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;*

*(Genuflect or
 bow)*

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;
 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.

INTERCESSIONS

The Celebrant offers prayers for the whole state of Christ's Church and for the World.

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 *(Standing)*

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.

Because thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children.

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 *(Standing)*

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 B (*Kneeling or standing*)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we give thanks unto thee for the goodness and love which thou hast revealed unto us in creation; in the calling of Israel as thine own people; in thy Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, thy Son Jesus Christ. For in the fulness of time thou didst send him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, thou hast delivered us from evil and made us worthy to stand before thee. In him, thou hast brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks unto thee, 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 COVENANT, 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."



Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer unto thee, O Father, this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, presenting unto thee from thy creation, O Lord of all, this bread and this cup.

We beseech thee, gracious Father, to send thy Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the New Covenant. Unite us to thy Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being ✠ sanctified by the Holy Spirit. At the last day, put all things in subjection under thy Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the ever-Blessed Virgin Mary the Mother of our Lord, blessed Joseph her spouse, blessed Stephen our Patron, and all thy saints, we may enter into the everlasting heritage of thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Kneeling)*

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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 *(Kneeling)*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION *(Kneeling)*

Celebrant ✠ The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The following prayer is provided for those watching online to make an act of spiritual communion.

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 *(Please kneel)*

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.

THE BLESSING *(Please remain kneeling.)*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL *(Please stand)*

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

S. STEPHEN'S CHURCH in Providence

114 George Street, Providence RI 02906
(401) 421-6702

The Rev'd Benjamin Straley, *Rector*
The Rev'd William Locke, *Assisting Priest*
The Rev'd Michael A. Pearson, *Assisting Priest*
The Rev'd Gary K. Sturni, *Assisting Priest*
James Busby, D.Mus., *Organist & Choirmaster*
Andrew Welch, *Office Administrator*

www.sstephens.org
communications@sstephens.necoxmail.com