

A Note to Visitors

Welcome to S. Stephen's (Online) Church. This booklet contains the order of service for "Low Mass" – that is, the simple celebration of the Holy Eucharist by priest and congregation together (in-person or in spirit). Unlike "High Mass" or "Solemn Mass," Low Mass generally has no music or hymns. One server generally assists the priest at the altar. Low Mass is the normal form of celebration of the Eucharist on weekdays and at services on Sundays *other than* the principal celebration of the day.

The aim of this booklet is to make Low Mass as easy to follow as possible. You will need to use the Anglican Service Book linked to on the website for the recitation of the psalm, which comes after the first reading. Which page numbers and books to use will be announced. In addition, on Sundays the scripture readings will be posted online.

If you need help following the service, please don't hesitate to email Jacob Ihnen at communications@sstephens.necoxmail.com. If you would like to understand more about the meaning of our worship, or find out more about the life of our parish, please email Fr. Straley at rector@sstephens.necoxmail.com. We appreciate the opportunity to be of service.

The Daily Offices

Immediately before each Mass, we generally read one of the Daily Offices of Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer, or Evening Prayer, depending on the time of day. The order for all three services is found in the *Anglican Service Book*. Morning Prayer begins on page 32, Noonday Prayer on page 63, and Evening Prayer on page 68.

There may be a gap of several minutes between the conclusion of the Office and the beginning of Mass; please don't make the mistake of thinking that we're finished at this point. There's more to come!

THE OPENING RITE

Opening Acclamation

(Standing)

Celebrant
People

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

During Easter

✠ Alleluia. Christ is risen.
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

During Lent

✠ Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.
His mercy endureth for ever.

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 *(Optional)*

(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.

- or -

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christe eleison.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christe eleison.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christe eleison.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in Excelsis *(on Sundays and Major Feasts outside Advent & Lent)*

(Standing)

Glory be to God on high,
and on 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

(Standing)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect, a short prayer summing up the themes of the day's Liturgy.

People **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

(Please sit)

At the end of the reading, the following response may be made:

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

(Seated)

The psalm appointed for the day is said as directed.

Second Reading

(Seated)

At the end of the reading, the following response may be made:

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel

(Please stand)

Deacon or Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Deacon ✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to

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

After the Gospel, the reader says

People The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Homily *(Optional on weekdays)*

(Please sit)

As an integral part of the proclamation of the Word of God, the preacher may offer a commentary on one or more of the day's readings or liturgical themes; or may read a short biography of the saint whose day is being celebrated.

The Nicene Creed

(Please stand)

On Sundays and Major Feasts

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.

*(Genuflect or
bow)*

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.

Prayers of the People

(Standing)

Intercession is offered for the Church, the world, the sick, and the departed according to one of the forms in the Prayer Book, or some other suitable form, as announced.

Confession of Sin

(Kneel after exhortation)

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 take this Holy Sacrament to your comfort;] and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

or this

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Minister and People

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

(Kneeling)

The Bishop when present, or 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 Comfortable Words *(Optional)*

(Kneeling)

A Minister may then say one or more of the following sentences, first saying

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

Matthew 11:28

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15*

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world. *1 John 2:1-2*

The Peace

(Please stand)

Celebrant

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People

And with thy spirit.

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord. Necessary announcements may be made. The people may be seated following the Peace.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Prayers *(Optional)*

The celebrant may say the following prayers while preparing the bread and wine

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.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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.**

Eucharistic Prayer I or II

(Kneeling or standing)

Eucharistic Prayer I:

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.**

Eucharistic Prayer II:

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for 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 to thee, he broke 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 this, all of you;

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.”



Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, 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; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory. And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy ✠ grace and heavenly benediction;

and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

✠ By whom, and with whom, and in 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

(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.]

Agnus Dei

(Kneeling)

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 *(Optional)*

(Kneeling)

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*

(Kneeling)

Celebrant ✠ Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him that taketh away the sins of the world. [Happy are we who are called to his Supper.] Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof:

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

A Prayer of 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.**

Blessing

(Kneeling)

The Celebrant gives an appointed Seasonal blessing, or else the following:

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

(Please stand)

The Celebrant gives the Dismissal in the following or similar words

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

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The Rev'd William Locke, *Assisting Priest*
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