



SAINT STEPHEN'S CHURCH

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY: THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

12 January 2025

SOLEMN MASS

Communion Service in D

Kenneth Leighton (1929–1988)

THE OPENING RITE

VOLUNTARY

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern, BuxWV 223 Dietrich Buxtehude (c. 1637–1707)

HYMN 135 *g Sung by all, standing.*

SALZBURG

INTROIT *Dilexist*

TONE VII

Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity: wherefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. *Ps.* My heart is inditing of a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made unto the King. Glory be &c. Thou hast loved &c.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

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

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 *g Sung by the choir.*

Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *g Sung by the choir.*

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

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan didst proclaim him thy beloved Son and anoint him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with thee and the same Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

g All sit.

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him, he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not fail or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law. Thus says God: "I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

I have found David my servant :
 with my holy oil have I anointed him.
 My hand shall hold him fast :
 and my arm shall strengthen him.
 The enemy shall not be able to do him violence :
 the son of wickedness shall not hurt him.
 I will smite down his foes before his face :
 and plague them that hate him.
 My truth also and my mercy shall be with him :
 and in my Name shall his horn be exalted.
 I will set his dominion also in the sea :
 and his right hand in the floods.
 He shall call me, Thou art my Father :
 my God, and my strong salvation.
 And I will make him my first-born :
 higher than the kings of the earth.
 My mercy will I keep for him for evermore :
 and my covenant shall stand fast with him.
 His seed also will I make to endure for ever :
 and his throne as the days of heaven.

THE EPISTLE

Acts 10:34-38

Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I perceive that God shows no partiality, but in every nation any one who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the word which he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace by Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), the word which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."

Subdeacon The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA *Benedictus qui venit*

TONE VI



✠ Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord: God is the Lord, who hath shewed us light.

✠ **Alleluia.**

Deacon The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

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

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

As the people were in expectation, and all men questioned in their hearts concerning John, whether perhaps he were the Christ, John answered them all, "I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form, as a dove, and a voice came from heaven, "Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

The Rev'd Fr. Benjamin Straley

THE NICENE CREED *g Sung by all, standing.*

I be-lieve in one God, the Fa-ther Al-migh-ty, ma-ker of hea-ven and earth,
 and of all things vi - si-ble and in - vi - si-ble; And in One Lord Je - sus Christ,
 the on-ly-be-got-ten Son of God; be-got-ten of his Fa-ther be-fore all worlds, God of God,
 Light of Light, ver - y God of ver - y God, be - got - ten, not made,
 be - ing of one sub-stance with the Fa - ther; by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our sal - va - tion came down from hea - ven,
here genuflect or bow
 and was in - car-nate by the Ho - ly Ghost of the Vir-gin Ma - ry, and was made man;
here rise
 and was cru - ci - fi - ed al - so for us un - der Pon-tius Pi - late;

he suf-fer-ed and was bur - i - ed; and the third day he rose a-gain ac-cord-ing to the Scrip-tures,
 and as-cend-ed in - to hea - ven, and sit-teth on the right hand of the Fa - ther;
 and he shall come a - gain with glo - ry, to judge both the quick and the dead;
 whose king-dom shall have_ no end. And I be-lieve in the Ho - ly Ghost the Lord,
 and Giv-er of Life, who pro-ceed-eth from the Fa-ther and the Son; who with the Fa-ther
 and the Son to-geth-er is wor-ship-ped and glo-ri - fi - ed; who spake by the Pro - phets.
 And I be - lieve one ho - ly Cath - o - lic and A - pos - tol - ic Church;
 I ac - know-ledge one Bap - tism for the re - mis - sion of sins;
 and I look for the re-sur-rec-tion of the dead, and the life of the world to come.
 A - - - - - men.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

¶ Deacon

Jesus calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light. Washed clean by the waters of baptism, let us pray that we may live the life to which he has called us.

Lord Jesus, eternal Word, proclaimed as the Christ by John the forerunner, hear us as we pray for all who proclaim thy word.

℣ Lord, in thy mercy

℟ **Hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, baptizing with the Spirit and with fire, strengthen us to withstand all the trials of our faith.

℣ Lord, in thy mercy

℟ **Hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, fulfilment of the promises of old, give hope to all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit.

℣ Lord, in thy mercy

℟ **Hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, beloved Son of the Father, anoint us with the gifts of thy Holy Spirit.

℣ Lord, in thy mercy

℟ **Hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, bringer of hope, share with all the faithful the riches of eternal life.

℣ Lord, in thy mercy

℟ **Hear our prayer.**

℟ *Celebrant*

Lord Jesus Christ, in thee the Father makes us and all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of thy grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known thy heavenly glory. **Amen.**

CONFESSON OF SIN

℟ *Deacon*

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

℟ *Said by 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 Celebrant 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

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

¶ The Celebrant begins the Offertory with a sentence of scripture after which the people sit.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

¶ At the Offertory, we gratefully offer back to God a portion of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the money we give. To make an electronic gift today, please either visit ssteophens.org/give or scan the QR code below.



OFFERTORY ANTIPHON *Benedictus qui venit*

TONE II

Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord, we bless ye from the house of the Lord: God is the Lord who hath shewed us light, alleluia, alleluia.

AT THE OFFERTORY

Peter Hallock (1924–2014)

Jesus autem hodie regressus est a Jordane.

[Jesus was on this day baptised in the Jordan.]

When Jesus Christ baptised was, the Holy Ghost descended with grace; the Father's voice was heard in the place.

Hic est filius meus, ipsum intende.

[This is my son, in whom I am pleased.]

There were Three Persons and one Lord, the Son baptised with on accord, the Father said this blessed word:

Hic est filius meus, ipsum intende.

Now, Jesus, as thou art both God and man, and were baptised in from Jordan, at our last end, we pray thee, say then:

Hic est filius meus, ipsum intende.

¶ All stand for the hymn as the offering is brought forward and the gifts, altar, & people are censed.

HYMN 497 *¶ Sung by all.*

WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET

ORATE FRATRES

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

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; because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, thou hast caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of thy glory in the face of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 ET BENEDICTUS *¶ Sung by the choir*

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 *¶ All kneel.*

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 for the 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, for the remembrance of me.”



Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

g Celebrant and People

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

g 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, 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

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

Our Fa-ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed be thy Name,
thy king-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in hea-ven.

Give us this day our dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
 as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead us not in - to
 temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom,
 and the power, and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

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.

THE INVITATION: ECCE AGNUS DEI

Celebrant Behold ✠ the Lamb of God; behold him that taketh away the sins of the world.

People Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please come forward to the altar rail and then return to your pew via the passageway on the right. If you are unable to come forward, communion can be brought to you in your pew. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Eucharist at the Lord's Table. Gluten-free wafers are available. If you are not receiving, you are invited to come forward for a blessing (indicated by crossing your arms over your chest). If you have not been baptized and find yourself drawn to Jesus Christ and life in him, please let one of our clergy know. We would be honored to have a conversation with you about baptism or answer any other questions. Baptism and life in the Body of Christ is open to all.

AGNUS DEI *¶ Sung by the choir.*

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 takes away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON *Omnes qui*

TONE I

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ: have put on Christ, alleluia.

HYMN 121 *¶ Sung by all.*

CAITHNESS

THE CLOSING RITE

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *¶ All 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

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you; that your lives may be a light to the world; 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.*

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thank be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

Fantasia super 'Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern' Johann Pachelbel (1653–1706)

¶ Please join us for Coffee Hour in the Guild House. All are welcome.



S. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

VESTRY

Thomas Bledsoe, *Senior Warden*

Robert Rose, *Junior Warden*

Gregory DePardo, *Treasurer*

Molly Bledsoe Ellis, *Clerk*

Karl Benziger

Jennifer DePardo

Gregory Goins

Muriel Jobbers

Ruth Oliver Jolliffe

Julia Steiny

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev'd Fr. Benjamin Straley, *Rector*

The Rev'd Fr. William Locke, *Assisting Priest*

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

The Rev'd Mtr. Veronica Tierney, *Assisting Priest*

L. Graham Schultz, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Andrew Lonardo, *Sexton*

Kiersten Marek, *Nursery Childcare Provider*

James Busby, *Organist & Choirmaster Emeritus*