

# THE KALENDAR

S. Stephen's Church  
in Providence

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT: LÆTARE

19 MARCH 2023

SOLEMN MASS

10 AM

*Messe Basse*  
Gabriel Fauré (1845–1924)

*NOTE: Hymns can be found in the blue hymnals in front of you in the pew rack.*

## THE OPENING RITE

**VOLUNTARY** – *Adagio, from Symphonie III*

Louis Vierne (1870–1937)

**HYMN 567** – “Thine arm, O Lord, in days of old”

*St. Matthew*

**INTROIT** – *Lætare Jerusalem*

Tone VII

Rejoice ye with Jerusalem; and be ye glad for her, all ye that delight in her: exult and sing for joy with her, all ye that in sadness mourn for her; that ye may suck, and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations. *Ps.* I was glad when they said unto me: We will go into the house of the Lord. Glory be... Rejoice ye with Jerusalem...

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*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.  
Christe eleison.  
Kyrie eleison.

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

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

*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*

Tone VI

The LORD is my shepherd :  
therefore can I lack nothing.  
He shall feed me in a green pasture :  
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.  
He shall convert my soul :  
and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name’s sake.  
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.  
Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me :  
thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.  
But 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.

**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.”

*Subdeacon* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**TRACT** (*Please stand*) *Qui confidunt*

Tone VIII

They that put their trust in the Lord, shall be even as the mount Syon: which may not be removed, but standeth fast for ever. ☩ The hills stand about Jerusalem: even so standeth the Lord round about his people; from this time forth for evermore.

**HYMN 488** – “Be thou my vision”

*Slane*

## THE HOLY GOSPEL – *John 9:1–13, 28–38*

*Deacon* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

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

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

As Jesus passed by, he 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. 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.

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**SERMON**

Fr. Benjamin Straley

**THE NICENE CREED** – *sung to music found at S-103 in the front portion of the hymnal*

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** *(Please remain standing)*

*Deacon*

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire

continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; and Nicholas, our own bishop; that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Joseph our President, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless ✠ thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of the Blessed Virgin Mary, blessed Stephen our patron, and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

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.

*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 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 *(All stand)*

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*Announcements may be made. The people are seated for the Offertory.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### OFFERTORY ANTIPHON – *Laudate Dominum*

Tone II

O praise the Lord, for the Lord is gracious; O sing praises unto his Name, for it is lovely: whatsoever the Lord pleased, that did he in heaven and in earth.

*During the following anthem the Altar is prepared with the Bread and Wine, and the people's Offering is collected. 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 [sstephens.org/donate](http://sstephens.org/donate) or scan the QR code with your smart phone's camera. Thank you for your generosity.*



**AT THE OFFERTORY – *Ave verum corpus***

Gabriel Fauré

Ave verum corpus, natum de  
Maria Virgine, vere passum,  
immolatum in cruce pro  
homine cuius latus perforatum  
fluxit aqua et sanguine: esto  
nobis prægustatum in mortis  
examine. O Jesu dulcis, O Jesu  
pie, O Jesu, fili Mariæ. Miserere  
mei. Amen.

*Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin  
Mary, having truly suffered, sacrificed on  
the cross for mankind, from whose pierced  
side water and blood flowed: Be for us a  
sweet foretaste in the trial of death.  
O sweet Jesus, O holy Jesus,  
O Jesus, son of Mary, have mercy on me.  
Amen*

*The people stand when the thurifer comes down from the Altar to the crossing to cense them.  
The Offering is then brought up to the Altar.*

**ORATE, FRATRES** *(Please remain standing)*

*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 & PREFACE**

*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.

Who dost bid thy faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal Feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by thy Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which thou hast prepared for those who love thee.

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*

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Domine  
Deus Sabaoth: Pleni sunt cæli et  
terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.  
✠ Benedictus qui venit in nomine  
Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

*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 II *(Please kneel if you are able to do so)*

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** (*S-119 in front portion of Hymnal*)

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

*People and Celebrant*

**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.

### **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.**

## AGNUS DEI

*sung by the choir*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, Miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, Miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, Dona nobis pacem.

*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.*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON – *Lutum fecit*

Tone I

The Lord made clay of spittle, and anointed mine eyes: and I went and washed and I received sight, and I believed in God.

## THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Please come forward to the altar rail via the center aisle. 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.*

**HYMN 490** – “I want to walk as a child of the light”

*Houston*

## THE CLOSING RITE

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *(Kneeling as you are able)*

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.

## SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

*Deacon* Bow down before the Lord.

*Celebrant* Look down in mercy, O 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)*

*Deacon* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 690** – “Guide me, O thou great Jehovah”

*Cwm Rhondda*

**VOLUNTARY** – *Fugue in G minor* ('Little'), BWV 578

J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

*Please join us for coffee hour on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Guild House, found through the rear doors of the Nave and up the stairs. Elevator access is available, found just before the staircase on the left.*

## **S. STEPHEN'S CHURCH in Providence**

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

### Parish Leadership

Thomas Bledsoe, *Sr. Warden*, Robert Rose, *Jr. Warden*,  
Gregory DePardo, *Treasurer*, Molly Bledsoe Ellis, *Clerk*

### *Vestry*

Karl Benziger, Lynne deBenedette, Jennifer DePardo, Muriel Jobbers  
Ruth Oliver Jolliffe, Julia Steiny, Louis Verdelotti

Fr. Benjamin Straley, *Rector*  
Fr. William Locke, *Assisting Priest*  
Fr. Michael A. Pearson, *Assisting Priest*  
Mtr. Veronica Tierney, *Assisting Priest*  
L. Graham Schultz, *Organist & Choirmaster*  
Andrew Lonardo, *Sexton*  
Kiersten Marek, *Nursery Childcare Provider*  
James Busby, *Organist & Choirmaster Emeritus*

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