St. Stephen’s in-the-Field Episcopal Church

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We the people of Saint Stephen’s in-the-Field seek to know Christ, to share Christ, and to serve Christ, recognizing his presence in all people, and reaching out in love to each other and to the world around us.

“Whoever and wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here!”
Liturgic of the Word and Holy Eucharist: Prayer A

Opening Hymn:

Rise Up, Ye Saints of God

William Pierson Merrill (1867-1954)

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Opening Acclamation

Presider: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

All

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
    have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
    receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
    Jesus Christ,
    with the Holy Spirit,
    in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Presider: The Lord be with you
People: And also with you.
Presider: Let us pray.

Generous God, whose gift defies the balance sheet of ownership and just reward: free our hearts and minds from the envy which enslaves us; shape our lives to show your self-forgetting love; through Jesus Christ, the free gift of grace. Amen.

The Lessons

First Reading Exodus 16:2-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

Then the LORD said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?” And Moses said, “When the LORD gives you meat to eat in
the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD.”

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.’”

And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. The LORD spoke to Moses and said, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

The Word of the Lord.

All:       Thanks be to God.

Psalm:    Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

1 Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *
      make known his deeds among the peoples.

2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
      and speak of all his marvelous works.

3 Glory in his holy Name; *
      let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

4 Search for the LORD and his strength; *
      continually seek his face.

5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
      his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
      O children of Jacob his chosen.

37 He led out his people with silver and gold; *
      in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.

38 Egypt was glad of their going, *
      because they were afraid of them.
39 He spread out a cloud for a covering * 
and a fire to give light in the night season.

40 They asked, and quails appeared, * 
and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.

41 He opened the rock, and water flowed, * 
so the river ran in the dry places.

42. For God remembered his holy word * 
and Abraham his servant.

43 So he led forth his people with gladness, * 
his chosen with shouts of joy.

44 He gave his people the lands of the nations, * 
and they took the fruit of others' toil,

45 That they might keep his statutes * 
and observe his laws. 
Hallelujah!

Second Reading  

**Philippians 1:21-30**

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Gradual:
Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to
do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

All: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon The Rev. Karen Cuffie

Nicene Creed
We believe in one God,
    the Father, the Almighty,
    maker of heaven and earth,
    of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
    the only Son of God,
    eternally begotten of the Father,
    God from God, Light from Light,
    true God from true God,
    begotten, not made,
    of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
    he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
    he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
    and was made man
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
    he suffered death and was buried.
    On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
    and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
    and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
    who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
    and the life of the world to come. Amen.
**Prayers of the People**

**Leader:** Let us pray for the Church and for the world. God of love, we pray for your church: For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Lucinda, our Bishop; and for all lay and ordained ministers; and for all who seek you in the community of the faithful. Equip us with compassion and love, to carry out your work of reconciliation in the world. God of love,

**People:** **Hear our prayers for the church.**

*Silence — Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts*

**Leader:** God of freedom, we pray for our nation, and all the nations of the world: For peace and unity across barriers of language, color, and creed; for elected and appointed leaders, that they would serve the common good. Inspire all people with courage to speak out against hatred, to actively resist evil. Unite the human family in bonds of love. God of freedom,

**People:** **Hear our prayers for the world.**

*Silence — Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts*

**Leader:** God of justice, we pray for the earth, your creation entrusted to our care: For the animals and birds, the mountains and oceans, and all parts of your creation that have no voice of their own. Stir up in us a thirst for justice that protects the earth and all its resources, that we may leave to our children’s children the legacy of beauty and abundance that you have given us. God of justice,

**People:** **Hear our prayers for the earth.**

*Silence — Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts*

**Leader:** God of peace, we pray for this community: For our local leaders; for our schools and markets; for our neighborhoods and workplaces. Kindle in every heart a desire for equality, respect, and opportunity for all. Give us courage to strive for justice and peace among all people, beginning here at home. God of peace,

**People:** **Hear our prayers for this community.**

*Silence — Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts*
Leader: God of mercy, we pray for all in any kind of need or trouble: For those whose lives are closely linked with ours, and those connected to us as part of the human family. For refugees and prisoners; for the sick and suffering, the lonely and despairing; for those facing violence; for all held down by prejudice or injustice. Awaken in us compassion and humility of spirit, as we seek and serve Christ in all persons.

God of mercy,

People: Hear our prayers for all who are in need.
Silence — Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts

Leader: God of grace, we pray for those who have died: For the faithful in every generation who have worked for justice; for prophets who called us to racial reconciliation; for martyrs who died because of hatred; and for all the communion of saints. Make us faithful to your call to proclaim your Good News, by word and example, and bring us at last into the glorious company of the saints in light.

God of grace,

People: Hear our prayers for those who have died.
Silence — Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts

Presider: Hear our prayers, Holy God. Breathe your Spirit over us and all the earth, that barriers would crumble and divisions cease. Make us more fully your co-healers of the broken world. Unite us with all people in bonds of love, that the whole earth and all its peoples may be at peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Presider: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
(There will be a moment of silence)

Presider and People

Almighty God, Source of all that is, Giver of every good gift: You create all people in your image and call us to love one another as you love us. We confess that we have failed to honor you in the great diversity of the human family. We have desired to live in freedom, while building walls between ourselves and others. We have longed to be known and accepted for who we are, while making judgements of others based on the color of skin, or the shape of features, or the
varieties of human experience. We have tried to love our neighbors individually while yet benefitting from systems that hold those same neighbors in oppression. Forgive us, Holy God. Give us eyes to see you as you are revealed in all people. Strengthen us for the work of reconciliation rooted in love. Restore us in your image, to be beloved community, united in our diversity, even as you are one with Christ and the Spirit, Holy and undivided Trinity, now and for ever. Amen.

Absolution

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you. 
People: And also with you.

Exchange peace.

Offertory: Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands

Fred Kaan (1929–)

Irish melody

ST. COLUMBA

1. Put peace into each other's hands and like a treasure hold it.
5. Put Christ into each other's hands, he is love's deepest flame, with tenderness enfold it.

Protect it like a candle in love make peace, give peace a chance and share it like a treasure.
Eucharistic Prayer A

_Presider:_ The Lord be with you.
_People:_ And also with you.
_Presider:_ Lift up your hearts.
_People:_ We lift them to the Lord.
_Presider:_ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
_People:_ It is right to give our thanks and praise.

_Presider_
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

_Presider and People_
_Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory._
   Hosanna in the highest.
_Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and became subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all._

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you:

This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”
Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Presider continues
We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. Amen.

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

People and Presider

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.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People and Presider

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.
The Breaking of the Bread.

**Presider:** Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**People:** Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

**Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

**Presider**

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

**Communion Hymn:**

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**O Master Let Me Walk With Thee**

Washington Gladden (1836-1918)

H #660

MARYTON

Henry Percy Smith (1825-1898)

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1. O Master let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free;
2. Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word, of love

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tell my thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the home-ward way.

**Post Communion Prayer**

**Presider:** Let us pray.

Shepherd and guardian of our souls, renew our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love. Teach us to hunger for Christ, who is the true and living bread, and to live by every word that comes from your mouth, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
The Blessing

The Dismissal

Presider: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God.

Mission Song:

Awake, Awake for Love and Work

Geoffrey Anketel Studdert-Kennedy

4. A - wake, a - wake to _ love and _ work! The lark is in the sky,
5. Come, let thy voice be _ one with theirs, shout with their shout of praise;

the _ fields are _ wet with _ diamond dew, the _ worlds a _ wake to cry,
see_ how the_ _ giant sun soars up, great _ lord of _ years and days!

their bless_ ings _ on the _ Lord of _ life, as _ he goes meek_ ly by,
So_ let the_ love of _ Jesus_ come and _ set thy soul a _ blaze,