

February 4, 2024
10:00 AM

**The Fifth Sunday
after the Epiphany**

Morning Prayer



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

7269 Santa Teresa Boulevard
San Jose, CA 95139
(408) 629-1836
www.ssitf.org

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.

Opening Hymn:

In Christ There is No East or West

John Oxenham (1852-1941)

H #529

MCKEE

African-American spiritual

The musical score consists of three staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef, the middle staff is in bass clef, and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The music is in common time (indicated by '4'). The lyrics are as follows:

1. In Christ there is no East or West,
2. Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the East or West,
3. In Christ now meet both East and West,
in what -

him no South or North, but one great fel - low -
e'r your race may be! Who serves the Fa - ther
him meet South and North, all Christ - ly souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
as his child is sure - ly kin wide me.
one in him, through - out the whole wide earth.

Opening Sentence

Officiant: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Confession

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
in thought word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
Have mercy on us and forgive us:
That we may delight in your will,
And walk in your ways,
To the glory of your Name. Amen

Absolution

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

Opening Versicle (stand)

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Invitatory Psalm

Officiant: The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:

People: Come let us adore him.

Venite Psalm 95:1-7

Officiant and people

Come, let us sing to the Lord:*

Let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving*

And raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God,*

And a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth,*

And the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it,*

And his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,*

And kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.*

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Psalm of the Day:

Psalm 147:1-12, 21c

1 Hallelujah!

 How good it is to sing praises to our God! *

 how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

2 The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *

 he gathers the exiles of Israel.

3 He heals the brokenhearted *

 and binds up their wounds.

4 He counts the number of the stars *

 and calls them all by their names.

5 Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *

 there is no limit to his wisdom.

6 The LORD lifts up the lowly, *

 but casts the wicked to the ground.

7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *

 make music to our God upon the harp.

8 He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;

9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.

10 He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.

11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

12 But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.

21 Hallelujah!

Officiant and people

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lessons (please be seated)

First Reading

Isaiah 40:21-31

A reading from the Prophet Isiah.

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became

as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Gradual:

The Grace of God

Michael Hudson, 2004

Songs of the Cycle #73

PUER NOBIS, 15th century

1. The grace of God can not be fixed or fastened to a sanctioned spot;
2. We can not tell the rain to fall or change the world with every prayer;
3. To mend the broken, tend the sick, to share the struggles of the poor;
4. God, may we bring this consciousness to every circumstance we face -

when we move as the Spirit moves, there is no place where God is not.
and yet in every place we go the grace of God is also there -
to fight for justice, work for peace, to warn the foolish and the sure.
With every need you also pair the possibility of grace.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:29-39

A reading from the Gospel of Mark.

After Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon: *Is There Healing without Curing?*, by The Rev. Danáe M. Ashley

***The Apostles' Creed* (please stand as you are able)**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Suffrages

Leader: Show us your mercy, O Lord;

***People:* And grant us your salvation.**

Leader: Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

***People:* Let your people sing with joy.**

Leader: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

***People:* For only in you can we live in safety.**

Leader: Lord, keep this nation under your care;

***People:* And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

Leader: Let your way be known upon earth;

***People:* Your saving health among all nations.**

Leader: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

***People:* Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Leader: Create in us clean hearts, O God;

***People:* And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

Collect of the Day

Lord of fierce compassion, you name the forces of death in our hearts and institutions and even in the holy places: lift from us the canopy of fear that feeds on repression and pushes away what it cannot abide; go with us to dark and lonely places where we can learn again who we are called to be; through Jesus Christ, the healer of creation. ***Amen.***

Prayers of the People (*please stand as you are able*)

Leader: You have no equal, God. We come before you humbled, asking for your healing presence. Heal us and raise us so that we may serve you.

We are amazed at your creative genius – how you have stretched the heavens like curtains, and yet you bend to be with us.

We are amazed, God.

People: **We raise our hearts in awe.**

Leader: Our world and our lives are in need of healing and direction. We ask you to guide your church and heal it where it is worn out and self-centered. Direct those who lead the church: bishops, priests, and deacons – all those in positions of leadership. In the diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for parish administrators, accountants, secretaries, and all the office assistants and volunteers behind the scenes who make worship and ministry possible.

We ask for direction.

People: **Raise them up, God**

Leader: We ask you to heal the relationships between nations and neighbors. Give the leaders of the nations the courage to pursue justice and speak peace as an example for the world.

We ask for healing.

People: **Raise them up, God**

Leader: Many of us suffer from addiction, anxiety, and illness. Break the chains that bind them and heal them, God. Surround them with supportive people, the resources they need, and a tangible sense of your love.

We ask for healing.

People: **Raise them up, God**

Leader: We pray for those who have died, that they may know the fullness of your love in the life you have prepared for them. Comfort those who grieve their loss, and give them the confidence of your love that knows no limits of time or space. We especially pray for those we now name...

We ask for assurance of your love.

People: **Raise them up, God**

All: We look toward your eternal glory, O Holy One, and raise our voices to you in prayer: Enter our homes and towns, our solitudes and cities; cast out all that oppresses and threatens your people, heal all who are weak and bring peace in our time, that your whole creation may sing out in praise to proclaim your message of love and hope, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

The Peace

Officiant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Exchange peace.



Offertory:

He Leadeth Me

Joseph H. Gilmore (1834-1918)

Worship & Rejoice! #499

HE LEADETH ME

William B. Bradbury (1816-1868)

1. He lead - th me, O bless - ed thought! O words with heaven - ly
2. Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ev - er mur - mur
3. And when my task on earth is done, when by thy trace the

com - fort fraught! What e'er I do, where e'er I be, still
nor re - pine; con - tent what-e'er my lot may be, since
vic - tory's won, e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since

'tis God's hand that lead - eth me.
'tis my God who lead - eth me.
God through Jor - dan lead - eth me.

Refrain

He lead-eth me, he lead- eth me, by his own hand he lead-eth me; his
faith - ful fol - lower I would be, for by his hand he lead - eth me.

Doxology (Old 100th):

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The General Thanksgiving

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Announcements (please be seated)

Prayers for Celebrations

Loving Creator, You are the source of life and the source of love. We thank you for all who celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and special events today. Watch over them as their days increase, bless and guide them wherever they may be. May your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives, and may your love for the world shine through them and the deep relationships they cherish, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Please stand

Concluding Versicle and Response

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Concluding Sentence

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Mission Song:

An Eagle is Soaring

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (c) 2006

Songs of Grace #8

ASH GROVE
Welsh melody

An ea - gle is__ soar-ing and turn- ing__ and_ div- ing; It stretch es__ its__
wings to the cur - rents of air. It grace - ful - ly__ moves with - out
ef - fort_ or__ striv- ing; The up- drafts will_ car - ry its flight an - y -
where. How hard, Lord, we__ strug-gle and work for__ your_ bless-ing; may
we see_ your grace in the ea - gle a - bove. For you will re - new us when
we wait and_ lis - ten, and you will_ up - hold us in strength and in love.

Mark your calendar

- Wednesday Book Group, every Wednesday morning at St. John's, 11am
- Tuesday, February 13th – Pancake supper at St. John's, 6pm.
- Wednesday, February 21st – Lent soup and supper at St. John's, 6pm.
- Wednesday, February 28th – Lent soup and supper at St. Stephen's, 6pm.
- Wednesday, March 5th – Lent soup and supper at St. John's, 6pm.
- Wednesday, March 13th – Lent soup and supper at St. Stephen's, 6pm.
- Wednesday, March 20th – Lent soup and supper at St. John's, 6pm.

Vestry Members

Susan Zaballos, *Senior Warden* • Rob van der Molen, *Junior Warden* •
Andy Lief, *Treasurer/Finance* • Jill Vaughn, *Clerk* • Anthony Francis • Jessica
Dickinson Goodman • Janet Thorsrud