



St. Stephen's Episcopal
All Are Welcome



**A SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER
and
MEDITATIONS ON THE STATIONS OF THE
CROSS**

Thursdays in Lent
10:00am
In person and Zoom

Welcome to St. Stephen's!

Wherever you are in your journey of faith, we are glad you are here. We invite you to participate in our worship as you feel comfortable. This bulletin contains the basic parts of the service. You can find music in the Blue book in the pews, *The Hymnal 1982*. Our service is based on, *The Book of Common Prayer* (the Red book in the pews).

Young Children with ALL their sounds and wiggles are very welcome in our church!

Activity bags for young ones can be found along the walls in the back of the church. A comfortable chair and soft space can also be found there.

A word about Lent

In the season of Lent, we remember Jesus' journey into the desert to pray for forty days and forty nights. He was tempted in this wilderness, and yet the 'angels waited on him'. In this season, we reflect on our own 'wilderness journey' in a time of amendment of life, prayer, self-denial and repentance. Our prayers draw us to remember our need of God. The liturgical surroundings are changed to recall the wilderness: the flowers at the altar are replaced with greens, the color of vestments are changed to purple as a sign of penitence, and the tone of the music changes. The celebratory words of praise "Alleluia" or "Praise the Lord" are absent from the Liturgy, and instead, we add periods of silence for reflection.

During this season, we invite you to the prayer station in the back of the church—perhaps before church, after receiving Eucharist, or after the service. Offer to God the prayers of your heart at this station. You may write down prayers and place them in the prayer bowl. You may light a candle. You may meditate with the icon or the cross. May this Lenten journey draw you closer to God's infinite mercy and grace.

About St. Stephen's

We are a community of faith that values diversity, acceptance, and respect for all, where everyone can gather together to worship, learn, and serve. We believe life is a spiritual journey, and we invite everyone to journey with us as we walk the Episcopal way of love, mission, and service. Many of us started our faith journeys in another denomination or no church at all. We invite you to explore our parish, where you are welcome no matter who you are or where you find yourself on life's path. We hope you find us a friendly parish, a place where you may draw near to God and a place where you can grow in Christian faith and spirituality. Learn more about us on our website at

www.ststephenstroy.org.

THE WORD OF GOD

The people stand as they are able.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Officiant

Rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil. *Joel 2:13*

CONFESSION

Officiant

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All **Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess
 that we have sinned against you
 in thought, word, and deed;
we have not loved you with all of our heart,
 soul, mind, and strength;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
Deepen within us our sorrow
 for the wrong we have done,
 and the good we have left undone.
Lord, you are full of compassion and gracious,
 slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy;
 there is always forgiveness with you!
Restore to us the joy of your salvation;
 bind up that which is broken,
 give light to our minds,
 strength to our wills,
 and rest to our souls.
Speak to each of us,
 and let your word abide with us
 until it has wrought in us your holy will. *Amen.***

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

INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Officiant Lord, open our lips

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.**

Officiant Our God is full of compassion and mercy,

People **O come let us worship.**

VENITE PSALM 95

**Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.**

**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving *
and raise to the Lord a shout with psalms.**

**For you are a great God; *
you are great above all gods.**

**In your hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are yours also.**

**The sea is yours, for you made it, *
and your hands have molded the dry land.**

**Come, let us bow down and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

**For you are our God,
and we are the people of your pasture and the sheep of your hand. *
Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!**

**Let us listen today to God's voice:
Harden not your hearts,**

as your forebears did in the wilderness, *
at Meribah, and on that day at Massah,
when they tempted me.

They put me to the test, *
though they had seen my works.

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Officiant and People together, all standing

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
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 Let us offer to God our prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings.

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.**

Leader Let us now lift to God the prayers, petitions, and concerns of our community.

During this time of prayer, the people name out loud the petitions for which they are interceding. Each person is invited to take a turn and share their prayer requests. When finished naming the prayer requests, the person bids, "Lord in your mercy," and the people respond, "Hear our prayer."

A period of silence follows.

After all petitions have been spoken, the Officiant says the following Prayer for mission.

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Officiant The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The peace is exchanged among the people.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Officiant and People pray together.

**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.

**And 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 forever. *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

The Officiant offers a concluding prayer.

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.

DISMISSAL

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

5500 North Adams Rd. | Troy, Michigan 48098 | 248-641-8080

www.ststephenstroy.org | office@ststephenstroy.org

