St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Welcoming Worshiping Working

The Holy Eucharist

From September to Christ the King

(*St. Stephenstide*)



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Introduction to the Season of St. Stephenstide



The season after Pentecost Sunday, according to the calendar of the church year, begins on the Monday following Pentecost, and continues through most of the summer and autumn. It may include as many as 28 Sundays, depending on the date of Easter, and finishes on Christ the King, the Sunday before Advent. This service booklet for St. Stephen's, however, is used from the Second Sunday of September, the day we commemorate our Patron Saint, Stephen, through to Christ the King, a season we have named "St. Stephenstide". We use the same lectionary readings as the rest of the Church, except on the Second Sunday of September when we use the propers for St Stephen's Day (normally December 26). For us, this is is a season that we can celebrate our unique identity and how we express the Jesus Movement with and within the community of San Luis Obispo. Some of the texts in this liturgy encourage us toward discipleship and worshiping together in order to equip ourselves for ministry.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church welcomes all persons to an open, caring Christian community that seeks to follow the example of Jesus Christ. Wherever you may be on your spiritual path, you are invited to worship, study and work with us. St. Stephen's is a congregation of families and singles, children and seniors, and a diversity of ethnicities, races, sexual orientations, interests, and backgrounds. We are followers of Jesus, guided by His teaching and example to love God and our neighbor. We welcome all people regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, racial background, mental or physical ability, recovery, political belief, economic condition, and all other expressions of what it means to be human. We invite you to worship with us and walk with us no matter where you are on your spiritual journey.

- This booklet contains the order of service and prayers and music that are used every Sunday for a certain period. There is also a smaller insert with this Sunday's hymns and readings. Hymns are in the blue book in the pew rack: The Hymnal 1982.
- We have two services on Sunday morning: 8am and 10am. At 10am, children can remain with you in the service, or participate in Sunday School classes. Ask the usher for directions.
- After the service you are invited to be seated for the Postlude music or go quietly in peace after the blessing.
- Refreshments are provided in the Parish Hall behind the church after the 10am service.

Whoever you are, and wherever you are on your spiritual journey,

St. Stephen's welcomes you!

The Liturgy of the Word

Processional Hymn

Hymns numbers are listed on the hymn board above the first pew on the righthand side.
Most hymns are in the blue "Hymnal 1982".

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be God: Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier.
And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.
There are varieties of gifts,
but the same spirit.
There are varieties of service,
but the same Lord.
There are different kinds of working,
but the same God is at work in all.
There is one body, one Spirit, one hope in God's call;
one Lord, one faith, one baptism.
There is one God, over all and in all,
to whom Christ ascended on high.
And through the Spirit we are given gifts:
some are apostles, some are prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers,
so that we can minister together to build up the Body of Christ.

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.

The Gloria

The People and Ministers say at 8am and sing at 10am

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.
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.



By Jaine Klassen Jeninga

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

The priest says the Collect of the Day, and all respond
Amen.

All sit.

The Lessons

A Reading from...

After each Reading, the Reader may say
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

A Psalm is said or sung together. The text is in the weekly bulletin.



Gospel Acclamation

The Gospel Acclamation at the 10am Service can be found in the weekly bulletin.

The Gospel

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to…
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After the Gospel, the Reader says
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

We receive a response to the day's readings from the Preacher.

All standing and facing the altar to proclaim either The Nicene Creed or the shorter Affirmation of Faith.

The 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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.

An Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with His love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

cf Ephesians 3

The Prayers of the People

The People are invited to pray.

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.

The Intercessor leads us in prayer

Jesus, light of the world, we pray for this gathering this morning.
In our Diocese, we remember our clergy and the people in our Diocese,
Help us to bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations.
Blessed are those who come in the name of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Jesus, bread of life, we come to feed on Your Word and Sacrament.
We remember those who produce and prepare our food.
Help us to be Your hands and feet who give food to the hungry, and nourish us all with Your Word.
Blessed are those who come in the name of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,
we remember those who are engaged in serving the Children of God who are less fortunate than we are, especially those agencies with whom we work, and all relief agencies.
Be with us and all who follow You in the way, deepen our appreciation of Your Truth and fill us with Your Life.
Blessed are those who come in the name of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave Your life for the sheep, we remember those who are alone, injured, and sick:
and for whom else should we pray?
[…moment of silence for names to be offered]
We remember those who are victims of fear, oppression, war, famine, violence injustice.
Help us to lead those in need to new pastures.
Blessed are those who come in the name of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life, we give You thanks for all who have lived and believed in You:
and for whom else should we pray?
[*…moment of silence for names to be offered*]
Blessed are those who come in the name of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

The Presider concludes the prayers

Jesus, Lord of life, in Your mercy, hear us, accept our prayers, and be with us always.
Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Come, let us return to the Lord and say:
O most holy God, who puts away the sins of those who truly repent,
we come before Your throne in the name of Jesus Christ,
that for His sake alone, You will have compassion upon us,
and let not our offenses be a cloud between You and us.
Forgive what we have been; sanctify what we are; and order what we shall be.
Amen.

Adapted from a prayer of John Colet and a prayer of unknown source.

May God who loved the world so much that God sent The Son to be our Savior
forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve God in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Peace

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to Him through faith, heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.
The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Welcome, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Announcements

Birthdays

O God, our times are in Your hand:
Look with favor, we pray, on Your servant *N*. as she/he/they begins another year.
Grant that she/he/they may grow in wisdom and grace,
and strengthen her/his/their trust in Your goodness all the days of her/his/their life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anniversaries

Most gracious God,
we praise You for the tender mercy and unfailing care
revealed to us in Jesus the Christ
and for the great joy and comfort bestowed upon us in the gift of human love.
We give You thanks for *N*. and *N*., and the covenant of faithfulness they have made.
Pour out the abundance of Your Holy Spirit upon them.
Keep them in Your steadfast love; protect them from all danger;
fill them with Your wisdom and peace;
lead them in holy service to each other and the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Those Who Travel

O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation,
and whose presence we find wherever we go:
Preserve those who travel [in particular _____];
surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger;
and bring them in safety to their journey's end;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

The Choir sings an anthem as a collection is taken for the work of St Stephen's.
Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine,
and money or other gifts, to the altar.

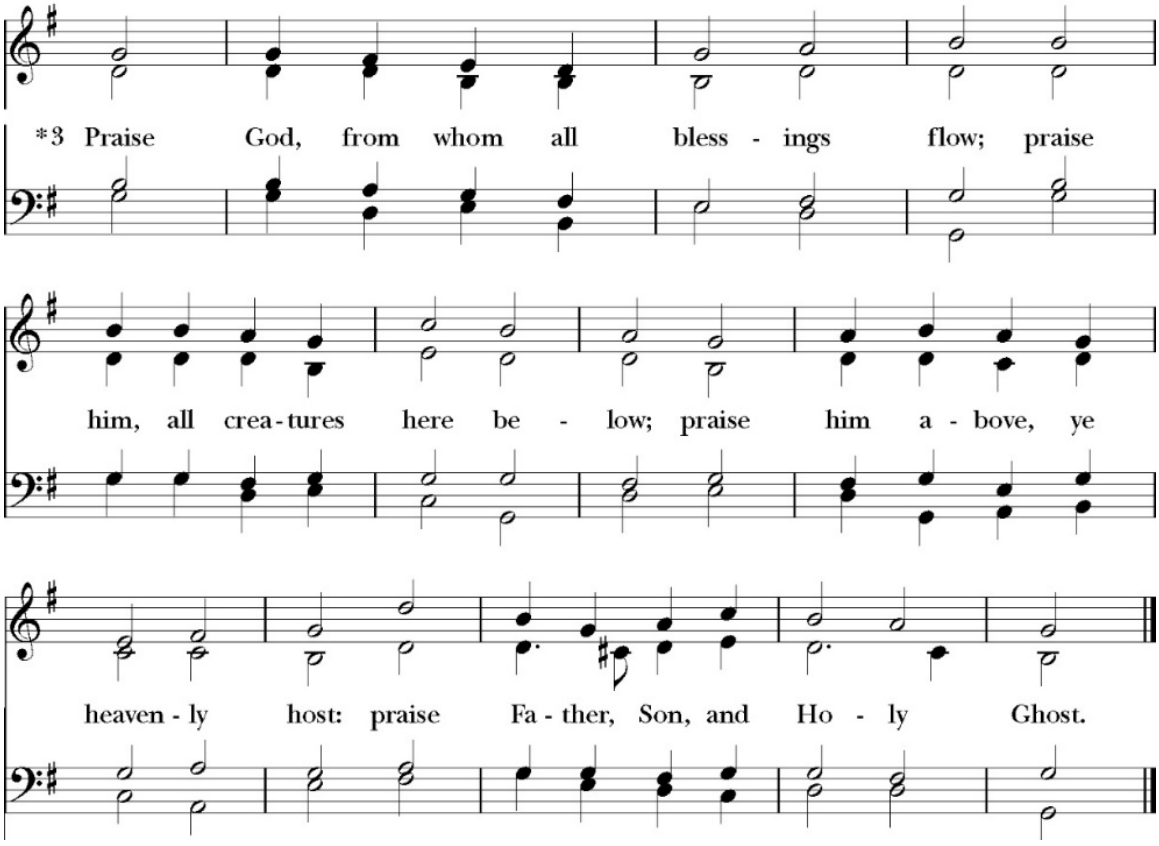
The Offering of the Gifts

The people stand after the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

At 8am

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendor, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is Yours.
All things come from You, and of Your own do we give You.

At 10am



The Great Thanksgiving

The Episcopal Church *Enriching Our Worship*: Eucharistic Prayer 3

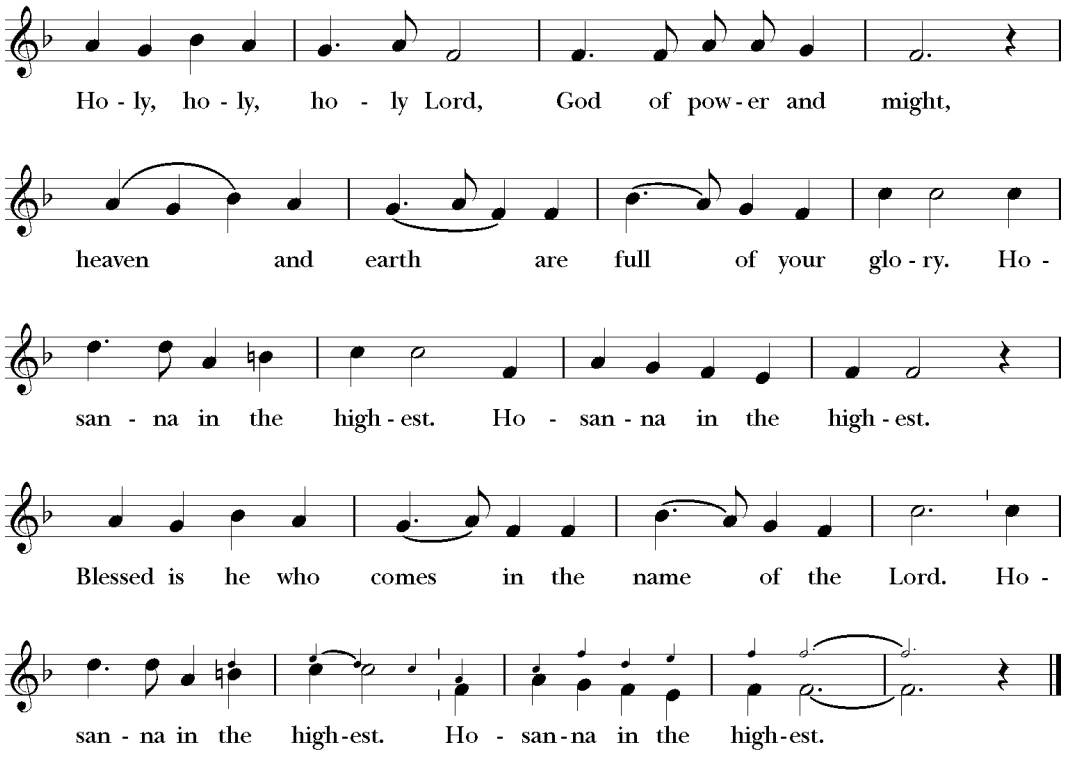
The people remain standing.

The Lord is here!
God's Spirit is with us!
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

All thanks and praise are Yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God;
through Jesus Christ, Your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom You created all things.
You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb;
You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are You, Holy One of Blessing, all You create is a sign of hope for our journey;
And so, as the morning stars sing Your praises
we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.



The people stand or kneel.

Glory and honor are Yours, Creator of all, Your Word has never been silent;
You called a people to Yourself, as a light to the nations,
You delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise.
Out of Your grace, You gave Jesus to be human, to share our life,
to proclaim the coming of Your holy reign and to give Himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
You have freed us from sin, brought us into Your life, reconciled us to You,
and restored us to the glory You intend for us.

We thank You that on the night before He died for us Jesus took bread,
and when He had given thanks to You, He broke it, gave it to His friends and said:
"Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."
After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to His friends and said:
"Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood,
poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us:
the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory,
and presenting to You these gifts that Your earth has formed
and human hands have made, we acclaim You, O Christ:
Dying, You destroyed our death.
Rising, You restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send Your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine
that they may be to us the Body and Blood of Your Christ.
Grant that we, burning with Your Spirit's power,
may be a people of hope, justice and love.
Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ,
and in the fullness of time gather us with the great founders of this city and this parish,
St Stephen, Mary the Mother of Jesus,
and all Your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit,
we worship You our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.
Blessed are You now and forever.
AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

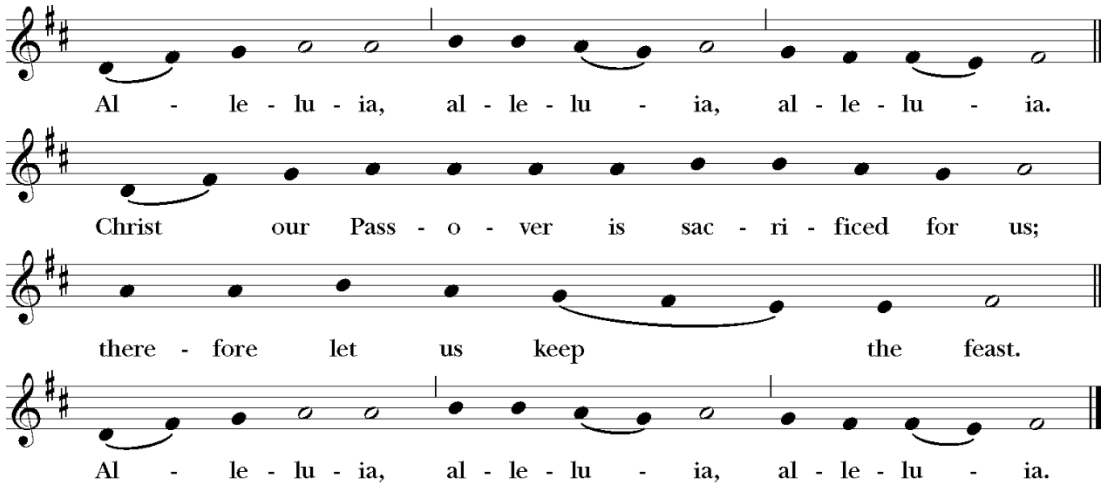
As at the Day of Pentecost, use any form or language with which you most feel comfortable.

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

The Priest breaks the consecrated Bread. Then the following is said at 8am and sung at 10am.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.



The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

At St. Stephen's, all are welcome to come to the altar. If you would like to receive Communion / the Sacrament, please place your hands, palms upward, to receive the bread, and then receive the wine from the chalice. If for any reason you receive only bread or only wine, be assured that The Episcopal Church believes in the efficacy of receiving the Sacrament in one kind. If you would prefer a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest and bow your head for a blessing from the Priest.

The Bread and the Cup are given with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen.]
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [Amen.]

During the ministration of Communion, hymns or anthems may be sung.

Post-Communion Prayer

After Communion, the Priest says

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
whose ascended Son gave gifts of leadership and service to the Church:
strengthen us who have received this holy food
to be good stewards of Your manifold grace;
through Him who came not to be served but to serve,
and gave His life as a ransom for many, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Sending forth of the Lay Eucharistic Visitors:

N. **In the name of this congregation we send you forth bearing these Holy gifts**
that those to whom you go may share with us
in the Communion of Christ's Body and Blood.
We who are many are One body because we share One bread, One cup.
Amen.

The Blessing

May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah,
and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary,
and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Final Hymn

Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Material in this booklet comes from The Book of Common Prayer 1979,
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The Episcopal Church is related to the Church of England and part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. We are part of the Diocese of El Camino Real, which is a grouping churches from San Luis Obispo County to Santa Clara County.

St. Stephen's was founded in 1867 as the first organized Protestant church in San Luis Obispo County. The original church building, locally known as a "carpenter gothic" gem, was built of Monterey Pine beams from Cambria, CA and covered with redwood on this site, which cost $10. The rich hues of our memorial stained-glass windows reflect both a pioneer heritage and a radiant future. The building today still retains the lines and flavor of the original structure.

Sunday Morning Services:

8am Quiet, contemplative Holy Eucharist
10am Holy Eucharist with music and Sunday School

Please check the weekly bulletin or our website for other services and activities.
www.ststephensslo.org

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional territory and homelands of the *yak titʸu titʸu yak tiłhini (ytt)* Northern Chumash people, the first peoples of San Luis Obispo, who are still here, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of the Chumash Tribe. Acknowledging the land is a transformative act that works to undo the intentional erasure of indigenous peoples.

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Mission Statement

Our mission as a parish is to open our hearts to God and to share Christ's unconditional love with the world. We do this by following three pathways:

Welcoming

We invite all to join us at every stage on their spiritual journeys.

Worshiping

We cultivate a living tradition of liturgy and a life made holy by the sacraments.

Working

We share our abundance, we strive for justice, and we accept our calling to protect God's creation.

ST. STEPHEN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH