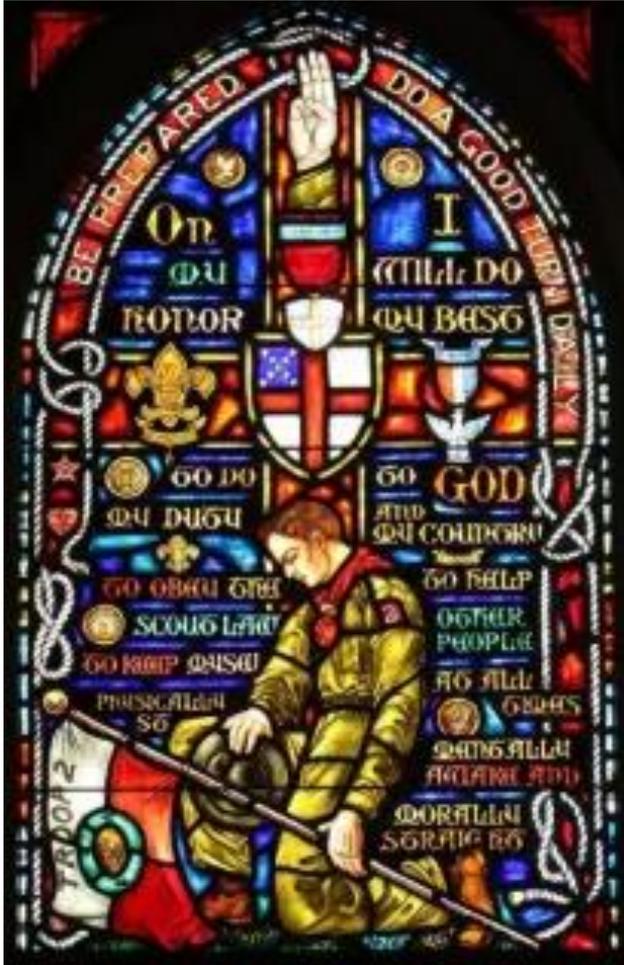


The Last Sunday after

Epiphany



February 14th, 2021



St. Stephen's

Episcopal Church + Lakeland, Florida

To Love and Serve God and Neighbor

“Alleluia, Sing to Jesus” verses 1&3

*Alleluia! sing to Jesus! his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone;
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus out of every nation hath redeemed us by his blood.*

*Alleluia! Bread of Heaven,
thou on earth our food, our stay!
Alleluia! here the sinful flee to thee from day to day:
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.*

Opening Acclamation

+ Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

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.

Glory to God

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.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading

A Reading from Second Kings.

Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here, because the Lord told me to go to the Jordan River." Elisha answered, "I promise, as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you!" So the two men went on.

There were fifty men from the group of prophets who followed them. Elijah and Elisha stopped at the Jordan River. The fifty men stood far away from Elijah and Elisha. Elijah took off his coat, folded it, and hit the water with it. The water separated to the right and to the left. Then Elijah and Elisha crossed the river on dry ground.

After they crossed the river, Elijah said to Elisha, "What do you want me to do for you before God takes me away from you?" Elisha said, "I ask you for a double share of your spirit on me." Elijah said, "You have asked a hard thing. If you see me when I am taken from you, it will happen. But if you don't see me when I am taken from you, it will not happen."

Elijah and Elisha were walking and talking together. Suddenly, some horses and a chariot came and separated Elijah from Elisha. The horses and the chariot were like fire. Then Elijah was carried up into heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw it, and shouted, "My father! My father! The chariot of Israel and his horses!"

Elisha never saw Elijah again. Elisha grabbed his own clothes and tore them in two to show his sadness.

(2 Kings 2:6-12)

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

50:1-6

The Lord God Most Powerful has spoken. He calls to everyone on earth, from where the sun rises to where it sets.

God appeared from Zion, the city of perfect beauty.

Our God is coming and will not keep quiet. Fire burns in front of him. There is a great storm around him.

He tells the sky and the earth to be witnesses as he judges his people.

He says, “My followers, gather around me. Come, my worshipers, who made an agreement with me.”

God is the judge, and the skies tell how fair he is.

+ Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Second Reading

A Reading from Second Corinthians.

The Good News that we tell people may be hidden, but it is hidden only to those who are lost. The ruler of this world has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They cannot see the light of the Good News—the message about the divine greatness of Christ. Christ is the one who is exactly like God.

We don't tell people about ourselves. But we tell people that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we tell them that we are your servants for Jesus. God once said, "Let light shine out of the darkness!" And this is the same God who made his light shine in our hearts to let us know that his own divine greatness is seen in the face of Christ.

(2 Corinthians 4:3-6)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

+ + + The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James, and John and went up on a high mountain. They were all alone there. While these followers watched him, Jesus was changed. His clothes became shining white—whiter than anyone on earth could make them. Then two men were there talking with Jesus. They were Elijah and Moses.

Peter said to Jesus, "Teacher, it is good that we are here. We will put three tents here—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." Peter did not know what to say, because he and the other two followers were so afraid.

Then a cloud came and covered them. A voice came from the cloud and said, "This is my Son, the one I love. Obey him!" The followers looked, but they saw only Jesus there alone with them.

As Jesus and the followers were walking back down the mountain, he gave them these instructions: “Don’t tell anyone about what you saw on the mountain. Wait until after the Son of Man rises from death. Then you can tell people what you saw.”

(Mark 9:2-9)

The Gospel of The Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

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: 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

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble; especially those on our prayer list and the suffering people of the world.

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For those serving in the armed forces, those wounded or recovering in veterans' hospitals, those serving in combat and those serving in safety.

For the peace and protection of God.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, Greg our Bishop, David, Rob, and Doug our clergy, and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For our schools, scouts, and all of the children and youth of our parish.
For your grace and their ever growing knowledge and love of you.

For our parish family.
Bind us together and draw us always closer to you.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.
(you may add your own intercessions and thanksgivings)

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life;
(you may add your own intercessions and thanksgivings)

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
(you may add your own intercessions and thanksgivings)

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with repentance and faith turn to 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

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

The Announcements

Sunday services continue at 9am, 10am, and 11am with a Wednesday morning service at 9am. The 9am Sunday service will continue to be livestreamed on an ongoing basis. Sunday School at 10am.

VERSE OF THE WEEK

1 Corinthians 13:13

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.

The Offertory

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:2)

“Alleluia, Alleluia” verses 1&2

*Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his Name.*

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.

He is the king of creation.

*Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his Name.*

Spread the good news o’er all the earth:

Jesus has died and has risen.

*Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his Name.*

The Presentation

All things come of thee, O Lord,
And of thine own have we given thee. (1 Chronicles 29:14)

Eucharistic Prayer A

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son 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:

**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.**

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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

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

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

The Family Song

*Here we are, gathered together as a family
Bound as one, lifting up our voices to the King of kings
We sing Abba, Father, holy is Your name
Abba, Father, holy is Your name.*

These are 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.

Please stay at your seat. The clergy will come to you with the consecrated Bread.

“Alleluia, Alleluia” verses 3&4

*Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his Name.*

*We have been crucified with Christ.
Now we shall live for ever.*

*Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his Name.*

*Come, let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Savior.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his Name.*

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers, Intercessions, and Thanksgiving

Anniversaries This Week

Tim and Ellen Irwin

Birthdays This Week:

DeAnn Brown, Chance Abbey, Everly Enriquez,
Dianne Knox, Lenny Paradise, Carmen Kight

Birthday Prayer

Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts

may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

+ May the peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and his son Jesus Christ and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen

Closing Hymn

“Alleluia, Sing to Jesus” verses 4&5

Alleluia! King eternal, thee the Lord of lords we own:

*Alleluia! born of Mary
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:
thou within the veil hast entered,
robed in flesh, our great High Priest:
thou on earth both Priest and Victim
in the eucharistic feast.*

Alleluia! sing to Jesus! his the scepter his the throne;

*Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone;
Hark! the songs of holy Zion thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus out of every nation hath redeemed us by his blood.*

The Dismissal

Let us go forth in the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!