



SAINT STEPHEN'S CHURCH

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND



SOLEMN EVENSONG & BENEDICTION

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

23 MARCH 2025

WELCOME TO SAINT STEPHEN'S and this service of Choral Evensong & Benediction. Since the earliest days of the Church, Christians have marked the changing times of day with prayer and praise. Evensong is but one part of the worship offered to God by Christian people every hour of the day and night, in every part of the world. For a brief moment, you step into the continual stream of worship which is being offered today and which will be offered to the end of time. The words we pray in Evensong are drawn almost entirely from the Bible, and the primary purpose of this service is to proclaim the wonderful works of God in history and in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Much of the English of the service is the language spoken and written by our spiritual ancestors more than four hundred years ago. It may sound old-fashioned, but its meaning is not out of date.

We conclude Evensong with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, which can be thought of as a stretching out of that moment in the Mass in which the priest displays the Bread and Wine to the faithful just before communion. In Benediction, hymns to the Blessed Sacrament are sung before the priest elevates the consecrated Host displayed in lavish array. The Blessing imparted is not the priest's, but Jesus Christ's. In that moment, we are permitted to simply gaze and adore, and to receive his blessing and love, which we respond to by praising and blessing God.

If you are new or visiting today, please know how welcome you are in this community of faith. We are young and old, rich and poor, married, single and divorced, straight and gay, confident in our faith and full of questions. But the thing we share is a love of Jesus, and a desire to grow in love of God, neighbor, and self. The center of our common life is worship, and I hope you will join us for a Sunday service soon.

BEFORE THE SERVICE

Jeremy Bruns plays

Prelude and Fugue in A minor, BWV 543

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Intermezzo in F major, from Sonata 4

Josef Rheinberger (1839–1901)

Saraband - In Modo Elegiaco

Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

Larghetto, from Sonata for Organ

Vincent Persichetti (1915–1987)

Chant de Paix, from Neuf Pièces

Jean Langlais (1907–1991)

ORDER OF SERVICE

¶ All stand at the ringing of the bell.

OPENING SENTENCES

To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him; neither have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in his laws which he set before us. –*Daniel 9:9–10*

Jesus said, “Whoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.” –*Mark 8:34*

PRECES & RESPONSES *¶ Sung by the choir.*

Richard Ayleward (1626–1669)

✠ O Lord, open thou our lips.

✠ And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

✠ O God, ✠ make speed to save us.

✠ O Lord, make haste to help us.

✠ Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

✠ As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

✠ Praise ye the Lord.

✠ The Lord’s Name be praised.

¶ The people are seated as the choir sings

PSALM 34 *Benedicam Dominum*

Scott Dettra (b. 1975)

I will always give thanks unto the LORD :
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

My soul shall make her boast in the LORD :
the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.

O praise the LORD with me :
and let us magnify his Name together.

I sought the LORD, and he heard me :
yea, he delivered me out of all my fear.

They had an eye unto him, and were lightened :
and their faces were not ashamed.

Lo, the poor crieth, and the LORD heareth him :
yea, and saveth him out of all his troubles.

The angel of the LORD tarrieth round about them that fear him :
and delivereth them.

O taste, and see, how gracious the LORD is :
blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

O fear the LORD, ye that are his saints :
 for they that fear him lack nothing.
 The lions do lack, and suffer hunger :
 but they who seek the LORD shall want no manner of thing that is good.
 Come, ye children, and hearken unto me :
 I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
 What man is he that lusteth to live :
 and would fain see good days?
 Keep thy tongue from evil :
 and thy lips, that they speak no guile.
 Eschew evil, and do good :
 seek peace, and ensue it.
 The eyes of the LORD are over the righteous :
 and his ears are open unto their prayers.
 The countenance of the LORD is against them that do evil :
 to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.
 The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth them :
 and delivereth them out of all their troubles.
 The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a contrite heart :
 and will save such as be of an humble spirit.
 Great are the troubles of the righteous :
 but the LORD delivereth him out of all.
 He keepeth all his bones :
 so that not one of them is broken.
 But misfortune shall slay the ungodly :
 and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.
 The LORD delivereth the souls of his servants :
 and all they that put their trust in him shall not be destitute. Glory be &c.

THE FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 6:9-15

Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Glean thoroughly as a vine the remnant of Israel; like a grape-gatherer pass your hand again over its branches." To whom shall I speak and give warning, that they may hear? Behold, their ears are closed, they cannot listen; behold, the word of the LORD is to them an object of scorn, they take no pleasure in it. Therefore I am full of the wrath of the LORD; I am weary of holding it in. "Pour it out upon the children in the street, and upon the gatherings of young men, also; both husband and wife shall be taken, the old folk and the very aged. Their houses shall be turned over to others, their fields and wives together; for I will stretch out my hand against the inhabitants of the land," says the LORD. "For from the least to the greatest of them, every one is greedy for unjust gain; and from prophet to priest, every one deals falsely. They have healed

the wound of my people lightly, saying, 'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace. Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed; they did not know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time that I punish them, they shall be overthrown," says the LORD.

¶ All stand and sing the Office Hymn.

HYMN 148

UFFINGHAM

¶ All remain standing as the choir sings

MAGNIFICAT

St. Mark's Service

Gerald Near (b. 1942)

My soul ✠ doth magnify the Lord : and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth : all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me : and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him : throughout all generations. He hath showed strength with his arm : he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat : and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things : and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel : as he promised to our forefathers. Abraham and his seed, for ever. Glory be &c.

THE SECOND LESSON

¶ All sit

Mark 5:1-20

Jesus and his disciples came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Ger'asenes. When Jesus had come out of the boat, there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, who lived among the tombs; and no one could bind him any more, even with a chain; for he had often been bound with fetters and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the fetters he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out, and bruising himself with stones. And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped him; and crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." For he had said to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion; for we are many." And he begged him eagerly not to send them out of the country. Now a great herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged him, "Send us to the swine, let us enter them." So he gave them leave. And the unclean spirits came out, and entered the swine; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and were drowned in the sea. The herdsmen fled, and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened. And they came

to Jesus, and saw the demoniac sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the man who had had the legion; and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told what had happened to the demoniac and to the swine. And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their neighborhood. And as he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. But he refused, and said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decap'olis how much Jesus had done for him; and all men marveled.

¶ All stand.

NUNC DIMITTIS

St. Mark's Service

Gerald Near

Lord, ✠ now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace : according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen : thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared : before the face of all people : To be a light to lighten the Gentiles : and to be the glory of thy people Israel. Glory be &c.

THE APOSTLES' CREED *¶ Sung by all.*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead and buried: He descended into hell: The third day he rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost: The Holy Catholic Church: the Communion of Saints: The Forgiveness of sins: The Resurrection of the body, ✠ And the Life everlasting. Amen.

THE SUFFRAGES *¶ Sung by the choir.*

L. Graham Schultz

✠ The Lord be with you.

✠ And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

¶ The people kneel.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
L Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed by 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. Amen.

✠ O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.
✠ And grant us thy salvation.
✠ O Lord, save the State.
✠ And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
✠ Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
✠ And make thy chose people joyful.
✠ O Lord, save thy people.
✠ And bless thine inheritance.
✠ Give peace in our time, O Lord.
✠ Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.
✠ O God, make clean our hearts within us.
✠ And take not thy holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A COLLECT FOR PEACE

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

A COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST PERILS

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE GRACE

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

¶ The people are seated for the Anthem.

THE ANTHEM

Herbert Howells

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks : so longeth my soul after thee, O God. My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God : when shall I come to appear before the presence of God? My tears have been my meat day and night : while they daily say unto me, Where is now thy God?

TEXT: Psalm 42:1-3

¶ An offering will be taken during the Anthem for the music program at S. Stephen's. Our evening choral services are funded entirely outside our operating budget through the generosity of our parishioners, friends, and visitors. We appreciate your support.

To make an electronic gift today, please scan the QR code below.



BENEDICTION *of the* BLESSED SACRAMENT

¶ The people kneel when the bell is rung after which all sing

O SALUTARIS HOSTIA

WAREHAM



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. O saving victim, opening wide | 2. All praise and thanks to thee ascend |
| The gate of heaven to man below, | For evermore, blest One in Three; |
| Our foes press on from every side, | O grant us life that shall not end, |
| Thine aid supply, thy strength bestow. | In our true native land with thee. |

¶ Here follows a period of silence after which all sing

TANTUM ERGO

GRAFTON



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Therefore we, before him bending,
This great Sacrament revere;
Types and shadows have their ending,
For the newer rite is here;
Faith, our outward sense befriending,
Makes our inward vision clear. | 2. Glory let us give and blessing
To the Father and the Son,
Honor, thanks, and praise addressing,
While eternal ages run;
Ever too his love confessing
Who from both with both is one. Amen. |
|--|--|

✠ Thou gavest them Bread from heaven.

✠ **Containing in itself all sweetness.**

Let us pray.

O God, who in a wonderful Sacrament has left unto us a Memorial of Thy Passion; Grant us, we beseech Thee, so to venerate the Sacred Mysteries of Thy Body and Blood, that we may ever perceive within ourselves the fruit of Thy redemption; who livest and reignest, world without end. **Amen.**

✠ The Priest makes the Sign of the Cross over the Congregation with the Blessed Sacrament.

THE DIVINE PRAISES *✠ Said by the Priest and repeated by the Congregation.*

Blessed be God.

Blessed be his Holy Name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.

Blessed be the Name of Jesus.

Blessed be his Most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar.

Blessed be the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.

Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

Blessed be Saint Joseph, Guardian of the Incarnate Word.

Blessed be God in his Angels and in his Saints.

¶ The bell is rung as the Priest places the Sacrament back in the tabernacle and all stand.

PSALM 117

Laudate Dominum

arr. Jeffrey Smith (b. 1960)

¶ The following antiphon is sung by all.



Choir O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him all ye peoples. For his merciful kindness is ever more and more toward us: and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever. Praise the LORD. Glory be &c.



¶ Please join us for a reception in the Guild House. All are welcome.

If you are new or visiting, please take a moment to fill out a **Visitor Information Card** and deposit it in the offering plate as it comes by. Welcome to S. Stephen's!



A hearty welcome to our recitalist and accompanist for this afternoon's service, **Jeremy Bruns**. Named "a coolly aristocratic player" by The Dallas Morning News, Bruns has been heard on the nationally syndicated radio show *Pipedreams*, BBC Radio, and the Pro Organo label. He has been featured at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston SC and has performed numerous recitals with engagements including St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey in London, Canterbury Cathedral, Washington National Cathedral, St. James' Cathedral in Toronto, Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, Methuen Memorial Music Hall, St. Paul Cathedral and Heinz Memorial Chapel in Pittsburgh, Adolphus Busch Hall, and the Fisor Reformed Church in Budapest, Hungary. As a church musician, Bruns has held positions in Boston MA, Pittsburgh PA and other locations, including three years as Associate Organist of Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, where he worked daily with the late John Scott and the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys. He serves as the Director of Music and Organist at Parish of the Epiphany (Episcopal) in Winchester MA. Upcoming recitals include St Nicholas Basilica in Amsterdam (July), and a return to Grace Cathedral in San Francisco (October).



Calling all who seek the Sacrament of Holy Baptism! The Book of Common Prayer describes Baptism as the "full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body the Church." We will be offering Holy Baptism at this year's Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 19 at 7:30pm. All of those interested in being baptized or having their children baptized should email the Parish Office at office@sstephens.org. One of our clergy will then be in touch regarding baptismal preparation.



All hands on deck! We will be having a **Parish Workday on Saturday, April 5 from 9am to 2pm** to bring a shine to our beloved church before Holy Week and Easter. Lunch will be served. Sign up to participate, even if you can only come for a few hours. We will have jobs for all ages, stages, and levels of ability. The workday will be an excellent opportunity to share fellowship with other parishioners and meet new people as we care for our beautiful campus. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex and Great Hall.



Donations for Easter Flowers are now being received. Envelopes are available in the narthex and may be deposited in the offering plate or office door mail slot. Thanksgivings and remembrances will be printed in the Easter leaflets. The deadline for submission is Sunday, April 13.



Keep up to date with all that's happening at S. Stephen's! **Sign up for our weekly eNews using the QR code below.**





DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Palm Sunday | April 13

Low Mass with Blessing of Palms | 8am

Solemn Mass with Blessing of Palms & Procession | 10am

Hosanna to the Son of David Thomas Weelkes

Mass for five voices William Byrd

Solus ad victimam Kenneth Leighton

Spy Wednesday | April 16 at 7:30pm | The Office of Tenebrae

Sung by Renaissance Men with Thomas Tallis's Lamentations of Jeremiah

Maundy Thursday | April 17 at 7:30pm | Solemn Mass with Procession to the Altar of Repose & Stripping of the Altar

Missa Brevis Grayston Ives

Ubi caritas Maurice Duruflé

Tristis et anima mea Orlande de Lassus

Good Friday | April 18 at 12 noon | Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday & Mass of the Presanctified

Reproaches Tomás Luis de Victoria

Crux Fidelis John of Portugal

Vere languores nostros Tomás Luis de Victoria

Easter Eve | April 19 at 7:30pm | The Great Vigil & First Mass of Easter

Missa Brevis Grayston Ives

Dum transisset Sabbatum John Taverner

Surrexit Christus hodie Samuel Scheidt

Easter Sunday | April 20

Low Mass at 8am | Solemn Mass with Orchestra at 10am

Missa Brevis in D, K. 194 W.A. Mozart

Sing ye to the Lord Edward Bairstow

Dum transisset Sabbatum John Taverner