



# SAINT STEPHEN'S CHURCH

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

23 March 2025

SOLEMN MASS

*Plainsong Mass for a Mean*

John Sheppard (c. 1515–1558)

## THE OPENING RITE

VOLUNTARY

*Da Jesus an dem Kreuze Stund*

Samuel Scheidt (1587–1654)

LENT PROSE

ATTENDE DOMINE

*g The antiphon is sung first by the choir, then repeated by all.*



Hear us, O Lord, have mer-cy up-on us: for we have sin - ned a- gainst thee.

- ✠ To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory: lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings: listen, O Jesu, to our supplications.
- ✠ **Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.**
- ✠ God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated: bow down and hearken to thy weeping children: pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses.
- ✠ **Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.**
- ✠ Sins oft committed now we lay before thee: with true contrition, now no more we veil them: grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution.
- ✠ **Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.**
- ✠ Innocent, captive, taken unresisting: falsely accused, and for us sinners sentenced, save us, we pray thee, Jesu our Redeemer.
- ✠ **Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.**

**M**ine eyes are ever looking unto the Lord, for he shall pluck my feet out of the net: look thou upon me, and mercy upon me, for I am desolate, and in misery. *Ps.* Unto thee, O Lord do I lift up my soul: my God, in thee have I trusted, let me not be confounded. Glory be &c. Mine eyes &c.

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Celebrant* Bless the ☩ Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

*People* His mercy endureth for ever.

## COLLECT FOR PURITY

**A**lmighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## SUMMARY OF THE LAW

**H**ear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

KYRIE ELEISON *¶ Sung by the choir.*

**K**yrie eleison.  
Christe eleison.  
Kyrie eleison.

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

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

**A**lmighty 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.**

*¶ Please be seated.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### THE FIRST LESSON

*Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15*

**N**ow Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Mid'ian; and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and lo, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, "I will turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt." When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here am I." Then he said, "Do not come near; put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said, "I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters; I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey." Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': this is my name for ever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 103:1-11** *Benedic, anima mea*

Plainsong

**P**raise the LORD O my soul :  
and all that is within me praise his holy Name.  
Praise the LORD, O my soul :  
and forget not all his benefits;  
Who forgiveth all thy sin :  
and healeth all thine infirmities;  
Who saveth thy life from destruction :  
and crowneth thee with mercy and loving-kindness;

Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things :  
making thee young and lusty as an eagle.  
The LORD executeth righteousness and judgement :  
for all them that are oppressed with wrong.  
He shewed his ways unto Moses :  
his works unto the children of Israel.  
The LORD is full of compassion and mercy :  
long-suffering, and of great goodness.  
He will not alway be chiding :  
neither keepeth he his anger for ever.  
He hath not dealt with us after our sins :  
nor rewarded us according to our wickednesses.  
For look how high the heaven is in comparison of the earth :  
so great is his mercy also toward them that fear him.

THE EPISTLE

*1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12*

I want you to know, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same supernatural food and all drank the same supernatural drink. For they drank from the supernatural Rock which followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless with most of them God was not pleased; for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things are warnings for us, not to desire evil as they did. We must not put the Lord to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents; nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as a warning, but they were written down for our instruction, upon whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let any one who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

*Subdeacon* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

TRACT *Ad te levavi*

*¶ All Stand.*

TONE VI

Unto thee lift I up mine eyes: O thou that dwellest in the heavens. *℣*. Behold, even as the eyes of servants: look unto the hand of their masters. *℣*. And as the eyes of a maiden: unto the hand of her mistress. *℣*. Even so our eyes wait upon the Lord our God: until he have mercy upon us. *℣*. Have mercy upon us, O Lord: have mercy upon us.

*Deacon* The Lord be with you.

*People* And with thy spirit.

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*People* Glory be to thee, O Lord.

**T**here were some who told Jesus of the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered thus? I tell you, No; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen upon whom the tower in Silo'am fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, No; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.” And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Lo, these three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down; why should it use up the ground?’ And he answered him, ‘Let it alone, sir, this year also, till I dig about it and put on manure. And if it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise be to thee, O Christ.

## SERMON

*The Rev'd Fr. Michael Pearson*

THE NICENE CREED *¶ Sung by all to S-103 in the hymnal.*

I believe in one God,  
 the Father Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth,  
 and of all things visible and invisible;  
 And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
 the only-begotten Son of God,  
 begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
 God of God, Light of Light,  
 very God of very God,  
 begotten, not made,  
 being of one substance with the Father;  
 by whom all things were made;  
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven,  
 and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,  
 and was made man;

| (*Genuflect or  
 bow*)

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried;  
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;  
and he shall come again, with glory,  
to judge both the quick and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.  
And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,  
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;  
who spake by the Prophets.  
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*g Deacon*

**L**et us bring to the Father our prayers of intercession through Christ who gave himself for the life of the world.

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.

**✠. Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to seek out those habits of sin which mean spiritual death, and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them, let us pray to the Lord.

**✠. Lord, have mercy.**

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them, that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

**✠. Lord, have mercy.**

For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground, let us pray to the Lord.

**✠. Lord, have mercy.**

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation, that they may find support and encouragement, let us pray to the Lord.

**✠. Lord, have mercy.**

That we, with those who have died ✠ in faith, may find mercy in the day of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

**✠. Lord, have mercy.**

*¶ Celebrant*

**O** Lord Jesus Christ, engrave upon our hearts the awe of thy Passion and the image of thy Cross, to soften our bitternesses, to quell our complaints, to hearten us in our duties, and to brighten our hope; for thine honor who livest and reignest in the glory of the eternal Trinity, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*¶ Deacon*

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*¶ Said by all, kneeling*

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## ABSOLUTION *¶ The Celebrant stands and says*

**A**lmighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto 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

*Celebrant* The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*¶ The Celebrant begins the Offertory with a sentence of scripture after which the people sit.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*¶ At the Offertory, we gratefully offer back to God a portion of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the money we give. To make an electronic gift today, please either visit [sstephens.org/give](http://sstephens.org/give) or scan the QR code below.*





OFFERTORY ANTIPHON *Justitiae Domini*

TONE II

The statutes of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb, moreover by them is thy servant taught.

AT THE OFFERTORY

Jonathan Battishill (1738–1801)

Lord, look down from heaven, and behold from the habitation of thy holiness and of thy glory: Where is thy zeal and thy strength, thy mercies toward me? Are they restrained?

TEXT: *Isaiah 63:15*

*¶ All stand for the hymn as the offering is brought forward and the gifts, altar, & people are censed.*

HYMN 147

BOURBON

ORATE, FRATRES

*Celebrant* Pray, brothers and sisters, that this my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty.

*People* **May the Lord receive this sacrifice at thy hands, to the praise and glory of his Name, both to our benefit and that of all his holy Church.**

SURSUM CORDA

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

*People* **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,



**SANCTUS ET BENEDICTUS** ¶ *Sung by the choir.*

**S**anctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth: Pleni  
sunt cæli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna  
in excelsis. Benedictus ✠ qui venit in  
nomine Domini. Hosanna in  
excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:  
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.  
Blessed ✠ is he that cometh in the name  
of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER** ¶ *All kneel.*

**A**ll glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of  
thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death  
upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation  
of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and  
satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy  
Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death  
and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given  
thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat,

THIS IS MY BODY,  
WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU.  
Do this in remembrance of me."



Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it  
to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this;

FOR THIS IS MY BLOOD,  
OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, WHICH IS SHED FOR YOU,  
AND FOR MANY, FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS.  
Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."



Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly  
beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and  
make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer  
unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in  
remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and  
glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable  
benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace ☩ and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,



Our Fa-ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed be thy Name,  
thy king-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in hea - ven.  
Give us this day our dai - ly bread. And for-give us our tres-pas - ses,  
as we for-give those who tres-pass a-gainst us. And lead us not in - to  
and the power, and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A- men.

## THE BREAKING OF BREAD

*Celebrant* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

*People* Therefore let us keep the feast.

## PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the Flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his Blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his Body, and our souls washed through his most precious Blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

## THE INVITATION: ECCE AGNUS DEI

*Celebrant* Behold ✠ the Lamb of God; behold him that taketh away the sins of the world.

*People* Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.

## THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Please come forward to the altar rail and then return to your pew via the passageway on the right. If you are unable to come forward, communion can be brought to you in your pew. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Eucharist at the Lord's Table. Gluten-free wafers are available. If you are not receiving, you are invited to come forward for a blessing (indicated by crossing your arms over your chest). If you have not been baptized and find yourself drawn to Jesus Christ and life in him, please let one of our clergy know. We would be honored to have a conversation with you about baptism or answer any other questions. Baptism and life in the Body of Christ is open to all.*

## AGNUS DEI ¶ *Sung by the choir.*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata  
mundi, Miserere nobis.  
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
Miserere nobis.  
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
Dona nobis pacem.

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the  
sins of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the  
sins of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the  
sins of the world, grant us thy peace.*

**T**he sparrow hath found her an house, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young: even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be always praising thee.

HYMN 479 *¶ Sung by all.*

WEM IN LEIDENSTAGEN

## THE CLOSING RITE

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *¶ All kneel.**Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

*Deacon* Bow down before the Lord.

*Celebrant* Look mercifully on this thy family, Almighty God, that by thy great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISMISSAL *¶ Please stand.**Deacon* Let us bless the Lord.*People* Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY

*Prelude in B minor, BWV 544/1*

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

*¶ Please join us for Coffee Hour in the Guild House. All are welcome.*