

**February 2, 2025  
10:00 AM**

**The Fourth Sunday  
after the Epiphany**

## **Morning Prayer**



## **St. Stephen's in-the-Field Episcopal Church**

7269 Santa Teresa Boulevard  
San Jose, CA 95139  
(408) 629-1836  
[www.ssitf.org](http://www.ssitf.org)

**We the people of Saint Stephen's in-the-Field  
seek to know Christ, to share Christ, and to serve Christ,  
recognizing his presence in all people,  
and reaching out in love to each other and to the world around us.**

***Opening Hymn:*** Freely, freely – YSB page 16

***Opening Sentence***

*Officiant:* Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

***Confession***

*Officiant:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
in thought word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
Have mercy on us and forgive us:  
That we may delight in your will,  
And walk in your ways,  
To the glory of your Name. Amen**

***Absolution***

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

***Opening Versicle*** (*stand*)

*Officiant:* Lord, open our lips.

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

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## ***Invitatory Psalm***

*Officiant:* The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:

*People:* Come let us adore him.

## ***Venite Psalm 95:1-7***

*Officiant and people*

**Come, let us sing to the Lord:\***

**Let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.**

**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving\***

**And raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

**For the Lord is a great God,\***

**And a great King above all gods.**

**In his hand are the caverns of the earth,\***

**And the heights of the hills are his also.**

**The sea is his, for he made it,\***

**And his hands have molded the dry land.**

**Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,\***

**And kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

**For he is our God,**

**and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.\***

**Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

## ***Psalm:***

## ***Psalm 84***

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! \*

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

2 The sparrow has found her a house

and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \*  
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,  
my King and my God.

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*

they will always be praising you.

4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, \*  
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, \*  
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; \*  
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; \*  
and look upon the face of your Anointed.
- 9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, \*  
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God  
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- 10 For the LORD God is both sun and shield; \*  
he will give grace and glory;
- 11 No good thing will the LORD withhold \*  
from those who walk with integrity.
- 12 O LORD of hosts, \*  
happy are they who put their trust in you!

*Officiant and people*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;\***  
**As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

### ***The Lessons*** *(please be seated)*

#### ***First Reading***

***Malachi 3:1-4***

A reading from the Prophet Malachi.

Thus says the Lord, See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like

gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### ***Second Reading***

***Hebrews 2:14-18***

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since God's children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

***Gospel Gradual:*** Lord be glorified – YSB page 36

### ***Gospel Reading***

***Luke 2:22-40***

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon

came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-- and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Sermon:** *Living Eucharistically, Epiphany 4 (C) – 2016*, by J. Barrington Bates

## ***The Apostles' Creed*** (please stand as you are able)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
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,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and 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* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Officiant* Let us pray.

## ***Lord's Prayer***

**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.**

## ***Suffrages***

**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.**

## ***Collect of the Day***

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## ***Prayers of the People*** *(please stand as you are able)*

**Leader:** Let us pray for the Church and for the world.  
Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

In the diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for parish administrators, accountants, secretaries, and all the office assistants and volunteers behind the scenes who make worship and ministry possible.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**People:** **Hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

*Silence*



Lord, in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Silence*

*(You are invited to offer your own petitions either silently or aloud.)*

Lord, in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

*(You are invited to offer your own petitions either silently or aloud.)*

Lord, in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

**All: God and Father of all, hear our prayers for all in need and fill your hungry people with bread from heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## ***The Peace***

**Officiant:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*Exchange peace.*

**Offertory:** Open our eyes – YSB page 42

**Doxology (Old 100<sup>th</sup>):**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be - low;

praise him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

***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***

**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.**

### ***Announcements (please be seated)***

### ***Prayers for Celebrations***

**Loving Creator, You are the source of life and the source of love. We thank you for all who celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and special events today. Watch over them as their days increase, bless and guide them wherever they may be. May your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives, and may your love for the world shine through them and the deep relationships they cherish, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

*Please stand*

### ***Concluding Versicle and Response***

**Officiant** Let us bless the Lord.

**People** Thanks be to God.

### ***Concluding Sentence***

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

***Mission Song:*** Pass it on – YSB page 44

## **Mark your calendar**

- Wednesday Book Group, every Wednesday morning at St. John's, 11am
- Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> – Fundraiser at Lazy Dog, all day
- Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup> – Games and pizza after service

## **Vestry Members**

Janet Thorsrud, *Senior Warden* • Rob van der Molen, *Junior Warden* •  
Anthony Francis • Andy Lief, *Treasurer/Finance* • Maggie Stedman, *Clerk*