



TRINITY
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

Morning Prayer
Saint Stephen, Deacon and Martyr
Year C
December 26, 2021 at 9:30 AM

*The Right Rev. Dr. Bonnie A. Perry
The Eleventh Bishop
of the
Diocese of Michigan*

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Please observe silence in the sanctuary before the service begins.

Please stand as you are able.

OPENING SENTENCE

Officiant You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. *Ephesians 2:19*

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

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

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!

JUBILATE

Officiant

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

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!

PSALM 30

Officiant and People

- ¹ I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up *
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.
- ² O LORD my God, I cried out to you, *
and you restored me to health.
- ³ You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead; *
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.
- ⁴ Sing to the LORD, you servants of his; *
give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.
- ⁵ For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, *
his favor for a lifetime.
- ⁶ Weeping may spend the night, *
but joy comes in the morning.
- ⁷ While I felt secure, I said, "I shall never be disturbed. *
You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains."
- ⁸ Then you hid your face, *
and I was filled with fear.
- ⁹ I cried to you, O LORD; *
I pleaded with the Lord, saying,
- ¹⁰ What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit? *
will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?
- ¹¹ Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me; *
O LORD, be my helper."
- ¹² You have turned my wailing into dancing; *
you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy.
- ¹³ Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; *
O LORD my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

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!

Please be seated.

THE LESSONS

THE FIRST LESSON: 2 Chronicles 24:17-22

A reading from the Second Book of Chronicles.

Now after the death of Jehoiada the officials of Judah came and did obeisance to the king; then the king listened to them. They abandoned the house of the LORD, the God of their ancestors, and served the sacred poles and the idols. And wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs. Yet he sent prophets among them to bring them back to the LORD; they testified against them, but they would not listen. Then the spirit of God took possession of Zechariah son of the priest Jehoiada; he stood above the people and said to them, "Thus says God: Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has also forsaken you." But they conspired against him, and by command of the king they stoned him to death in the court of the house of the LORD. King Joash did not remember the kindness that Jehoiada, Zechariah's father, had shown him, but killed his son. As he was dying, he said, "May the LORD see and avenge!"

Here ends the Reading.

THE RESPONSE: The Song of Zechariah

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
 he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
 born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
 from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
 and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
 to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear, *
 holy and righteous in his sight
 all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation *
 by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the
shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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 NEW TESTAMENT: Acts 6:1-7

A reading from the Act of the Apostles.

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Here ends the Reading.

THE RESPONSE: You Are God

Officiant and People

You are God: we praise you;

You are the Lord; we acclaim you;

You are the eternal Father:

All creation worships you.

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,

Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

The glorious company of apostles praise you.

The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.

The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you;
 Father, of majesty unbounded,
 your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
 and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the king of glory,
the eternal Son of the Father.

When you became man to set us free
you did not shun the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.

We believe that you will come and be our judge.

 Come then, Lord, and help your people,
 bought with the price of your own blood,
 and bring us with your saints
 to glory everlasting.

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!

Please be seated.

MEDITATION: Saint Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Silence may be kept.

Please stand as you are able.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Officiant and People

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the Virgin Mary.

 He 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,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

 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

The people stand or kneel.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

**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.**

Suffrage B

Please read responsively, the people reading the R verses.

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. We praise your name for ever.

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. For we put our trust in you.

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. And we shall never hope in vain.

THE COLLECTS

The Collect of the Day

Officiant We give you thanks, O Lord of glory, for the example of the first martyr Stephen, who looked up to heaven and prayed for his persecutors to your Son Jesus Christ, who stands at your right hand; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.

People Amen.

A Collect for Sundays

Officiant O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

A Prayer for Mission

Officiant and People

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

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

People Amen.