



St. Luke's Episcopal Church – Stephenville, TX
The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 8, 2026
8:00 am - 10:00 am - 5:30 pm

Coffee Hour and Vestry Meeting to follow at 11:00

To All Who Are Joyful And Thankful, To All Who Mourn And Need Comfort
To All Who Are Weary And Need Rest, To All Who Are Friendless And Wish Friendship
To All Who Pray And Who Do Not But Ought, To All Who Sin And Need A Savior.
And To Whoever Will, The Church Opens Wide The Door
And In The Name Of Christ, The Lord Says Welcome.

The Processional Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #497 How bright appears the morning star

The people standing, the Celebrant says:

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The 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.

The Gloria

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music - #280 Canticle 20, Glory to God: Gloria in excelsis

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,

you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Readings

All are seated.

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 112:1-10 Beatus vir (Read responsively by full verse)

Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord
and have great delight in his commandments!

**Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last for ever.

**Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.

**For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is right;
they put their trust in the Lord.

**Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

They have given freely to the poor,
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

The wicked will see it and be angry;
they will gnash their teeth and pine away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

All stand as are able.

Gradual Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #419 Lord of all being, throned a far

People

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Matthew 5:13-20

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Rev. Mark Witte

A brief time of reflection follows 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.

The Prayers of the People

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For the holy Church of God, that we, as the Body of Christ, may be a light to the world, and that our words and deeds may be instruments of healing and transformation for our society.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who exercise authority among the nations, that we may have the courage to awaken our society from complacency as we bring the truth and challenges of the Gospel into our neighborhoods, workplaces, and public discourse.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For our common life and our common home that we may grow in reverence for the earth as your gift to us, working faithfully to preserve and restore it for future generations.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who are in need or trouble, especially the hungry and the homeless, the naked and the oppressed, the sick and the sorrowful, including [N.]; that you would touch hearts and give courage to those who can bring food to the hungry, clothing to the naked, and justice to those who are denied it.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the peace and unity of the Church and of the world that your reconciling love may cast out fear, heal divisions, and draw all people into the light of your kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who have died in the hope of the resurrection, including [N.] that they may rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For our own lives and vocations that, formed by Word and Sacrament, we may shine with the light of Christ in all that we do, to the glory of your Name.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Silence may be kept.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

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.

The Celebrant says

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

The Peace

All stand as are able.

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

Announcements

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Leslie Miller (8th)

Celebrant and People

Watch over your 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 the peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Gifts may be placed in the offering plate, given by text by sending an amount to (254) 282-0706, or given online. Mailed checks may be sent to the address printed at the end of the bulletin.

The Offertory Hymn

Lift Every Voice and Sing #109 What a friend we have in Jesus

1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3. Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?

1. What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
2. We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged, Take it to the Lord in prayer.
3. Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, Take it to the Lord in prayer.

1. Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, Oh, what need - less pain we bear,
2. Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
3. Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

1. All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
2. Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness, Take it to the Lord in prayer.
3. In his arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.

Words: Joseph Scriven (1819-1866). Music: Charles C. Converse (1832-1918).

Doxology

(sung to *The Hymnal 380*)

*Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye Heavenly Host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer A

The people remain standing, as are able. The Celebrant says

The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds

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:

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music - #125 Holy, holy, holy (Proulx)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est.

Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

The people stand or kneel, as are able.

The Celebrant continues

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:

Celebrant and People

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 now, 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

Jesus said to the disciples, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." John 14:27

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

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.

The Distribution of Holy Communion

Concerning Holy Communion

"This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.

It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more.

*So come, you who have much faith, and you who have little,
you who have been here often and you who have not been here long,
you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.*

Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.

It is his will that those who want him should meet him here."



If you do not wish to receive the sacrament, we invite you to come forward for a blessing.

Simply cross your arms over your chest and the priest will bless you.



Gluten free wafers are available upon request.



If after receiving Communion or a blessing you would like special prayers for healing, you are invited to go to the votive stand at the rear of the church where someone will pray with you.

Communion Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #488 Be thou my vision

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Priest gives the blessing

Blessing

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Processional

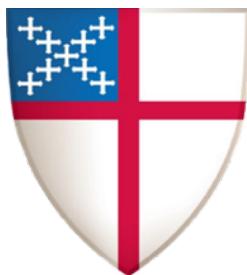
The Hymnal 1982 #436 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates

The Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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From the Calendar of Saints

February 13 Absalom Jones *Priest, 1818*

Jones was born a slave, but later bought his freedom. He and other black parishioners left St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church after being told they could only worship in an upstairs gallery. Jones became the priest at St. Thomas African Episcopal Church which was admitted into the Episcopal Church in 1794. He became known as "the Black Bishop of the Episcopal Church." He was an earnest preacher, and was particularly beloved for his mild manner and his devotion to pastoral visiting.

February 14 Cyril and Methodius *Monk and Bishop, Missionaries to the Slavs, 869, 885*

Cyril and his brother Methodius are honored as apostles to the southern Slavs and founders of Slavic literary culture. Cyril invented an alphabet for the Slavonic language; Methodius completed a Slavonic translation of the Bible.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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Clergy

The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche – Rector
The Rev. Mark Witte – Curate
The Rev. Leslie Guinn - Assisting

Staff

Lexi McLemore – Parish Administrator
Duncan McMahan – Organist
Gail Johnson & Kelly Barbee – Altar Guild Directresses
The Rev. Mark Witte – ECM Missioner
Neely Carter – Vestry Secretary
Emma Gomez – Technology Minister

Vestry

Term Ending 2026 – Kelly Barbee, Malcolm Cross, & Ian Wilson
Term Ending 2027 – Doug McLemore & Allison Haynes
Term Ending 2028 – Gail Johnson & Dylan Dowell

