Holy Eucharist

The Feast of Stephen
December 26, 2021   10:00 a.m.

Welcome to St. Luke’s Episcopal Church!
An inclusive, multicultural community pursuing spiritual and social transformation.
Una comunidad inclusiva y multicultural, en búsqueda de transformación espiritual y social.

At St. Luke’s, we welcome and fully affirm everyone equally as children of God created in the image of God. Thank you for joining us as we resume in-person worship. Despite the changes in California guidelines, we continue to recommend that people wear masks indoors. And, we will pass the Peace by bowing, nodding, or waving from a distance. We will celebrate the Eucharist together, and the bread of Holy Communion will be given to all who would like to share in receiving the body of Christ. If you have any needs or concerns, please contact the clergy, the Rev. Jane Gould at jgould@stlukeslb.org or 562-436-4047.

Please turn off your cellphone. If God is going to speak to you during the service, other means will be used.
The Order of Service

Prelude  Now Sing We, Now Rejoice
          P. Manz
          Eveline Eng, Organ

Hymn  Good King Wenceslas
If you are able, please stand.
          arr. Sir John Stainer

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant  Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People    Glory to God for ever and ever.

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.
Collect of the Day

_Celebrant_  God be with you,

_People_  And also with you.

_Celebrant_  Let us pray.

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. **Amen.**

The First Reading  _Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15_

A reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

At the beginning of the reign of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah, this word came from the Lord: “Thus says the Lord: ‘Stand in the court of the Lord’s house, and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house of the Lord; speak to them all the words that I command you; do not hold back a word. It may be that they will listen, all of them, and will turn from their evil way, that I may change my mind about the disaster that I intend to bring on them because of their evil doings.’ You shall say to them: ‘Thus says the Lord: If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law that I have set before you, and to heed the words of my servants the prophets whom I send to you urgently—though you have not heeded—then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth.’”

The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the Lord. And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the Lord had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, “You shall die! Why have you prophesied in the name of the Lord, saying, ‘This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant?’” And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the Lord. Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, “It is the Lord who sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. Now therefore amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the Lord your God, and the Lord will change his mind about the disaster that he has pronounced against you. But as for me, here I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will be bringing innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the Lord sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. **Thanks be to God.**
**Psalm 31**

*Remain seated. The cantor will sing first, then the congregation will repeat.*

Mark Sedio

Harlee Balajadia, Cantor

**REFRAIN**

In you, O Lord, have I take refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness. Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me. Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

**REFRAIN**

Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength. Into your hand I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O God of truth. My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me. Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

**REFRAIN**

Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength. Into your hand I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O God of truth. How great is your goodness, which you have laid up for those who fear you; which you have done in the sight of all who put their trust in you. You hide them in the protection of your presence from those who slander them; you keep them in your shelter from the strife of tongues.

**REFRAIN**

Blessed are you, O Lord! For you have shown me the wonders of your love when I was under siege. I said in my alarm, “I have been cut off from the sight of your eyes.” Nevertheless, you heard the sound of my plea when I cried out to you. Love the Lord, all your saints; the Lord protects the faithful, but pays in full those who act haughtily. Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord.

**REFRAIN**

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumer with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly. For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed. I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances; when they see me in the street they avoid me. Like the dead I am forgotten out of mind; I am useless as a broken pot.

**REFRAIN**

For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life. But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord. I have said, “You are my God. My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me. Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.”

**REFRAIN**
The Second Reading  Acts 6:8--7:2a, 51c-60

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated some men to say, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.” They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. They set up false witnesses who said, “This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us.” And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Then the high priest asked him, “Are these things so?” And Stephen replied: “Brothers and fathers, listen to me. ‘As your ancestors did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.’” When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. Thanks be to God.
Gospel Procession  St. Stephen Hymn  


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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.  

Jesus said, “I send you prophets, sages, and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town, so that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. Truly I tell you, all this will come upon this generation. “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you, desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”  

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Christ.  

The Sermon  

Silence follows the sermon.  

Written by The Rev. Matthew Stewart  

The Rev. Jane Gould
Nicene Creed  *If you are able, please stand.*

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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.  
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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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.

Prayers of the People – Christmas  
*Based on prayers written by the Rev. Dcn. Suzanne Watson Epting*

Let us pray to God, who came among us in the birth of Jesus, saying God of Love, be born in us.

Gracious God, as a star rose, and drew people from great distances to Bethlehem that they might greet the Christ-child; Draw us, your Church, and all your people to you—that we might be the Church and the People whom you call us to be. Let us pray to the Lord:  
**People: God of love be born in us.**

As you gave Mary your Holy Spirit, filling her with the delight of your Presence; Fill us with your Spirit, and renew our lives. We offer our prayers of gratitude raising up the abundant blessings of our lives; *(please add your own prayers of thanksgiving either silently or aloud).* Let us pray to the Lord:  
**People: God of love be born in us.**

As we draw near to Jesus’ light; Draw our nation, our President Joseph, our Governor Gavin, and all in authority, to his Brightness. Let us pray to the Lord:  
**People: God of love be born in us.**

As angels sang “glorias” to you and proclaimed peace on earth and goodwill among all peoples; Bring us your peace and bring an end to terror and strife. Let us pray to the Lord:  
**People: God of love be born in us.**

As a baby, Jesus was born in a manger because there was no room for in the inn. As an adult, he lived and worked among the poor, the sick, and the lonely: Be especially present with those who live with fear, hardship, and uncertainty, especially those we name now either silently or aloud…. Let us pray to the Lord:  
**People: God of love be born in us.**
As your son came to proclaim forgiveness of sins and the gift of Life Eternal, give to the departed eternal rest and let Light perpetual shine on them. We give thanks for all those celebrated in our Christmas Flower Gifts of Gratitude. We pray for our community … We pray for the church … We pray for all those who have died; we remember especially those who are named in our Christmas Flower Memorials. (please add your own prayers either silently or aloud)

Let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** God of love be born in us.

*Celebrant* Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

**The Peace**

*Celebrant* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

**Special prayers, celebrations, and anniversaries**

**Offertory Sentence**

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

**Offertory Anthem** Jesus, What a Wonderful Child

Go tell it on the mountain, Down in a lonely manger
Over the hills and ev’rywhere The humble Christ was born
Go tell it on the mountain And God sent us salvation
That Jesus Christ is born! That blessed Christmas morn.

Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child.
Jesus, so holy, meek and mild,
New life, new hope the child will bring

Go tell it on the mountain, Jesus, what a wonderful child.
Go tell it on the mountain, SO holy, meek, and mild

Listen to the angels sing “Glory, glory, glory,” let the heavens ring!

New life, new hope the child will bring
New life, new hope the child will bring

“Glory, glory, glory,” let the heavens ring!

Jesus, sweet Jesus, I sing, oh what a wonderful child The baby’s name is Jesus, sweet Jesus, He’s so holy, meek and mild, New life, new hope that child will bring, Well, now listen, oh listen to the angels singin’ “Glory, glory, glory,” let the heavens ring!

Hark! The herald angels sing, Singin’ “Glory, glory, glory,” let the heavens ring!
Glory to the newborn King!

Go tell it on the mountain, New life, new hope the child will bring
Over the hills and ev’rywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.
During the anthem, please support the parish by contributing financially to the mission and ministry of St. Luke’s / San Lucas. You may contribute electronically by scanning the QR code to the right, or by placing your offering in the plate as it is passed.

Offertory Hymn 102 (v.1-4)  *Once in royal David's city*  

*Irby*

**The Holy Eucharist**

**The Great Thanksgiving  Eucharistic Prayer A**

If you are able, please stand.

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Then, facing the Holy Table, 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 you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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:
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 all 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.

The Celebrant continues
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  The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

Celebrant  Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People  Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem  Hymn 112 (v.4) In the bleak midwinter  Cranham

The Holy Communion

Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, you are welcome to receive the Eucharist. At this time, due to COVID-19 restrictions, only the bread of Holy Communion will be offered to the congregation. To receive Communion, please form a line down the center aisle. When you reach the altar rail, use the entire rail to stand or kneel around the altar rail to receive the bread, which will be placed in your hands; gluten free wafers are available. Anyone with mobility issues is welcome to remain standing in the center, or stay seated and have the clergy bring Communion to you. If you desire a Blessing rather than Communion, cross your arms on your chest. Please return to your pew by the side aisles. Our prayer partners are in the Chapel to offer prayers with anyone who would like special prayers.

Communion Anthem  Come Sunday  Duke Ellington

Sunday, oh come Sunday, that’s the day.

Lord, Dear Lord above: God Almighty, God of Love, Please look down and see my people through.

I believe God is now, was then and always will be. With God’s blessing we can make it through eternity.

Heaven is a goodness time, a brighter light on high. Do unto others as you would have them do to you, And have a brighter by and by.
The Thanksgiving after Communion

Celebrant Let us pray.

People God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

And may the blessing of the God who created us, came to live among us as Jesus, and renews us through the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you this night and always.

Announcements

Hymn 107 Good Christian friends, rejoice In dulci jubilo
If you are able, please stand.

Dismissal

Deacon May the love of Christ lead us into the world this night and always. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude Joy To The World

G. F. Handel, arr. M. Burkhardt
Eveline Eng, Organ

Cover image: “Stoning of Saint Stephen”, Boí (circa 1100)
The **Aumbry Candle** is given to the Glory of God in memory of Harry Holgate’s father, Leonard H. Holgate.

**Coffee Hour** is hosted by Mark Fretland & Ramon Joson.

**We pray for our community:**
For Audrey, Betty, Joan, Debra, Luis Eduardo, Martha, Sheila, Juliana, Evelyn, Rose, Vandalue, Isaac, Amos, Kim, Shelley; for our homeless siblings; who have asked for our prayers; for all those whose lives and livelihoods are affected by COVID-19; for all refugees and immigrants; for an end to violence of all kind.

*For the church* – For Michael our Presiding Bishop; our Bishop John; for our clergy: Jane, Jennifer, Dean, Beryl, Peter, Antonio, and Steve; for our Vestry and staff.

**If this is your first time visiting us, please fill out the yellow Visitors Card found in the front of your pew or at the back of the church. We would love to get to know you and keep you informed of the many activities happening at St. Luke’s! Cards may be placed in the offertory plate or given to an usher. If you are interested in our Ministry with Young People, please get a brochure from an usher, or the table in the back of the church.**

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BAPTISM?**
On Sunday, January 9, we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus. If you are interested in Baptism, please speak with the clergy and complete a Baptism Registration Form available in the back of the church. Our Baptism Preparation Class will be on **Wednesday, January 5 at 6:00pm** in Building A, Room 101.

**FOLLOW THE EPIPHANY STAR TO THE GRAYS ON JANUARY 8**
As the magi followed the star to the manger in Bethlehem, Will, Melody, and James Gray hope that all families with kids as well as adults who like to hang out with young ones will follow your GPS to the Grays at (4240 Cerritos Ave, Long Beach, CA 90807) for Saturday morning fun on January 8. As 2022 unfolds, the Grays hope that kids and adults will prioritize St. Luke’s connecting and socializing time on Saturday mornings (9am-Noon) on January 8, April 2, and August 13. Mark your calendars for these 2022 events, and RSVP now (melodyprincegray@gmail.com) for January 8, 9am-noon!

**RENEWAL TAIZE – Tuesday, January 11 on Zoom & Facebook Live**
CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK (DECEMBER 26 – JANUARY 2)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26
8am – Holy Eucharist in English
10am – Holy Eucharist in English
12:30pm – Misa en Español

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27 – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31
Church Office Closed

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29
7:00pm – Weekly Watch (Zoom)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1 – NEW YEARS DAY
7:30am-Noon – Homeless Ministry: Showers, Clothes & Food
Contact: Gail Mutke (gmutke@verizon.net)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2
8am – Holy Eucharist in English
10am – Holy Eucharist in English
12:30pm – Misa en Español

Christmas Flowers & Greens Dedications

In loving memory of:
Shalimar Mazegue
Nick Mangano
Samuel Shumaker
David Nalle
Clayton Cobb
My parents (Hynes)
Duane & Lucy Kuster
Tom Sanford
Eliza Shumaker Sosyter
Elizabeth Soyster
Loved ones in the columbarium

Frank Hotchkiss
Erika Von Pelz
Andreas Wickstrom
Ken Watanabe
Fay Swofford
Palmer Johnson
Gary Johnson
Joy Clemensen
Dorie Ferrone
Gary Smith

In thanksgiving/celebration/honor of:
Dominic Santarosa
Adelheid Hynes
Wilder Gould
My husband (Rustrum)
Sam, Georgia, Gardner, Tiffanie, & Wilder
The Woodward Family
The Stine Family
The Lewis Family
The Nazelrod Family
Jill Cassidy
The Howard Family
The Wright Family
The gift of family