



SAINT LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Reverend Rebecca A. Barnes, Rector

Our Mission Statement

To spread the Gospel to all people through hospitality, service, and spiritual growth.

Burial Rite I with Holy Eucharist

January 14, 2023 at 11:00 A.M.

Hymns, in numerical order, are in the 1982 Hymnal; service music is listed on the service leaflet and may be found in the front of the 1982 Hymnal, with "S" before the number. "BCP" with a page number, refers to The Book of Common Prayer.

(Please silence all cell-phones & digital devices until after the Service! Thank you.)

The Reverend Lester E. Stephenson Jr.

(September 29, 1946 – December 20, 2022)



PRELUDE

Ein feste Burg

Johann Nicolaus Hanff (1663-1711)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #688 A Mighty Fortress is our God

Ein feste Burg

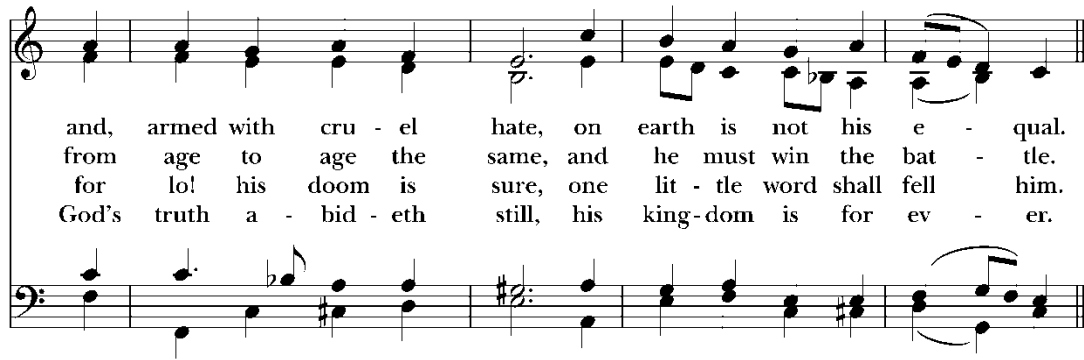
All standing, as able

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
 3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
 4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -

fail - ing; our help - er he a - mid the flood
 los - ing; were not the right man on our side,
 do - us; we will not fear, for God hath willed
 bid - eth; the Spi - rit and the gifts are ours

of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing; for still our an - cient foe
 the man of God's own choos - ing: dost ask who that may be?
 his truth to tri - umph through us; the prince of dark - ness grim,
 through him who with us sid - eth: let goods and kin - dred go,

doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are great,
 Christ Je - sus, it is he; Lord Sa - ba - oth his Name,
 we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure,
 this mor - tal life al - so; the bo - dy they may kill:



OPENING ANTHEM

BCP page 469

All stand, as able, while one or more of the following anthems are sung or said

I AM the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord;
 He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live;
 and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

I know that my Redeemer liveth,
 and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth;
 and though this body be destroyed, yet shall I see God;
 whom I shall see for myself and mine eyes shall behold,
 and not as a stranger.

For none of us liveth to himself,
 and no man dieth to himself.

For if we live, we live unto the Lord.
 and if we die, we die unto the Lord.

Whether we live, therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord;
 even so saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

The Celebrant say the following Collect

The Lord be with you.

People *And with thy spirit.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

O GOD, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf
 of thy servant Lester, and grant him an entrance into the land of light and joy,
 in the fellowship of thy saints; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,
 who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God,
 now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING Wisdom 3:1-5, 9

Read by Susan Sheerin

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Wisdom.

BUT THE SOULS of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.

In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,
and their going from us to be their destruction;
but they are at peace.

For though in the sight of others they were punished,
their hope is full of immortality.

Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,
because God tested them and found them worthy of himself.

Those who trust in him will understand truth,
and the faithful will abide with him in love,
because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,
and he watches over his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

PSALM 116 (*read in unison*)

- 1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
 because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.
- 2 The cords of death entangled me;
 the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
 I came to grief and sorrow.
- 3 Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: *
 "O LORD, I pray you, save my life."
- 4 Gracious is the LORD and righteous; *
 our God is full of compassion.

- 5 The LORD watches over the innocent; *
I was brought very low, and he helped me.
- 6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul, *
for the LORD has treated you well.
- 7 For you have rescued my life from death, *
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.
- 8 I will walk in the presence of the LORD *
in the land of the living.
- 9 I believed, even when I said,
"I have been brought very low." *
In my distress I said, "No one can be trusted."
- 10 How shall I repay the LORD *
for all the good things he has done for me?
- 11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- 12 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people.
- 13 Precious in the sight of the LORD *
is the death of his servants.
- 14 O LORD, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.
- 15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- 16 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people,
- 17 In the courts of the LORD'S house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!

THE SECOND READING Revelation 21:2-7

Read by The Rev. George Mathews

Reader: A Reading from the Revelation to John.

I SAW the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children."

The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

THE HOLY GOSPEL John 6:37-40

All standing, as able,

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People ***Glory be to thee, O Lord.***

JESUS SAID to the people, "Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People ***Praise be to thee, O Christ.***

THE SERMON

Mother Barnes

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Celebrant and People together, all standing

I BELIEVE in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

THE PRAYERS

Led by Sharon Sollami

The People respond to every petition with Amen.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Almighty God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord: Grant, we beseech thee, to thy whole Church in paradise and on earth, thy light and thy peace. *Amen.*

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life, and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection. *Amen.*

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that thy Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days. **Amen.**

Grant to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind. **Amen.**

Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in thy fatherly care, that, casting all their grief on thee, they may know the consolation of thy love. **Amen.**

Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a reasonable and holy hope, in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. **Amen.**

Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. **Amen.**

Grant us grace to entrust Lester to thy never-failing love; receive him into the arms of thy mercy, and remember him according to the favor which thou bearest unto thy people. **Amen.**

Grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of thee, he may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in thy heavenly kingdom. **Amen.**

Grant us, with all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, to have our consummation and bliss in thy eternal and everlasting glory, and, with the ever Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Luke and all thy saints, to receive the crown of life which thou dost promise to all who share in the victory of thy Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

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

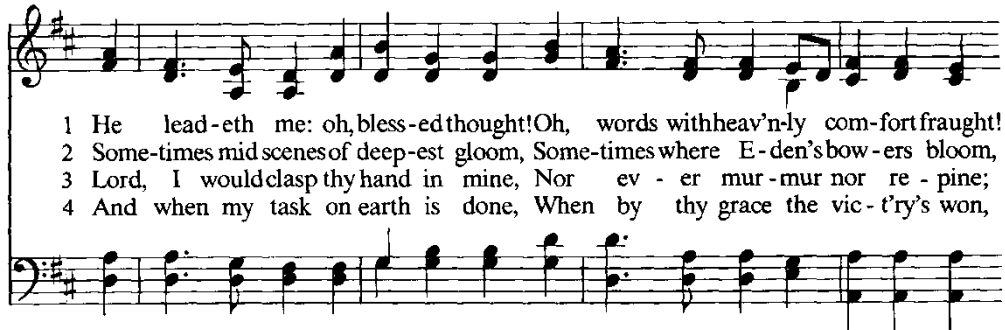
Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

HYMN AT THE OFFERTORY He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought *He Leadeth Me*

Representatives of the family bring the people's offerings of bread and wine. The people stand, as able, while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

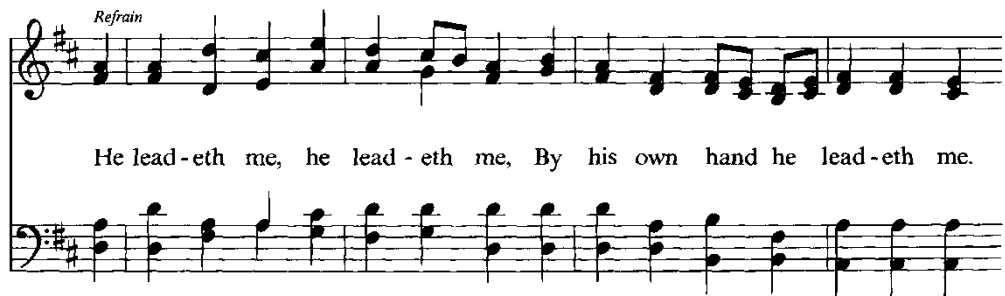


1 He lead-eth me: oh, bless-ed thought! Oh, words with heav'n-ly com-fort fraught!
2 Some-times mid scenes of deep-est gloom, Some-times where E-den's bow-ers bloom,
3 Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, Nor ev-er mur-mur nor re-pine;
4 And when my task on earth is done, When by thy grace the vic-t'ry's won,

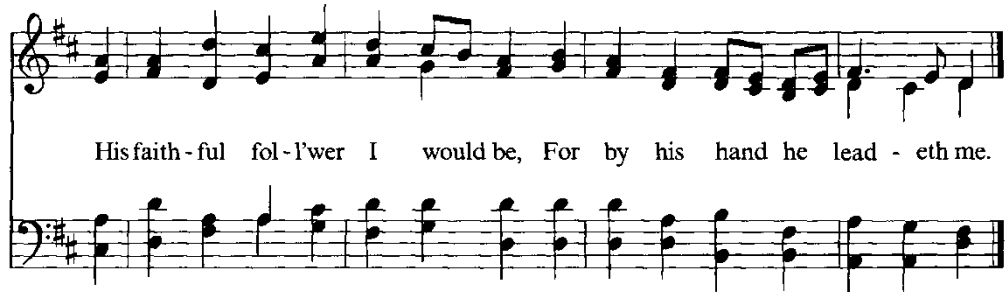


What-e'er I do, wher-e'er I be, Still 'tis God's hand that lead-eth me.
By wa-ters calm, o'er trou-bled sea, Still 'tis God's hand that lead-eth me.
Con-tent, what-ev-er lot I see, Since 'tis my God that lead-eth me.
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee, Since God through Jor-dan lead-eth me.

Refrain



He lead-eth me, he lead-eth me, By his own hand he lead-eth me.

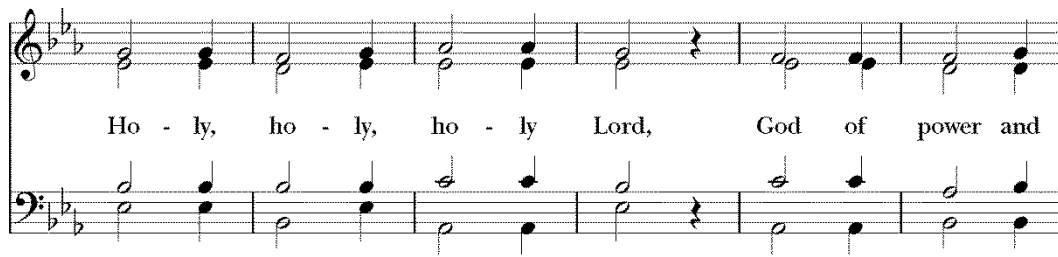


His faith-ful fol-l'wer I would be, For by his hand he lead-eth me.

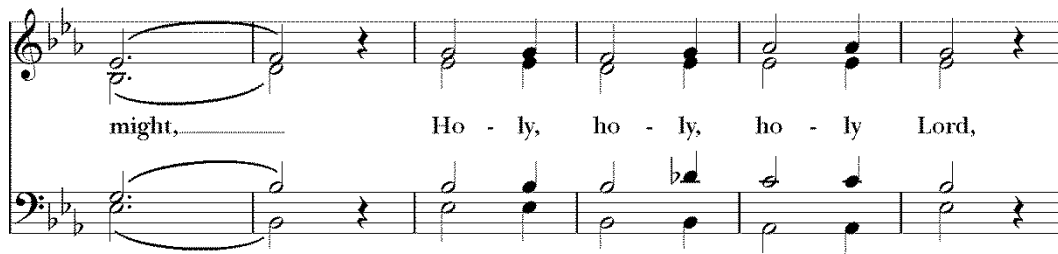
SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

S130

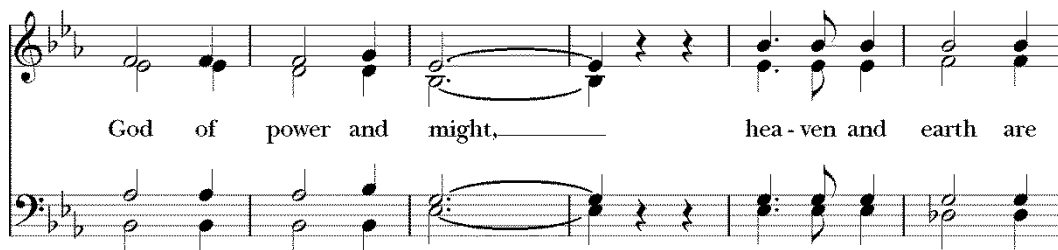
Celebrant and People



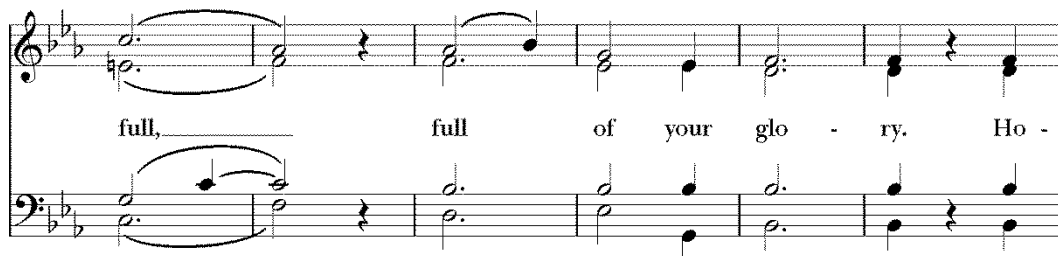
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and



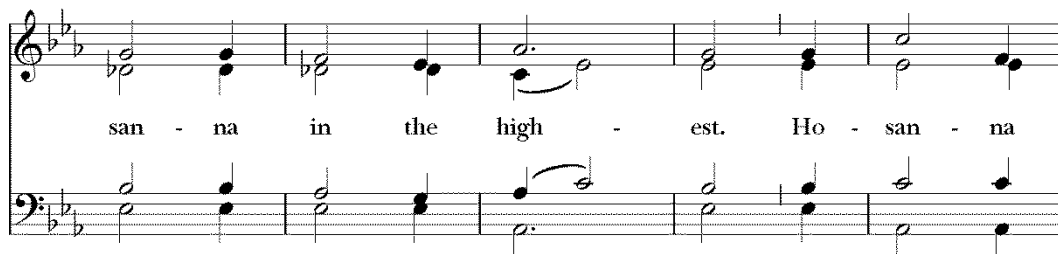
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,



God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are



full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people kneel or stand. Then the Celebrant continues

All 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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated

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.

THE GREAT AMEN

S142



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THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP page 336

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

People and Celebrant

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.

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

Agnus Dei

S164

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS *(all kneel, as able)*

BCP page 337

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 we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

We welcome all baptized persons, regardless of age or denomination to receive communion at Saint Luke's. If you do not wish to receive communion, we invite you to come forward to a blessing. To show that you wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest.



AT THE MINISTRATION Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, BWV 147 J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP page 482

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The People may join in saying this prayer

ALmighty God, we thank thee that in thy great love thou hast fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and hast given unto us a foretaste of thy heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be unto us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all thy saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

THE COMMENDATION

The Celebrant and other ministers take their places at the body.

This anthem, or some other suitable anthem, or a hymn, may be sung or said

GIVE REST, O Christ, to thy servant(s) with thy saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Thou only art immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and unto earth shall we return. For so thou didst ordain when thou createdst me, saying, "Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." All we go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant(s) with thy saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.

The Celebrant, facing the body, says

Into thy hands, O merciful Savior, we commend thy servant Lester. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech thee, a sheep of thine own fold, a lamb of thine own flock, a sinner of thine own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of thy mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

The Celebrant, or the Bishop if present, may then bless the people,

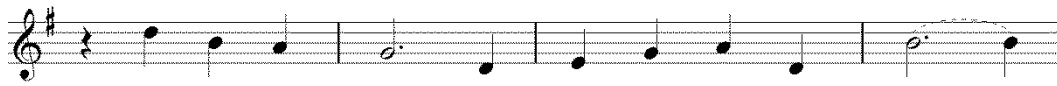
THE GOD of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Celebrant dismisses the people with these words

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People Thanks be to God.

RETIRING PROCESSION #287 For All the Saints

Sine nomine



1 For all the saints, who from their la - bors rest, who
 2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might:___
 3 O may thy sol - diers, faith - ful, true, and bold,___
 4 O blest com - mun - ion, fel - low - ship di - vine!___



thee___ by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
 thou, Lord, their Cap - tain in the well - fought fight;___
 fight as the saints who no - bly fought of old, and
 We feeb - ly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet



Name, O___ Je - sus, be for ev - er blessed.
 thou, in the dark - ness drear, the one true Light.
 win, with___ them, the vic - tor's crown of gold.
 all are___ one in thee, for all are thine.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

POSTLUDE Christ lag in todesbanden, BWV 625

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

A LIGHT LUNCHEON FOLLOWS DIRECTLY IN KREITLER HALL



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LESTER STEPHENSON

The Rev. Lester E. Stephenson Jr., 76, Scranton, passed away Tuesday morning in the Hospice of the Sacred Heart Inpatient Unit, Dunmore. His wife of 41 years is Ruth Ann Meeson.

Born September 29, 1946, in Reading, he was the son of Marian Brown Stephenson and the late Lester E. Stephenson. He attended Reading Public Schools and graduated from Reading High School in 1964. Pastor Stephenson went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Albright College in 1970 and then in 1974 earned a Master of Divinity Degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg. His first call to serve was to the St. John's Lutheran Church in Jim Thorpe from 1974 to 1979. In 1979 he was then called to serve St. Mark's Lutheran Church in West Scranton, where he served faithfully from 1979 until 2005.

While serving at St. Mark's, he married his beloved wife, Ruth Ann, and they became the parents of Amy and Joel Stephenson. In 2005, Pastor Stephenson was called to serve St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Scranton. St. Matthew's was a consolidation of the St. John's Lutheran Church, Center City of Scranton, and St. Mark's Lutheran Church of the West Side of Scranton. Pastor Stephenson served there for 11 years, retiring on December 31, 2015.

Also surviving are his children Amy Grant and her husband, Jeffrey of Pittston, and his son, Joel Stephenson of Scranton; his beloved pride and joy granddaughter, Hazel Grant; his sister Linda Sweigert and her husband, Karl, along with their sons, Kurt Sweigert and Gregg Sweigert and his wife, Tanya, and their daughters Courtney and Carleigh; aunts Naomi Reber and Betty Tobias; members of Meeson family Sandra and Ron Collins and their children, Ryan, Elsie, Luke, LeaAnn, Lacey and Bryce; Richard A. Fagerlin Jr., and his wife, Theresa, and their children, Amanda, Josh and Emily, and Stacey Poniatowski and her husband, Jay, and their children, Julian and Thea; many cousins.

He was also preceded in death by his in-laws, Robert H. and Christine B. Meeson, and sister and brother-in-law Anne Marie Fagerlin and husband, Richard.

Funeral services will be held January 14 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 232 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA at 11 a.m., officiated and celebrated by Mother Rebecca Barnes, rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

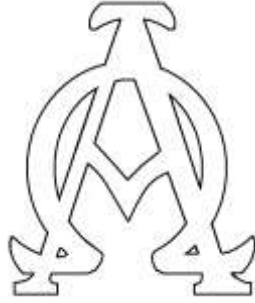
In honor of Pastor Stephenson's dedication to serving others, the family requests in lieu of flowers for memorial contributions to be made to St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 232 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA 18503 or to the Hospice of the Sacred Heart, 53 Glenmaura National Boulevard, Suite 120, Moosic, PA 18507

The service will be livestreamed for those who cannot attend in person and will be available at the St. Luke's Episcopal Church Scranton Facebook page

Arrangements have been entrusted to and are under the care and direction of the Vanston and James Funeral Home, Scranton.

To share a memory or to express your condolences to the family please visit the funeral home's website.

Published by Scranton Times from Dec. 31, 2022 to Jan. 1, 2023.



PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY

Susan Sherrin, First Reading
The Rev. George Mathews, Second Reading
Sharon Sollami, Intercessor

Mario and Lucetta Savinelli, Ushers
Diane Kraus, Thurifer
Albert Guthrie, Crucifer and Acolyte
Amanda Wrazien, Torch Bearer
Harry Asvazadourian, Torch Bearer

Maria Zengion, Organist

The Reverend Rebecca A. Barnes, Celebrant

232 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503-1464

www.StLukeScranton.org

E-Mail: StLukesScranton@verizon.net; Phone: (570) 342-7654



St. Luke's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

