

March 27, 2026

This Sunday is Palm Sunday, the beginning of the holiest week of the year, when we move from light through darkness and into light again. **Holy Week is like a symphony, with distinct movements unfolding over time:** from “Hosanna in the highest!” to “Take, eat; this is my body” to “Let him be crucified!” to “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” to “He is not here; for he has been raised.” Like any symphony, Holy Week reveals its deepest meaning when we **allow time and space for it to unfold in and around us.**



There is no shortage of distraction and alarm in our world today, and it can be difficult to find the contemplative space where we hear the longings of our souls and God’s loving response. This Holy Week at St. Stephen’s may feel a little different from years past. **We are embracing simpler liturgies with more space for stillness,** allowing scripture, music, and prayer to settle into our bodies and open our hearts. You are invited to be part of this sacred journey with your community:

Palm Sunday: March 29, 10:00 am in the Portico

We gather outside the narthex to begin Jesus’ journey into Jerusalem, fulfilling the promise of the prophet Zechariah – the long-awaited day of the Lord has arrived. Our liturgy will focus on the meaning of Palm Sunday, and we will not read the Passion this day. After church, we will learn about praying with prayer beads -- see below.



Holy Wednesday: April 1, 6:00 pm in the Chapel

We gather for a 30-minute contemplative prayer service. We will hear the story of Jesus’ anointing at Bethany and Judas’ betrayal, followed by time in silence. After the service, Rev. Jennifer will offer healing prayer and anointing for anyone who desires it.



Maundy Thursday: April 2, 6:30 in the Narthex

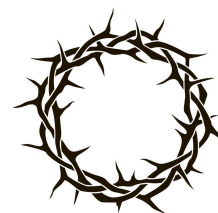
We gather for an agape meal and to hear the story of the Last Supper, when Jesus tells his disciples to “do this in remembrance of me” and to love each other as he has loved them. Instead of foot washing this year, we will keep time for stillness and sacred

reading. We end the evening on the portico, where we hear the story of Jesus' arrest and depart in silence.



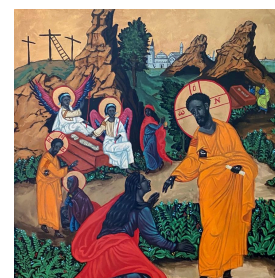
Good Friday: April 3, 6:30 in the Nave

We gather to hear the story of Jesus' trial and crucifixion. You will notice that the reading names "Judean leaders" as those who urged Jesus' crucifixion — not "the Jews." John's Gospel has sometimes been used to fuel antisemitism, and we remember that Jesus and all his disciples were Jewish. We will pray the Solemn Collects and contemplate the cross while listening to a beautiful aria from the St. John Passion, offered by our own Emma Petersen.



Easter Sunday: April 5, 10:00 in the Nave

We gather to celebrate that Christ is risen – the Lord is risen indeed! Surrounded by music, flowers, and abundant alleluias, we remember again that God brings new life out of places of death – now and always.



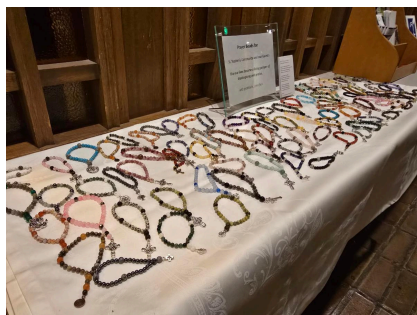
Sunday Hymns Preview

Click on the title to listen

#154 All glory, laud and honor

#170 To mock your reign

#164 Alone thou goest forth



This Sunday, March 29

Forum: How to Use Anglican Prayer Beads

After church this Sunday, we will gather to share **ways to use prayer beads**, with resources provided by Rev. Jennifer. Bring your own prayer beads or choose a set made by Rev. Jennifer.

Easter Greens and Flowers

Please support the Flower Fund for

Easter in memory of loved ones and/or in thanksgiving for the blessings of our lives. Your contributions make Easter at St. Stephen's a day of joy and love.

If you would like to contribute, **you can fill out this online form** or **submit this paper form** not later than Thursday, April 2nd.



You can **pay online here** and choose "Give to Flower Donations," or write a check to St. Stephen's with "Easter Greens" in the memo line.



Support Holy Land Ministries Through Good Friday Offering

Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe and Rev. Jennifer invite you to join them in making a contribution to the **Good Friday Offering**, which supports vital work and ministries in Jerusalem and the Middle East. Your gift will support:

- al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, which has continued serving patients during the Israel-Hamas War.
- An eye clinic at Christ Church in Yemen.
- St. George's Church in Baghdad, Iraq, and its medical center.
- All Saints' Episcopal Church in Damascus, Syria.
- All Saints' Episcopal Church in Beirut, Lebanon.

Please help care for all those who are vulnerable in the Land of the Holy One. You can **donate here**, or send a check to:

The Episcopal Church (DFMS)
P.O. Box 958983
St. Louis, MO 63195-8983
"Good Friday Appeal" in the memo line



Sunday Forum: Ethan Azen's Trip to South Africa with Hands for a Bridge

Sunday, April 19 11:30 am in the Parish Hall

Join Ethan Azen after the service on April 19, **where he will share stories and learnings from his two week trip to South Africa** earlier this year. Alongside other students of Hands for a Bridge, he stayed in two communities on opposite sides of apartheid to explore the lasting effects and how to create connections across conflicts. **He will speak about the influence of music, the issues of poverty, and the role storytelling played in it all.**

Community Bulletin Board

A word of thanks and a request from Rev. Peter Snow:

Last Sunday morning I got to celebrate the Eucharist with you. That is such a privilege, and I thank you for the opportunity. My request is this: I am lousy at marketing, and I am supposed to be publicizing my books! If you have read any of my books, please go to **Goodreads**, search using my name Peter D Snow for my books and leave an honest review. Goodreads is owned by Amazon, and is a great resource for readers looking for book recommendations.

Coming Up at St. Stephen's

Sundays 10:00 am Holy Eucharist and Coffee Hour (Nave and Parish Hall)

Sundays 3:00 pm Youth Group Food Program (Narthex)

Tuesdays 10:00 am Still Waters: Community, Contemplation, and Action (Parish Hall)

Wednesdays 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study (Parish Hall)

March 29 10:00 am Palm Sunday (Nave)

March 29 10:00 am Sunday Forum: How to Use Anglican Prayer Beads (Parish Hall)

March 30 1:00 pm Celebration of the Life of Mary Fran Hopkins (Chapel)

April 1 6:00 pm Lenten Contemplative Prayer though (Chapel)

April 2 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service (Nave)

April 3 6:30 pm Good Friday Service (Parish Hall)

April 5 10 am Easter Sunday and Coffee Hour (Nave)

April 19 11:30 Sunday Forum: Ethan Azen's Trip to South Africa with Hands for a Bridge (Parish Hall)

The Rev. Jennifer King Daugherty, Rector

(206) 331-2364

RevJennifer@ststephens-seattle.org

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church | 4805 NE 45th Street | Seattle, WA 98105 US

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