



ST. STEPHEN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF RIDGEFIELD

*Belonging
with purpose*

Our Mission: Embracing and living God's commandment to love our neighbors through worship, stewardship, and service to others.

The Second Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2025 • 10:00 a.m.

Welcome

All stand and sing Hymn 401

1 The God of Abraham praise,
who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days,
and God of love;
the Lord, the great I AM,
by earth and heaven confessed:
we bow and bless the sacred Name
for ever blest.

2 He by himself hath sworn:
we on his oath depend;
we shall, on eagles-wings upborne,
to heaven ascend:
we shall behold his face,
we shall his power adore,
and sing the wonders of his grace
for evermore.

3 There dwells the Lord, our King,
the Lord, our Righteousness,
triumphant o'er the world and sin,
the Prince of Peace;
on Zion's sacred height
his kingdom he maintains,
and, glorious with his saints in light
for ever reigns.

4 The God who reigns on high
the great archangels sing,
and "Holy, holy, holy," cry,
"Almighty King!
Who was, and is, the same,
and evermore shall be:
eternal Father, great I AM,
we worship thee."

Leoni

5 The whole triumphant host
give thanks to God on high;
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost"
they ever cry;
hail, Abraham's Lord divine!
With heaven our songs we raise;
all might and majesty are thine,
and endless praise.

The Penitential Order

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **His mercy endures for ever.**

All kneel for The Decalogue

Celebrant Hear the commandments of God to his people:
I am the Lord your God who brought you out of
bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

Response



Celebrant You shall not make for yourself any idol.

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the
Lord your God.

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant Honor your father and your mother.

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant You shall not commit murder.

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant You shall not commit adultery.

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant You shall not steal.

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant You shall not be a false witness.

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant You shall not covet anything
that belongs to your neighbor.

People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**


Celebrant If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.


People **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.**


Celebrant 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.**


*Children are invited to follow
Storytime Leaders down to the Choir Room.*


Standing, all sing the Kyrie eleison *Missa de angelis*


CHOIR 
Ký - ri - e

ALL 
e - - lé - i - son.

CHOIR 
Chri - ste

ALL 
e - - lé - i - son.

CHOIR 
Ký - ri - e

ALL 
e - - lé - i - son.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All sit for A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 27 *sung by all, alternating between treble voices ("women and children") and bass voices ("men")*



Treble voices:

- 1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I **fear**? *
the Lord is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be **á-fraid**?

Bass voices:

- 2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my **flesh**, *
it was they, my foes and my adversaries,
who stumbled **and fell**.

Treble voices (odd verses)

- 3 Though an army should encamp **a-against me**, *
yet my heart shall not be **á-fraid**;

Bass voices (even verses)

- 4 And though war should rise up **a-against me**, *
yet will I put my **trust in him**.

Continuing in the same way:

- 5 One thing have I asked of the Lord;
one thing I **seek**; *
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of **my life**;
- 6 To behold the fair beauty of the **Lord** *
and to seek him in his **temple**.

Continued on the next page

- 7 For in the day of trouble
he shall keep me safe in his **shelter**; *
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling
and set me high upon á **rock**.
- 8 Even now he lifts up my **head** *
above my enemies round á-**bout me**.
- 9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation
with sounds of great **gladness**; *
I will sing and make music to thé **Lord**.
- 10 Harken to my voice, O Lord, when I **call**; *
have mercy on me ánd **answer me**.
- 11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my **face**." *
Your face, Lord, will Í **seek**.
- 12 Hide not your **face from me**, *
nor turn away your servant in dí-**s-pleasure**.
- 13 You have been my helper;
cast me not a-**way**; *
do not forsake me, O God of my sál-**vation**.
- 14 Though my father and my mother for-**sake me**, *
the Lord will sú-**tain me**.
- 15 Show me your way, O **Lord**; *
lead me on a level path, because of my **enemies**.
- 16 Deliver me not into the hand of my **adversaries**, *
for false witnesses have risen up against me,
and also those who spéak **malice**.
- 17 What if I had not believed
that I should see the goodness of the **Lord** *
in the land of thé **living**!
- 18 O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure;
be strong, and he shall comfort your **heart**; *
wait patiently for thé **Lord**.

All stand and join in singing **Sequence Hymn 455** *Dunedin*

- 1 O Love of God, how strong and true,
eternal and yet ever new;
uncomprehended and unbought,
beyond all knowledge and all thought.
- 2 O wide-embracing, wondrous Love,
we read thee in the sky above;
we read thee in the earth below,
in seas that swell and streams that flow.
- 3 We read thee best in him who came
to bear for us the cross of shame,
sent by the Father from on high,
our life to live, our death to die.

- 4 We read thy power to bless and save
e'en in the darkness of the grave;
still more in resurrection light
we read the fullness of thy might.

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' 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. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Luke 13: 31-35

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon The Rev. Whitney Altopp, D.Min.

A moment for reflection follows the sermon.

All stand for **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

Let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Peace

Celebrant Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Children return from Storytime as all exchange signs of peace.

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good thy vows unto the Most High. *Ps. 50:14*

Anthem

Stephen Paulus

Tell me, where is the road

I can call my own,

That I left, that I lost,

So long ago?

All these years I have wandered,

Oh, when will I know

There's a way, there's a road

That will lead me home?

After wind, after rain,

When the dark is done.

As I wake from a dream

In the gold of day,

Through the air there's a calling

From far away,

There's a voice I can hear

That will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me,

Come away, is the call,

With the love in your heart

As the only song;

There is no such beauty

As where you belong:

Rise up, follow me,

I will lead you home.

All stand for the **Presentation Hymn 337** *Unde et memores*

4 And so we come; O draw us to thy feet,
most patient Savior, who canst love us still!
And by this food, so awesome and so sweet,
deliver us from every touch of ill:
in thine own service make us glad and free,
and grant us nevermore to part from thee.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant 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 continues and ends with

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you. 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:

Sanctus

New Plainsong

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of pow - er and might,
hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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.

All stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues and ends with

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People **Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues and ends with

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.**

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

Agnus Dei

New Plainsong

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world,
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
grant us peace.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the people of God.

All join in singing Communion Hymn

1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!

- 2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
- 3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge,
Take it to the Lord in Prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in Prayer.
In his arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

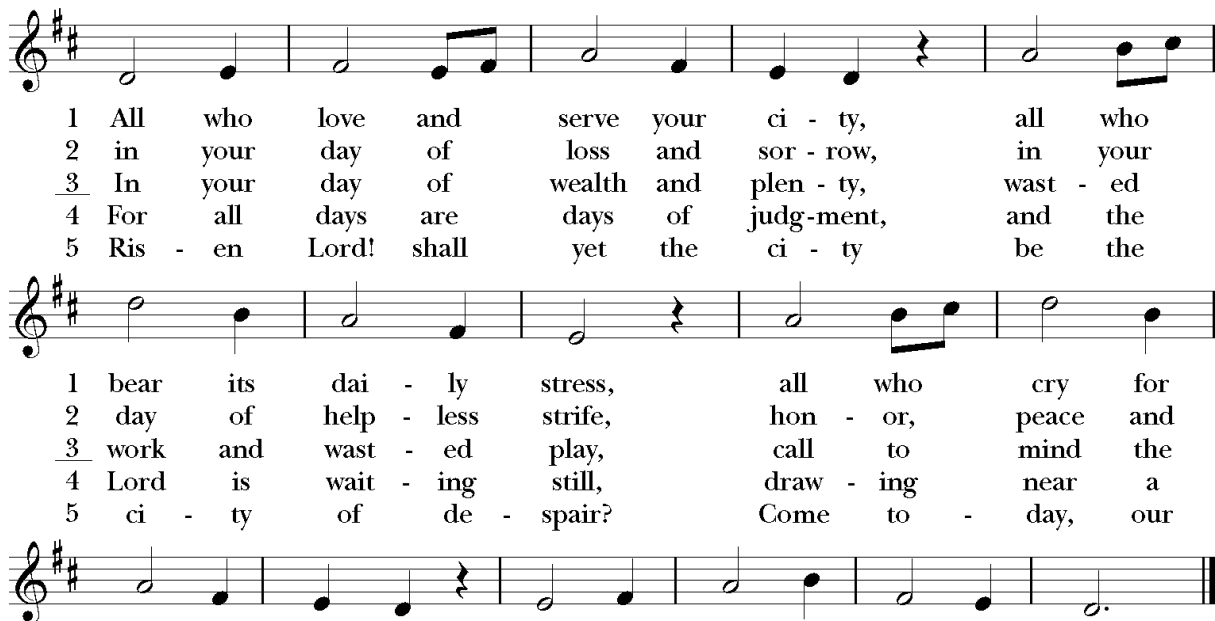
All kneel for the Prayer After Communion

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer over the People

Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy, that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.



1 All who love and serve your ci - ty, all who
 2 in your day of loss and sor - row, in your
 3 In your day of wealth and plen - ty, wast - ed
 4 For all days are days of judg - ment, and the
 5 Ris - en Lord! shall yet the ci - ty be the

1 bear its dai - ly stress, all who cry for
 2 day of help - less strife, hon - or, peace and
 3 work and wast - ed play, call to mind the
 4 Lord is wait - ing still, draw - ing near a
 5 ci - ty of de - spair? Come to - day, our

1 peace and jus - tice, all who curse and all who bless,
 2 love re - treat - ing, seek the Lord, who is your life.
 3 word of Je - sus, "I must work while it is day."
 4 world that spurns him, of - fering peace from Cal - vary's hill.
 5 Judge, our Glo - ry; be its name, "The Lord is there!"

Dismissal *the People respond* Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Did you know?

Sundays are considered "in" Lent rather than "of" Lent because they maintain their traditional status as feast days commemorating the Resurrection of Christ, even during the penitential season. While Lent consists of 40 days of fasting and penitence, Sundays are not counted in this tally because they remain celebrations of the Lord's Day. This distinction exists because every Sunday is considered a "little Easter," a weekly remembrance of Christ's triumph over death. Thus, even during Lent, Sundays retain their celebratory character and are exempted from the strict penitential practices observed on other days. This is why Lent extends over 46 calendar days (40 weekdays and Saturdays, plus 6 Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to Easter, with the Sundays being "in" but not "of" the penitential season.