



SAINT JOHN'S  
CATHEDRAL  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FLORIDA

# A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF Stephen Clarke Mason

JULY 2, 1959 - FEBRUARY 5, 2023



THE ORDER FOR THE BURIAL OF THE  
DEAD

Stephen Clarke Mason

COMMENDED UNTO GOD:

FEBRUARY 25, 2023 11 A.M

Remembrances

*All stand.*

Resurrection Anthem in Procession

**Celebrant** I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord. Whoever has faith in me shall have life, even though he die. And everyone who has life, and has committed himself to me in faith, shall not die for ever. As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives and that at the last he will stand upon the earth. After my awaking, he will raise me up; and in my body I shall see God. I myself shall see, and my eyes behold him who is my friend and not a stranger. For none of us has life in himself, and none becomes his own master when he dies. For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord, and if we die, we die in the Lord. So, then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's possession. Happy from now on are those who die in the Lord! So it is, says the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

The Lord be with you.

**People** And also with you.

**Celebrant** Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother Stephen. We thank you for giving him to us, his family and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Hymn

Abide with me  
*Eventide*

**Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.**

**I need Your presence every passing hour.  
What but Your grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who, like Yourself, my guide and strength can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.**

**I fear no foe, with You at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, your victory?  
I triumph still, if You abide with me.**

*Please be seated.*

# The Lesson

Isaiah 61:1-5

Reader A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

*Said in unison*

**I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?**

**My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.  
He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.**

**He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

**The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.**

**The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

**The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.  
The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and  
for evermore.**

*A period of silence follows the reading for reflection.*

## The Second Reading

Romans 8:14-19,34-35, 37-39:

Reader A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

**People**      **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand.*

## The Holy Gospel

John 14:1-6

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

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

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” ‘I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. 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

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## The Sermon

The Reverend Gerald G. Alexander

## The Apostles’ Creed

*All stand.*

Celebrant      In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say,

**All**      **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## The Prayers of the People

**Leader** For our brother Stephen let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am Resurrection and I am Life."

Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Stephen, and dry the tears of those who weep.

**People** **Hear us, Lord.**

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

**People** **Hear us, Lord.**

You raised the dead to life; give to our brother eternal life.

**People** **Hear us, Lord.**

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our brother to the joys of heaven.

**People** **Hear us, Lord.**

Our brother was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him fellowship with all your saints.

**People** **Hear us, Lord.**

He was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant him a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

**People** **Hear us, Lord.**

Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of Stephen; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

*The Celebrant continues*

Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our Brother Stephen, who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that his death may recall to us your victory over death, and be an occasion for us to renew our trust in your Father's love. Give us, we pray, the faith to follow where you have led the way; and where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

*All stand.*

## The Peace

Celebrant    The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People        And also with you.**

*Greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## Welcome

# T H E   H O L Y   C O M M U N I O N

## 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 our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant    It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who rose victorious from the dead, and comforts us with the blessed hope of everlasting life. For to your faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body lies in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens.

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:

*Celebrant and People together say*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*The People stand or sit. 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:

**All 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.

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

*Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.*

Celebrant 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.

*All baptized people are welcome to receive communion. Everyone is welcome to come to the altar for a blessing. If you would like a blessing, please fold your arms across your chest.*

## Music at Communion

Instrumental

A mighty fortress is our God

## The Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

**All Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament maybe to 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 your saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## The Commendation

*All stand.*

Celebrant Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,

**People where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

Celebrant You only are immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return. For so did you ordain when you created me, saying, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**People Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

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

## The Blessing

Celebrant The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## The Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## Hymn

How great thou art  
Carl Boberg

O Lord my God,  
When I in awesome wonder  
Consider all  
The works Thy Hand hath made, 10

I see the stars,  
I hear the mighty thunder,  
Thy pow'r throughout  
The universe displayed,

When through the woods  
And forest glades I wander  
I hear the birds  
Sing sweetly in the trees,  
When I look down  
From lofty mountain grandeur  
And hear the brook  
And feel the gentle breeze,

Then sings my soul,  
My Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art!  
How great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul,  
My Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art!  
How great Thou art!

## The Committal

Everyone the Father gives to me will come to me; I will never turn away anyone who believes in me. He who raised Jesus Christ from the dead will also give new life to our mortal bodies through his indwelling Spirit. My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope. You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

*Then, while earth is cast upon the ashes, the Celebrant says these words*

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our brother Stephen, and we commit his body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless him and keep him, the Lord make his face to shine upon him and be gracious to him, the Lord lift up his countenance upon him and give him peace. Amen.

Celebrant    The Lord be with you.

**People    And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

**All** 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.

*Then may be said*

Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord; And let light perpetual shine upon him May his soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

*The Celebrant dismisses the people with these words*

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**People** The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**People** Thanks be to God.



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LOVE *at the* CORE.