

2 Good Christian men, rejoice,
with heart, and soul, and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss;
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath ope'd the heavenly door,
and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian men, rejoice,
with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

Words: Medieval Latin hymn, translated John M. Neale
Music: German melody, 14th century

Postlude

'Angels we have heard on high'

French carol, arr for organ Richard Warner

Birthdays this week

May God bless you abundantly.

Anjali Issacs (27), Viveka Truman (27), M. John (29),
Reuben Baker (30), Suresh Patil (30), Deepal Furtado (1 Jan)

Wedding Anniversaries this Week

Be blessed with love, joy and companionship all the years of your life.

Jeffry & Susan Frazer (27), Manju & M. John (27), Priya & Sudhir Deekollu (28),
Jaisy & Malcolm Desai (28), Ernest & Pritam Knox (28), Rahul & Roshni Jadhav (29),
Revd Arpana & Revd Avinash Rangayya (29), David & Nalini Cyprian (30), Vivek &
Miriam John (30), Allen & Rajathi Moses (30),
Sunita & Gladston Somervell (31)

ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL

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Presbyter-In-Charge: The Revd. Avinash T. Rangayya

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Contact the Presbyter for pastoral visits and administering Communion to the house-bound.

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Website <http://stthomascathedralmumbai.com>



St. Thomas'
CATHEDRAL

Mumbai • Estd 1718
The Church of North India

A member of the worldwide Anglican Communion

Stephen Deacon, First Martyr



Choral Eucharist

Sunday 26th December 2021 • 8.45 am

Welcome

ABOUT TODAY'S COMMEMORATION

Stephen is one of seven men chosen to serve the Lord as deacons. The story of St. Stephen is found in the book of Acts, chapters six and seven. He was a very good man and the Bible also says that he was full of both the Holy Spirit and love. The authorities arrest Stephen because they are angry at what he says to them and to the people. Stephen preaches words of reproach to the authorities, who are so enraged that they stone him to death. But at his stoning, Stephen prays for those who are killing him, a reminder of Jesus' prayer on the cross asking his Father to forgive those who have put him to death.

Martyrs for Christ have always been part of our Christian heritage. The cradle is always connected to the cross. Christ is born in us so that we are willing to die that others might live.

All say

**Merciful Lord,
we thank you for the signs of your mercy
revealed in birth and death:
save us by the coming of your Son,
and give us joy in honouring Stephen,
first martyr of the new Israel;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

All STAND and sing

Gloria in Excelsis
Page 371

The Blessing
The Presbyter

God give you grace to be faithful witnesses,
to see heaven opened
and the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the † the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain
with you always.

All Amen.

Carol at the Closing

**GOOD Christian men, rejoice,
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!**

Continued overleaf

For your safety please respect others and give one another space.
▼
Please use **face covering** at all times during the service.
▼
Please use **hand sanitiser** on the way in and out.
▼
Please take this **service bulletin away with you** and dispose it yourself.

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The Preparation for Communion
Page 361

The Consecration
Page 363

The Communion
Page 368

*Please follow the directions of the Servers to proceed to the High Altar
Communicants are requested to leave space on either side of them
when they receive Communion*

During the communion, while seated, we sing

**What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?**

***This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
This, this is Christ, the King,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.***

**2 Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.**

**3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.**

Words: William Dix (1837 - 1898)
Tune: GREENSLEEVES, old English melody

The Gathering

Voluntary

Chorale prelude on two carol tunes:
'Greensleeves'
'Quem Pastores'

Alec Rowley (1892 - 1958)
Healey Willan (1880 - 1968)

All keep silence and prepare for worship

*All **STAND** and join in singing the hymn*

Hymn at the Procession

**Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

***Come and worship
Christ, the new-born King;
come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born King.***

**2 Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light:**

**3 Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in His temple shall appear:**

**4 Though an infant now we view Him,
He shall fill His Father's throne,
gather all the nations to Him;
every knee shall then bow down:**

Words: James Montgomery (1771 - 1854)
Tune: IRIS, French or Flemish melody

*Please be **SEATED***

Opening Acclamation

Presbyter Stephen, full of grace and power,
All did great wonders and signs among the people.
Presbyter Precious in the sight of the Lord
All is the death of his saints.

✠ *The Service begins on **page 350** of the Book of Common Prayer* ✠

The Liturgy of the Word

The Collect for St Stephen the Martyr

Read by the Presbyter

Page 409

Old Testament Reading

A reading from the Second Book of Chronicles

Page 410

At the conclusion of the reading the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 52 verses 1 - 4, 9 & 10

While seated, all say the refrain

Refrain: I trust in the goodness of God for ever and ever.

Why do you glory in evil, you tyrant, *
while the goodness of God endures continually?
You plot destruction, you deceiver; *
your tongue is like a sharpened razor.
You love evil rather than good, *
falsehood rather than the word of truth.

We pray for all who hold authority over people
as political or religious leaders,
that they may exercise their power with justice
and for the common good.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those who use violence to silence their opponents.
Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for grace to witness to your truth with constancy and faith
and to bear the cost of following your righteous ways.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those for whom the joy of this holy season is overshadowed
by pain, grief or failure. For a world weary from the ongoing pandemic.

Heal our world. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We remember all who have gone before us looking for the vision of your
heavenly glory.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We rejoice in our communion with Stephen

and all the saints and martyrs,
whose hope was in you, the Word made flesh
and with whom we for evermore are one.

Lord, receive our prayers
and perfect them by your heavenly intercession,
to the glory of the Father.

Amen.

2 **He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and His shelter was a stable,
and His cradle was a stall:
With the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

3 **And our eyes at last shall see Him,
through His own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and He leads His children on
to the place where He is gone.**

4 **Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see Him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
when like stars His children crowned
all in white shall wait around.**

Words: Mrs. C. F. Alexander (1818 - 1895)
Tune: *IRBY*, by Henry John Gauntlet (1805 - 1876)

Prayer

All say the prayer on page 357

All sit

The Prayers of the People

Full of the Holy Spirit, let us approach the throne of grace,
and bring our prayers to Jesus the Lord.
Incarnate Lord,
you came down to earth from heaven
to embrace the pain and sorrows of our sinful world,
for the cause of truth.
We pray for all Christians who are persecuted.
Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You love all words that hurt, *
O you deceitful tongue. But I am like a spreading olive tree in the house
of God; *
I trust in the goodness of God for ever and ever.
I will always give thanks to you for what you have done; *
I will hope in your name, for your faithful ones delight in it.

Refrain: I trust in the goodness of God for ever and ever.

New Testament Reading
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
Page 410

At the conclusion of the reading the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

All STAND and join in singing the gradual hymn

Gradual Hymn

**Saint of God, elect and precious,
Protomartyr Stephen, bright
With thy love of amplest measure,
Shining round thee like a light;
Who to God commendedst, dying,
Them that did thee all despise:**

2 **Glitters now the crown above thee,
Figured in thy sacred name:
O that we, who truly love thee,
May have portion in the same;
In the dreadful day of judgement
Fearing neither sin nor shame.**

Continued overleaf

3 **Laud to God, and might, and honour,
Who with flowers of rosy dye
Crowned thy forehead, and hath placed thee
In the starry throne on high:
He direct us, He protect us
From death's sting eternally. Amen.**

Words: from the 10th - 16th cent., tr. J. M. Neale
Tune: *ST THOMAS*,
melody from S. Webbe's 'Motets or Antiphons', 1792

Remain standing for the Gospel

The Gospel of Christ Page 411

All Alleluia.
I see the heavens opened
and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.

All Alleluia

The Gospeller The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew
chapter 23 beginning at verse 34.

All Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

At the conclusion of the reading

The Gospeller This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
All Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Remain standing for the Creed, all reciting together

The Nicene Creed
Page 354

All sit

Sermon
The Revd Avinash Rangayya,
Cathedral Presbyter

Welcome and Announcements

All STAND

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The Celebrant offers a greeting of peace

Jesus said, 'In the world you face persecution.
But take courage; I have conquered the world.' *John 16.33*
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

While remaining in your place, share the sign of peace with a namaste with your neighbour

Carol at the Offertory

*At this time an offering will be received for the ministries of the Cathedral.
Thank you for your generosity. All join in singing the hymn.*

**ONCE in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.**

Continued. Turn over.