



# **LANCASTER PRIORY**

A welcoming, inclusive, Christian community

## **THE EUCHARIST**

St Stephen

**26th December 2021**

**10.00am**

## **Welcome to Lancaster Priory**

We are really pleased that you are worshipping with us today. Wherever you have come from, this is your church and you are unconditionally welcome.

Today we keep the feast of St. Stephen. Stephen, traditionally venerated as the first martyr of Christianity, was, according to the Acts of the Apostles, a deacon in the early Church at Jerusalem who angered members of various synagogues by his teachings. Accused of blasphemy at his trial, he made a speech denouncing the Jewish authorities who were sitting in judgment on him and was then stoned to death. His martyrdom was witnessed and participated by Saul of Tarsus, also known as Paul, a Pharisee and Roman citizen who would later become a Christian apostle.

The restrictions under which our services are being conducted at the moment are part of our responsibility to ensure that all who worship and visit the priory feel safe and valued. These are available on an additional flyer at the back of church. Thank you for your patience.

### **Today's services (St Stephen):**

President and Preacher: The Revd Canon John Roff, Hon. Associate Priest

The Reader: Tim Jenkinson

Intercessor: David Redmore

**6.30pm No service today.**

## The Welcome and Notices

### The Greeting

*We stand as the server and clergy enter. The president says*

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

The Lord be with you.  
**and also with you.**

### Prayers of Penitence and Forgiveness

*The deacon says*

As Stephen rebuked God's people for not listening to the word of God,  
let us confess our stubbornness and sin which resist the Holy Spirit.

### The Kyrie

You call us to listen to your voice  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

You command us to flee from idolatry.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

You ask us to forgive our persecutors.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

## The Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Gloria

*We say together*

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
**Amen.**

## The Collect *The priest says 'let us pray' and silence is kept.*

Gracious Father, who gave the first martyr Stephen grace to pray for those who took up stones against him: grant that in all our sufferings for the truth we may learn to love even our enemies and to seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt, looking up to heaven to him who was crucified for us, Jesus Christ, our mediator and advocate, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please sit.*

## **The First Reading** Acts 7.51-end

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

‘You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are for ever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.’ When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ‘Look,’ he said, ‘I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he died.

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gospel Acclamation**

*Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation, the deacon says*

Alleluia, alleluia,

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

**Alleluia.**

## **The Gospel Reading** Matthew 10.17-22

*The deacon says*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please sit.*

## **The Sermon**

*Please stand.*

## **The 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,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and 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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who 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.

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*Please sit. This response is used*

Lord, in your mercy  
hear our prayer.

*And at the end*

Merciful Father,  
accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

## **The Peace** *Please stand.*

Jesus said, 'In the world you face persecution.  
But take courage; I have conquered the world.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you**

*The deacon says*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We acknowledge one another with a sign of peace.*

## **Prayer at the Preparation of the Table**

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;  
draw us from hatred to love;  
make the frailty of our praise  
a dwelling place for your glory.

**Amen.**

## **The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For love of us fallen sinners he most wonderfully and humbly chose to be made human, and to take our nature upon him, so that we might be born again by your Spirit and restored in your image.



The love that brought him down to earth lifted your martyr Stephen from earth to heaven. By that love he spoke your word with wisdom and the Spirit; by that love he saw your glory and Jesus at your right hand; by that love he overcame the anger of his accusers and forgave their cruelty; by that love he committed his spirit into your hands and won the crown of righteousness. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

*We say together*

**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 priest continues*

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke 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.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: 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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

*The deacon says*

Christ is the bread of life:

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,  
until you come in glory.**

*The priest continues*

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of St Stephen, the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

As our saviour taught us, so we pray

**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, the power and the glory,**

**for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup

**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

*Please sit.*

## **The Agnus Dei**

*We say together*

Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.

## **The Giving of Communion**

God's holy gifts  
for God's holy people.  
**Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*The priest and people receive communion. We welcome communicant members of all Christian denominations to receive communion. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please carry this booklet with you. Gluten-free hosts are available, please indicate this to the president, green cards are available from the sidespeople for this purpose.*

## Prayer After Communion

*The president prays*

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.**

## The Blessing and Dismissal

*The priest prays*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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 Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

*The Deacon says*

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**In the name of Christ. Amen**

### Acknowledgements

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