Welcome

"Temptation" is the focus of today's gospel reading: Jesus' temptation in the wilderness by the devil. What is temptation; and who, or what, is the devil? I won't pretend to offer a definitive interpretation of either of these, but I can speak to what precedes and what follows each of these. Our deepest self abides in Divine Presence. This is our true identity - that which Jesus refers to as the Kingdom of God. When we are cut off from our deepest self, cut off from Presence, we fall prey to temptation and prey to sin (the same thing). The thing which leads us down this path of sin, portrayed in the Gospel reading as the devil, is our ego, our need to assert ourselves as separate from God and from each other.

Our Lenten task, therefore, is to catch the secret voice of our ego, ever trying to separate us from Divine Presence, our true self. We learn to catch this through self-reflection, through prayer, through meditation, through stillness. Wherever you are in your journey toward this place of growing Awareness, you are welcome here at St. Stephen's Church.

— the Minister of Music
The Diocese of California now allows fully vaccinated persons (two shots plus a booster) to skip wearing masks.

If you are new, please e-mail us, Office@StStephensChurch.org, to let us know who you are, ask questions, and make comments.

Donations can be made online: www.ststephenschurch.org/give/, or by using the QR code printed later in the bulletin.

If you are ready to inquire about membership, want us to pray for you or someone you name, or would like a call from one of our priests, please e-mail the office.

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The Word of God

Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p. 323

Penitential Rite

BCP p. 324

Collect of the Day

Celebrant   The Lord be with you.
People   And with thy spirit.
Celebrant   Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted of Satan: Make speed to help thy servants who are assaulted by manifold temptations; and, as thou knowest their several infirmities, let each one find thee mighty to save; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.
The Lessons

First Lesson

A Reading from the book of Deuteronomy

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.” When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an out-stretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.” You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

Reader  The Word of the Lord.
People  Thanks be to God.

Psalm 91

Because you have made the LORD your refuge, * 
and the Most High your habitation,
There shall no evil happen to you, * 
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.
For he shall give his angels charge over you, *
   to keep you in all your ways.
They shall bear you in their hands, *
   lest you dash your foot against a stone.
You shall tread upon the lion and the adder; *
   you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.
Because he is bound to me in love,
therefore will I deliver him; *
   I will protect him, because he knows my Name.
He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; *
   I am with him in trouble;
   I will rescue him and bring him to honor.

**Second Lesson**

*Romans 10. 8b – 13*

_A Reading from Paul’s letter to the Church in Rome._

“The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

*Reader*     The Word of the Lord.
*People*    Thanks be to God.

**Gospel**

_Luke 4. 1 – 13_

_Deacon*   The *Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
*People*  Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished.
The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise be to thee, O Christ.
The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And with thy spirit.

Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving BCP p. 333

The Lord's Prayer BCP p. 359

The Breaking of the Bread BCP p. 337

Post-Communion Prayer BCP p. 339

Almighty and ever-living God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

Benediction

Dismissal BCP p. 366
The Great Litany dates to 590, when Pope Gregory the Great commanded a litany of prayer to counteract a viral epidemic ravaging Rome following the overflowing of the Tiber River. Litanies are based on the structure of Psalm 136: "Praise the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endures for ever," and are always sung in procession around a church or city. The English version of the Litany, which we use, was the first rite prepared by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer for the 1544 Book of Common Prayer. It was King Henry VIII that ordered church processions, while chanting this Great Litany, when England was at war with Scotland and France.

The world is almost unrecognizably different now, though, except that we are still at war with each other. A war with any nation is a war within us. Who among us can say that we are not experiencing major personal unrest since Russia attacked Ukraine? So the Great Litany has it right, and we need to say it over and over again: "Have mercy upon us."
We are grateful for all those serving today at the Altar

Readers
Bill Foss, Karen Foss

Eucharistic Ministers
Barbara Berling, Bonnie Echerd

Intercessor
Barbara Berling

Altar Team 1
Barbara Berling, Captain; Bonnie Echerd; Jill Hinds; Liz Hart; Carol Louie

Ushers
Miles Woodlief

Musicians
The Choir of St. Stephen’s Church, Jonathan Dimmock

Celebrant
The Rev. Phillip Ellsworth, Jr.

Preacher
The Rev. Phillip Ellsworth, Jr.

A special thanks to Coffee Connections team 5 today, led by Chris Brent
If you would like to make a donation to St. Stephen’s for our ministry in this community, you can do so by using this code (to use the code, scan it with your phone camera):

If you would like to keep abreast of all the happenings at St. Stephen’s, please join our mailing list by texting "TIDINGS" to 42828.
Calendar

- March 8 and 9: Slow Religion Class at 4 pm*
- April 24th: All Parish barbecue following the 10 am service in the memorial garden

Announcements

- The Diocese of California now allows fully vaccinated persons (two shots plus a booster) to skip wearing masks.

- Prayer: Our beautiful sacred space is open during the week for prayer, Mondays through Wednesdays, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM. All are welcome.

- Altar flower donation sign-ups can be done in the Narthex or by contacting the office.

- Worship Opportunities: Would you like to assist in our worship at St. Stephen’s? Multiple roles are open-- public reading of the scripture (lector), administering the Holy Communion (Eucharistic Minister), offering the prayers of the people (Intercessor), as well as ushering. Training opportunities are also available if you’d like some pointers. For more information, contact Fr. Richard Schaper (richard@ststephenschurch.org)

- St. Stephen’s is joining with our neighboring Christ Episcopal Church to offer preparation for confirmation. Classes will begin on Sunday, March 13 and conclude with a Saturday retreat possibly in Inverness on May 28. Students who are ready may be confirmed by the bishop at Grace Cathedral on Saturday, June 4. Classes will generally be on late afternoon on Sundays and conclude with pizza. Classes will take place both at St. Stephen’s and at Christ Episcopal Church, 70 Santa Rosa Ave, Sausalito. A full schedule and a registration form is available from the church office.(Office@StStehensChurch.org). The curriculum will follow Janifer Gamber’s book “My Faith, My Life: A Teen’s Guide to the Episcopal Church” available from Amazon and other book sellers.

- *Slow Religion: The Gospel According to Mark is a lay person-led adult education weekly series for Christians and seekers who want to deepen their spiritual understanding and gain life insights from the Gospels. The class studies and discusses Mark, possibly the first Gospel, using theological, historical, cultural commentaries on the Gospel to spur understanding, reflection and action. More information available in Tidings. (If you aren't subscribed to Tidings, text 42828 to subscribe.)
A Guide to St Stephen’s

Office Hours
Monday – Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Office (415) 435-4501 | Office@StStephensChurch.org

Rector
The Rev’d Phillip C. Ellsworth, Jr.
(ext. 11) | Fr.Ellsworth@StStephensChurch.org

Minister of Music
Jonathan Dimmock | Jonathan@StStephensChurch.org

Parish Administrator
Elizabeth Gravely | Elizabeth@StStephensChurch.org

Financial Accounts
Betsy Williams | Betsy@StStephensChurch.org

Marketing & Communications
Julia Nazario | Julia@StStephensChurch.org

Professional Caregiver, Nursery
Ann Muengnoi

Assisting Priests
The Rev’d Richard Schaper
The Rev’d Zoila Schoenbrun

Assisting Deacon
The Venerable Dorothy Jones

Verger
JoAnn Haseltine

Sexton
Roger Felton

Special Events
Satoko Boris | Satoko@StStephensChurch.org

Artists in Residence
American Bach Soloists  www.AmericanBach.org

Vestry
Phil Ellsworth, Rector  •  Jock Putney, Senior Warden  •  Bill Brinkman, Junior Warden
Bob McCaskill, Treasurer  •  David Patterson, Clerk
Heather Findlay, Rod Hall, Kathy Hill, David Irmer, Alex Norris, Chris Porter,
Paul Rosenlund, Marjorie Sennett, Rick Waterman, Miles Archer Woodlief