**Sentence**

Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him.  ***Acts 7.55, 58***

**Collect**

We give you thanks, O Lord of glory,  
for the example of Stephen, the first martyr,  
who prayed for his persecutors,  
and looked to him who was crucified,  
your Son Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you

and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, in glory everlasting. ***Amen****.*

**The First Reading is from Hosea 11:1-11**

1When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. 2The more I called them, the more they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and offering incense to idols. 3Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them. 4I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them. 5They shall return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me. 6The sword rages in their cities, it consumes their oracle-priests, and devours because of their schemes. 7My people are bent on turning away from me. To the Most High they call, but he does not raise them up at all. 8How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. 9I will not execute my fierce anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and no mortal, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath. 10They shall go after the Lord, who roars like a lion; when he roars, his children shall come trembling from the west. 11They shall come trembling like birds from Egypt, and like doves from the land of Assyria; and I will return them to their homes, says the Lord.

Hear the word of the Lord,

***Thanks be to God***

**Psalm 107:1-9, 43**

1O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:

**for his loving mercy is for ever.**

2Let the Lord’s redeemed say so:

**whom he has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,**

3And gathered in from every land,

from the east and from the west:

**from the north and from the south.**

4Some went astray in the wilderness and in the desert:

**and found no path to an inhabited city;**

5They were hungry and thirsty:

**and their heart fainted within them.**

6Then they cried to the Lord in their distress:

**and he took them out of their trouble.**

7He led them by the right path:

**till they came to an inhabited city.**

8Let them thank the Lord for his goodness:

**and for the wonders that he does**

**for the children of Adam;**

9For he satisfies the thirsty:

**and fills the hungry with good things.**

43Whoever is wise, let them observe these things:

**and consider the loving-kindness of the Lord.**

**The Second Reading is from Acts 6: 8-10; 7:54-60**

8Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. 9Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. 10But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. 54When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. 55But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” 57But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. 58Then 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. 59While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” 60Then 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.

Hear the word of the Lord, ***Thanks be to God***

*Priest:* *Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia*

***Response: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia***

**The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 10: 17-22**

17Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; 18and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. 19When 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; 20for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. 21Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; 22and 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, Lord Jesus Christ.***

**🙏** Please pray for healing blessings for those who are sick in body, mind or spirit, and their families, especially those who have asked us to intercede on their behalf – *Cynthia Kennedy,* *Emmaly,* *Kenneth Little*, *Imogen, Janet, Lynton, Ida, Enid, Mary, Tim Abraham*, *Eliza, Elizabeth, Jim, Joan, James G., Paul, Therese, Max, Maureen, Merlin Morgan, Georgina, Samantha, Millie and Sophie,* and give thanks for healing blessings received. Pray for those who are in need about whom only God knows and give thanks for His presence with them.

*Please pray for those who have died recently* as a result of war and terrorism, natural disasters or domestic violence. We remember those whose Years Mind occurs at this time – *Jack Gripton, Win Spence, Brian Artz, Sheila Osborne, George Fuller,* and we remember also **our** loved ones who also are now resting in peace with you. Rest eternal grant to them oh Lord, *and let light perpetual shine upon them.*  **🙏**

**NOTICES**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** today to Ann Inglis**.**

**Tuesday, 5th August** Mothers’ Union meet in the church at 10:30am – you are welcome to come and join with us in prayer and fellowship.

**Wednesday 6th August, 9.30am:** Holy Communion Service with Prayers for healing, followed by morning tea. All welcome.

**Admission to Holy Communion**: Please pray for Aluka and Dile Oguejiofor who will shortly begin training for admission to Holy Communion.

**Training Workshops for Intercessors.** Thanks to the six people who have volunteered to go on the intercessors roster and who attended the first training workshop. The second workshop will take place on 12 August at 7.30pm.

**New Bible Study.** As promised, a new 8-week Bible study will begin on the evening of Tuesday 19 August based on the Gospel of St Mark: the shortest and earliest of the four gospels. It will run on August 19 and 26; September 2, 9, 16 and 23rd; and October 7 and 14. (There will be no meeting on Tuesday September 30, as Cathy will be away.) Please add your name to the list at the back of the church if you would like to attend. All welcome.

**St Catherine’s 60th Anniversary Service and Celebration.** The Executive Group met recently and as part of its work refined the arrangements for the St Catherine’s 60th anniversary service and celebration. The service will take place on Sunday 9th November, 2025 at 9.30am. A list of invitees has been given to Betty who with a small group will compose a letter of invitation that will be sent by email to all recipients. The Rev’d Bart O’Donovan has agreed to preach. The South Sudanese Priest and Parish Council members will be invited, but as the service is “St Catherine” focused, it will not be a joint liturgy. This means there will be time for Morning tea only after the service. It was agreed that a large cake will be bought and shared, and champagne (and orange) will be provided. However a celebratory lunch will also be organised at the Midway Tavern at 12.30pm. All who wish to come to the lunch will buy their own meals and drinks. A poster designed by Greg Trenowden will be made available for people to display in local shops etc. and the service will be advertised on our website and Facebook page. If you have any questions, please direct them to Rev’d Cathy. Closer to the time you will be asked to indicate whether you are coming to the lunch.

**MOTHERS UNION** have given the first donation to the Elizabeth Downs School - $100 for them to purchase emergency food and a parcel of clothing for the younger children who have had accidents. **Thank You** for your donations so far, please keep them coming so that we can get a stock for when things are needed.