

# WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S!

## The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Of Advent

December 1, 2024

*Processional Hymn*

*Hymnal 68*

**Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit**

*And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen*

### Collect of the day:

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

**Holy God..... Trisagion**

**Hymnal S-102(sung 3 times)**

### 1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

*The Word of The Lord*

### Psalm 25: 1-9 (congregation reads verses in bold italics)

1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
**let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
**let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

3 Show me your ways, O LORD, \*  
**and teach me your paths.**

4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
**for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.**

5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, \*  
**for they are from everlasting.**

6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
**remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.**

7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; \*  
**therefore he teaches sinners in his way.**

8 He guides the humble in doing right \*  
**and teaches his way to the lowly.**

9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness \*  
**to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

## Epistle Lesson 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

### *THE WORD OF THE LORD*

Hymn

Hymnal 73

## Holy Gospel Luke 21:25-36

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Homily

Nicene Creed

Prayer Book 358

Prayers of the People

Prayer Book 388

Parish Prayer:

*Heavenly Father, inspire us to see your vision for this parish; bless us with the boldness and wisdom of our patron, Stephen, that we may be a beacon of your love and a witness to your peace, both in this community and in the world; through Christ our Lord.*

Confession/Absolution

Prayer Book 360

The Peace

Announcements

Offertory and Doxology

Great Thanksgiving Prayer Book 367

Sanctus Hymnal S-130  
*(You may stand or kneel)*

Eucharistic Prayer B Prayer Book 368

Lord's Prayer Prayer Book 364

Fractional Hymn Hymnal S-161

**Prayer of Humble Access**

*We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.*

*(All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion)*

Post-Communion Prayer Prayer Book 366

Advent Blessing

Recessional Hymn Hymnal 616

Dismissal

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***Attendance this past week of Nov. 24th: In person 23, at least 4 online***

**Thank you to everyone that helped with our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Basket Raffle and Bake Sale!!!  
Without your donations and your gifts of time, we could not accomplish this successfully!  
May God Bless and reward you for your service. We exceeded our goals!! Thanks be to God!**

**7 Day Reservation Candle is given this week to the Glory of God, by Carol Holmes, in honor of her grandson Anthony Brinkley, 30<sup>th</sup> birthday!**

**Krispy Kreme order forms on back table, sold by our school. Orders are due in Val's office by Wed, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, pick up is Tuesday, Dec 17<sup>th</sup> in the parish hall 8:45-9:15am.**

2025 Pledge cards are on the table just outside the church. Please complete and return to the office by the end of December.

Thank you to everyone who helped set up for this Advent season. The church is beautiful as always.

The giving tree has been set up at the back of the church, for New Bethany Ministries. We hope to have this fully decorated with gloves, socks, hats and scarfs by the end of this Advent season.

**IN OUR FELLOWSHIP WE PRAY FOR HEALING:** Kelly, Monica, Donald, Charlotte, Bruce, Joan, Connie, Joan, Carlos, Rev. Ken and Sharon

**IN OUR EXTENDED FELLOWSHIP WE PRAY FOR :**

Katie, Lynn, Jennifer, Matthew, Deborah, Mary, Diane, Dorothy, Delores, Letiticia Robert and Ceil, Frank, and Carol Jones.

**IN OUR DIOCESE, WE PRAY FOR:**

St. Stephen's Pro-Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre

**IN THE GREATER ANGLICAN COMMUNION, WE PRAY FOR:**

St. Mark Rodo Parish, Kajo Keji

Visit our website: [www.saintste.com](http://www.saintste.com)

Visit our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/whitehallepiscopal](http://www.facebook.com/whitehallepiscopal)

<b>Bishop:</b>	<b>The Rt. Rev. Kevin D. Nichols</b>
<b>Supply Priest:</b>	<b>Rev. Abraham Valaith</b>
Organist:	Ellen Erb
Lector:	Paul Ferrera
Acolyte:	Steve DeVore
Ushers:	Jim Colombo
Senior Warden:	Doreen Wagner
Jr. Warden:	Scott Holmes
Treasurer and Office Administrator	Valerie Smith ( 610) 217-4110

If you are visiting today, we welcome you in the Name of Jesus, our Savior. Coffee and refreshments are available in the parish hall, and we would love you to stay so we can meet you.