St Stephen, Deacon & Martyr
Holy Eucharist Rite II

10:00 a.m., December 26, 2021
Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Yesupatham Duraikannu
Lay Reader & Eucharistic Minister: Denise Hackl
A Collect for Grace
Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Social Justice
Almighty God, who created us in your image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayer before Receiving Communion
Be present, be present, O Jesus, our great High Priest, as you were present with your disciples, and be known to us in the breaking of bread; who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Note about Historic St. John’s Church
You are worshipping in a distinguished church building designed in 1872 by the architect William Tuckerman Potter. Part of the earlier 1752 Colonial church is preserved and incorporated in the 1872 church, thereby being one of the earliest examples of historic preservation in America. The original church was funded by Frederick Philipse II, Lord of the Manor of Philipsburg, one of the most important manors in New York State. This architectural fabric is the oldest stone Episcopal Church in New York State.

Though founded by law in 1693, the congregation began work here as early as 1684. The first project in the parish was the founding of a school in the Mile Square area of Yonkers. This begins a long history of community service. St. John’s and its parishioners were major contributors in the founding of St. John’s Hospital. In recent history this parish was instrumental in founding C.L.U.S.T.E.R., an agency to support people in need, and the Sharing Community which has helped thousands make the transition from homelessness to mainstream life and providing relief to the hungry, the homeless, and the poor.

The primary mission of St. John’s is spreading the Gospel and healing message of Christ’s love for the world. In continuing this work, the people of Saint John's Episcopal Church support all who pursue peace and joy through the love of God and neighbor. May God richly bless you, and give you faith, courage and strength.
Prelude

Processional Hymn #78 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

The Word of God

(The People say the text in bold print)

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be God’s Kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your Holy Name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Glory to God S-277 Gloria in excelsis David Hurd (born 1950)

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant THE LORD be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray. A moment of silence follows.

We give you thanks, O Lord of glory, for the example of the first martyr Stephen, who looked up to heaven and prayed for his persecutors to your Son Jesus Christ, who stands at your right hand; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

A Reading from Jeremiah 26:1-9,12-15

At the beginning of the reign of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah, this word came from the LORD: Thus says the LORD: Stand in the court of the LORD’s house, and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house of the LORD; speak to them all the words that I command you; do not hold back a word. It may be that they will listen, all of them, and will turn from their evil way, that I may change my mind about the disaster that I intend to bring on them because of their evil doings. You shall say to them: Thus says the LORD: If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law that I have set before you, and to heed the words of my servants the prophets whom I send to you urgently-- though you have not heeded-- then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth. The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD. And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to
all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, "You shall die! Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, `This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant'?" And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD. Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, "It is the LORD who sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. Now therefore amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will change his mind about the disaster that he has pronounced against you. But as for me, here I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will be bringing innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears."

The Word of the Lord.  

**People Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 31:1-5 In te, Domine, speravi**

1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; *
   **deliver me in your righteousness.**

2 Incline your ear to me; *
   **make haste to deliver me.**

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold;*
   **for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.**

4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
   **for you are my tower of strength.**

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
   **for you have redeemed me, O LORD, O God of truth.**

**A reading from Acts 6:8-7:2a,51c-60**

Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then 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. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated some men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. They set up false witnesses who said, "This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of
Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us." And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel. Then the high priest asked him, "Are these things so?" And Stephen replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me. You are forever 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

All Stand


Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Therefore I send you prophets, sages, and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town, so that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. Truly I tell you, all this will come upon this generation. "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you, desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, `Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

All sit
Sermon  The Rev. Dr. Yesupatham Duraikannu

All stand  The Nicene 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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

The Prayers of the People

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

6
Give to the departed eternal rest.
*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
*May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Let us thank God for the blessings in our lives.

We give thanks for the COVID-19 vaccines; for those who celebrate birthdays this week, especially Barbara Ziegler; for all who listen to our weekly audio and on-line offerings; for this neighborhood of Getty Square, The Sharing Community and Westhab, The Salvation Army, the YWCA and the YMCA, the Yonkers Fire and Police Departments, all teachers, students and elected officials including our Mayor; for Saint John's Riverside Hospital, Saint Joseph's Medical Center, for all hospitals, nursing homes and group homes and for all who work to help others.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.
We pray for our Bishops, inspired ministry in this Episcopal Diocese of NY, and for Anthony Johnson, a Candidate for Ordination as a Deacon.

We pray for all who are affected by the pandemic, for all who have lost their jobs and all who are struggling to pay rent and other expenses, and for those in danger by virtue of their labor. We also pray for the Yonkers Chapter of the NAACP.

We pray for all in need of God’s healing grace and today especially for Lloyd Nissan, Mercedes Chavez, Barbara & Bobby Maxie, Nelson Guzman, Leselle Robinson, Margaret Ayers, Beth Buckaroni, Kimberly DeShon, Mary Stelley, Marge Weaver, Joy Sullivan, Deborah Holcombe, Duccio Bandini, Susan Innabi, Ginger Connolly, Steve Oscatzy, Kelly Chadwick, Deane Prouty, Agnes Schumacher, Trudy Vilches, Ival DeBride, Wayne Kniffen, Henry McNamee, Catherine Corry, Judith Shorrocks, Philip Auman Godlewski, Judy Hinsch, Marie Baptiste, Margaret Arguinzoni, Aida Carino, Shelly Henderson, Connie Tracey, Ruby Dixon, Joan Smith, Velma Crichton, Edith Williams, Carol Shoemaker, John Gore, Anna Walters, Thomas Neale, John Farrell, Barbara & Chris Michel-Karsten, Carla Jean DeBride, Naomi Henderson,Shaadira Smith, Roland Smith, Melvyn Davis and Floyd Davis.

We pray for those impacted by the wildfires in Asia, Canada, Europe, Northern Africa and the United States; the people of Haiti, for the Scavenging Workers’ Children in India; for those impacted by the famine in Ethiopia; for the humanitarian crises affecting African, Rohingya (pronounced Ro-hing-ja), Syrian, Venezuelan and Yemeni people; for all those in danger due to armed conflict and political turmoil, including the
people of Afghanistan, the Congo, Ethiopia, and Nigeria; for all refugees and those seeking asylum; for an end to the gun violence plaguing our nation; for an end to hate crimes involving Jewish Synagogues; for all who have been treated less than justly—including Asian Americans and members of the Sikh Community; and for changing hearts surrounding issues of racism in America.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who have died from illness (especially The Rev. Canon Claudia Wilson), natural disasters, and warfare; for those who have been murdered in recent gun violence across our country; and, for the more than 755,000 Americans and the over 5 million people around the world who have died from Corona Virus. We also lament those who have died over the centuries including indigenous people, and all who have died due to slavery, lynching, racism and the unequal and unjust treatment of peoples in this country. We remember with gratitude the lives of all Veterans.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer. Silence

Celebrant If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8,9

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
Silence may be kept

All Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace
Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.
The Celebrant and People greet one another in the Name of the Lord while remaining in your pew and physically distanced.
The Church Notices and Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

The Holy Communion

All stand  The Doxology


The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People together

Sanctus S-129  Holy, Holy, Holy Lord Robert Powell (born 1932)
Either Kneel or Remain Standing
The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.
On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed John the Evangelist, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*(People and Celebrant)*

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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.
The Breaking of the Bread
The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Celebrant (Facing the People, the Celebrant gives the following Invitation)
The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All baptized Christians are invited to receive the Sacrament. Please remain in your Pew and the Priest will bring Communion to you. To receive a blessing instead of Communion, please cross your arms over your chest in an “x”.

All Stand or Kneel
Celebrant  Let us pray.
Celebrant and People together

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

All Stand
Post-Communion Hymn #439 “What Wondrous Love is This”

The Dismissal
Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People  Thanks be to God.

Postlude
Saint John’s Episcopal Church
One Hudson Street, Yonkers, NY 10701
Parish Office: (914) 963-3033, stjohns@mac.com stjohnsgettysquare.church
For pastoral emergencies outside of business hours, please contact Fr Yesu at (845) 522-0573 or duraions@gmail.com

The Rt. Rev. Andrew M.L. Dietsche
Diocesan Bishop

The Rev. Dr. Yesupatham Duraikannu
Interim Priest

The Rt. Rev. Allen K. Shin
Bishop Suffragan

Mr. Jason Slayden
Minister of Music

The Rt. Rev. Mary D. Glasspool
Assistant Bishop

Mr. Philip Auman Godlewskei
Parish Administrator

The Rev. Dr. Gideon Jebamani
Priest Associate

Mr. Ademir Nascimento
Sexton

Vestry

Senior Warden Jen Longley
Junior Warden Tara Seeley
Treasurer Chris Canty
Clerk Kelly Giannone

Class of 2022
Deborah DeBrude
Wayne Kempton
George Morrison
Angie Piwinski

Class of 2023
Kelly Giannone
Naomi Henderson
Deborah Holcombe
Peter C. Walsh, II

Class of 2024
Chris Canty
Carol Craft
Vera Johnson

12