



# Witness Days

SAINT STEPHEN  
DEACON & MARTYR

Hope Lutheran Church  
Missouri Synod  
6308 Quivira Rd. + Shawnee, KS 66216 + 913-631-6940

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ADVENT I MIDWEEK

December 1, A. D. 2021

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Evening Prayer, LSB pp. 243–252

 **The Witness Days** 

✠ St. Stephen, Deacon & Martyr ✠

PRELUDE      *Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come*      Theodore Beck, Hugo Gehrke,  
John Ferguson, Richard Gieseke,  
and Max Reger

HYMN OF INVOCATION      *Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come*      Hymn 350

SERVICE OF LIGHT      p. 243

OPENING VERSICLES

PHOS HILARON      p. 244

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT      p. 245

PSALMODY

PSALM 141 — *sung by all*

PRAYER      p. 247

OFFICE HYMN      *The Son of God Goes Forth to War*      Hymn 661

READINGS      p. 247

FIRST READING      2 Chronicles 24:17–22

SECOND READING      Matthew 23:34–39

ANTHEM      *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*      Larry Sue      Bell Ensemble

THIRD READING      Acts 6:8—7:2a, 51–60

SERMON      ‘Standing at the Right Hand of God’

CANTICLE      *Magnificat*      p. 248

<u>OFFERING</u>	<i>The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns</i>	Charles Callahan
<b>PRAYER</b> — <i>spoken responsively</i>		p. 249
<u>LITANY</u>		
<u>COLLECT FOR ST. STEPHEN</u>		
<u>COLLECT FOR PEACE</u>		
<u>LORD'S PRAYER</u>		
<u>BENEDICAMUS ✕ BENEDICTION</u>		p. 252
<u>CLOSING HYMN</u>	<i>The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns</i>	Hymn 348
<u>POSTLUDE</u>	<i>The Son of God Goes Forth to War</i>	Healey Willan and James Engel

SERVICE LEADERS

Preacher/Liturgist.....	Pastor Michael Penikis
Organist.....	Kim Schuler
Kantor.....	Dr. Louis Schuler
Bell Ensemble.....	Ilene Haverkamp, Cindy Kruse, ..... Margie Krzesinski, and Linda Penikis
Acolyte .....	Josh Fratzel (4:00); Lily Heimsoth (7:00)
Video .....	Laura Haverkamp

**About the Icons & Illustrations** — The cover shows Stephen being martyred by stoning, an event that has been remembered on the Church's calendar on December 26 probably ever since it happened. He is depicted wearing a *sticharion*, an *orarion*, and *epimanikia* (cuffs), traditional vestments for deacons in the Eastern Church. In the background guarding the cloaks of the 'witnesses' against Stephen is Saul of Tarsus. The crowns inside refer to Stephen's name (Greek *stephanos*, 'crown'), recalling Christ's promise, "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10).

## 2 Chronicles 24:17–22 ESV

<sup>17</sup>Now after the death of Jehoiada the princes of Judah came and paid homage to the king. Then the king listened to them. <sup>18</sup>And they abandoned the house of the LORD, the God of their fathers, and served the Asherim and the idols. And wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs. <sup>19</sup>Yet he sent prophets among them to bring them back to the LORD. These testified against them, but they would not pay attention.

<sup>20</sup>Then the Spirit of God clothed Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, and he stood above the people, and said to them, “Thus says God, ‘Why do you break the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has forsaken you.’” <sup>21</sup>But they conspired against him, and by command of the king they stoned him with stones in the court of the house of the LORD. <sup>22</sup>Thus Joash the king did not remember the kindness that Jehoiada, Zechariah’s father, had shown him, but killed his son. And when he was dying, he said, “May the LORD see and avenge!”

## Matthew 23:34–39 ESV

<sup>34</sup> [Jesus said:] “Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, <sup>35</sup> so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. <sup>36</sup> Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

<sup>37</sup> “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>38</sup> See, your house is left to you desolate. <sup>39</sup> For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

## Acts 6:8–7:2a, 51–60 ESV

<sup>8</sup>And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. <sup>9</sup>Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. <sup>10</sup>But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking. <sup>11</sup>Then they secretly instigated men who said, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.” <sup>12</sup>And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, <sup>13</sup>and they set up false witnesses who said, “This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law, <sup>14</sup>for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us.” <sup>15</sup>And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

<sup>7:1</sup>And the high priest said, “Are these things so?” <sup>2</sup>And Stephen said: “Brothers and fathers, hear me. ...

<sup>51</sup>“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. <sup>52</sup>Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, <sup>53</sup>you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

<sup>54</sup>Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup>But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” <sup>57</sup>But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. <sup>58</sup>Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup>And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.