

Proper for the Feast of St. Stephen the Martyr

December 26, 2018

Theme: Sacrificial Life

Collect of the Day

Lord, today we celebrate the entrance of St. Stephen into eternal glory. He died praying for those who killed him. Help us to imitate his goodness and to love our enemies. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Old Testament Proclamation: Jeremiah 26:1-9,12-15

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 31

New Testament Proclamation: Acts 6:8 to 7:2a, 51c-60

Gospel Proclamation: Matthew 23:34-39

Gradual Verse:

Their sound has gone out through all the earth, and their utterances to the end of the world.

Prayers of the People:

Deacon: Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church, and for the world.

Deacon: Almighty Father, we lift before You Your holy catholic Church:

People: That You would lead us in truth, baptize us in love, and unite us in spirit.

Deacon: We pray for her leaders, especially Bishop Craig, Bishop Ricardo, and Bishop Ariel:

People: That they may with one voice minister Your life to Your people and the world.

Deacon: We lift before You the people of this community, this nation, and the world:

People: That we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Deacon: We pray for our governmental leaders, especially President Duterte:

People: That You would lead them in the ways of justice and peace.

Deacon: We lift before You all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit:

People: That You would send Your comfort and grace upon them.

Deacon: Give to the departed eternal rest:

People: Grant that we may share with them in Your everlasting Kingdom.

Deacon: And we lift before You this parish, in the manner in which You have given unto us:

People: As we pray our Corporate Petition.

The Corporate Petition

The Concluding Collect

Presider: We thank You, O Father, that Your Son emptied Himself and took on our humanity, that we may come to share in His divinity. We exalt Your majestic Name through Jesus Christ our Lord! **Amen.**

Proper Preface

Father, all powerful and everliving God, we do well always and everywhere to give You thanks. Your holy martyr Stephen followed the example of Christ, and gave his life for the glory of Your Name. His death reveals Your power shining through our human weakness.

You choose the weak and make them strong in bearing witness to You, through Jesus Christ our Lord. In our unending joy we echo on earth the song of the angels in heaven as the praise Your glory forever:

Benediction:

May Almighty God, Who sent His Son to take our nature upon Him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of His holiness; and the blessing of God Almighty: + the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever. **Amen.**