



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

HOLY COMMUNION

Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 26, 2023 • 9:30 am

You are welcome here! As a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the ELCA, we believe that the gospel is God's gift to all people, shared unconditionally and without regard to race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, socio-economic or family status, age, physical or mental abilities, outward appearance, or religious affiliation. We seek racial equality and justice. In this way, we live into the truth written in Ephesians (2:14)—that Christ breaks down the dividing walls between us and makes us one.

Masks are not required for those who are fully vaccinated and boosted. If you are wearing a mask, you may lower it to receive communion.

Theme of the Day

God brings new life even when, humanly speaking, there is no hope.

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome

Joys & Concerns

** Confession & Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess to you our faults and failings.

Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;

we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;

we spoil rather than steward your creation;

we cause hurt though you call us to heal;

we choose fear over compassion.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

as we seek to follow in your way of life.

Amen.

Hear the good news....and revives in you the spirit's power.

Amen.

**** Gathering Hymn**

O God, Who Gives Us Life

ACS 1086

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "O God, Who Gives Us Life". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The treble staff contains a melody line with notes and rests. The bass staff contains a bass line with notes and rests. Below the treble staff, there are three lines of lyrics, each numbered 1, 2, and 3. The lyrics are: "1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb," "2 O God, who calls your peo - ple out to ven - ture and to dare," and "3 O God of cov - e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,". The lyrics are aligned with the notes in the treble staff.

**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
 to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:
 your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.

de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
 when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,

Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
 re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
 as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

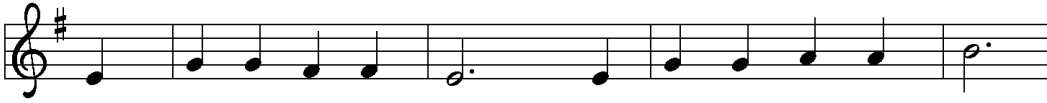
** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

**** Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

**** Kyrie**



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.

2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.

3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.

Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

**** Prayer of the Day**

Assisting Minister leads the prayer of the day and the assembly responds: Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

Word

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

First Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (p. 791)

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 130

¹Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD;

²**O LORD, hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

³If you were to keep watch over sins,

O LORD, who could stand?

⁴**Yet with you is forgiveness,
in order that you may be feared.**

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

⁶**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,
more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love;

with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

⁸**For the LORD shall redeem Israel**

from all their sins.

Second Reading

Romans 8:6-11 (p. 1029)

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

** Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

**** Gospel Acclamation**



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

**** Gospel**

John 11:1-45 (p. 978-979)

The Holy Gospel according to John.
The Gospel of the Lord.

Glory to you, O Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

**** Gospel Acclamation** *Please see above.*

Sermon

The Rev. Mark Walters

**** Hymn of the Day**

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

ELW 750



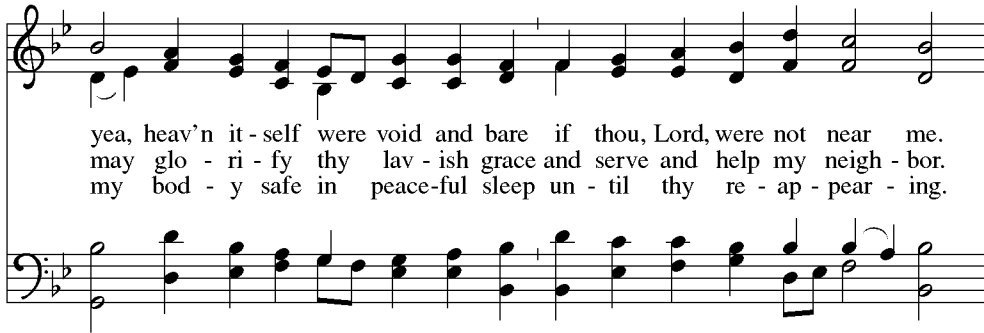
1 Lord, thee I love with all my heart; I pray thee, ne'er from me de-part;
2 Yea, Lord, thine own rich boun-ty gave my bod - y, soul, and all I have
3 Lord, let at last thine an-gels come, to A-br'ham's bos-om bear me home,



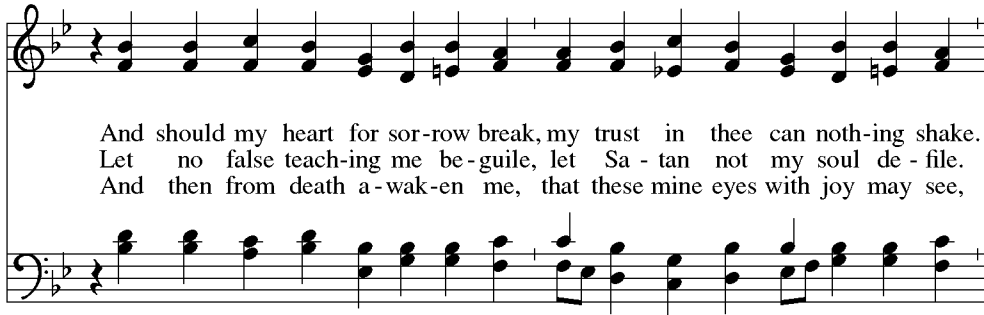
with ten-der mer-cy cheer me. Earth has no plea-sure I would share,
in this poor life of la - bor. Lord, grant that I in ev - 'ry place
that I may die un - fear - ing; and in its nar - row cham-ber keep



**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**



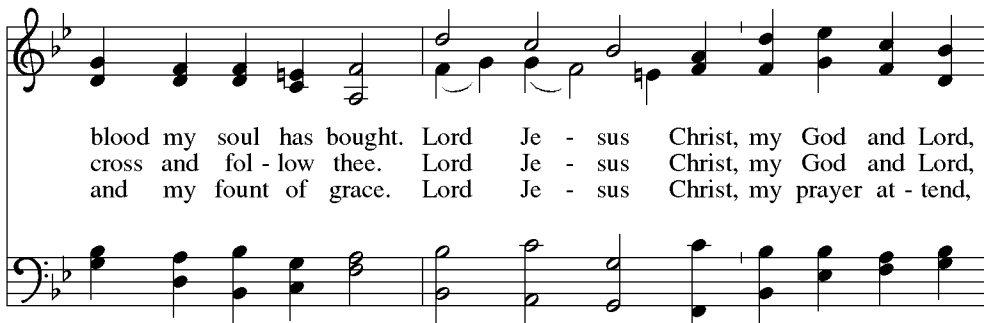
yea, heav'n it - self were void and bare if thou, Lord, were not near me.
 may glo - ri - fy thy lav - ish grace and serve and help my neigh - bor.
 my bod - y safe in peace-ful sleep un - til thy re - ap - pear - ing.



And should my heart for sor-row break, my trust in thee can noth-ing shake.
 Let no false teach-ing me be-guile, let Sa - tan not my soul de - file.
 And then from death a-wak-en me, that these mine eyes with joy may see,



Thou art the por - tion I have sought; thy pre - cious
 Give strength and pa - tience un - to me to bear my
 O Son of God, thy glo - rious face, my Sav - ior



blood my soul has bought. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and Lord,
 cross and fol - low thee. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and Lord,
 and my fount of grace. Lord Je - sus Christ, my prayer at - tend,

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

my God and Lord, for - sake me not! I trust thy word.
 my God and Lord, in death thy com - fort still af - ford.
 my prayer at - tend, and I will praise thee with - out end!

**** Apostles' Creed**

Let us love one another, that with one mind we may confess the Holy Trinity, one in essence and undivided.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.*On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**** Prayers of the People**

Each portion of the prayer ends with:

Response: Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Meal

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

Offering

Each week we give thanks to God for things that God has given us: our selves, our time, and our possessions. A financial donation to the church is never a requirement, but is freely given to support the work of the congregation in the community. For your convenience, St. Stephen's offers the opportunity to give on-line through text message. Type "Funds" to 302-257-6155 to make any donations.

** Offering Song

Take My Life That I May Be

ELW 685

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff for the melody and a bass clef staff for the accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff. The first system covers lines 1-4, and the second system covers lines 5-6. The score ends with a double bar line.

1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

** Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

**** Offering Prayer**

Assisting Minister leads the offering prayer and the assembly responds: Amen.

**** Dialogue**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and
praise.**

**** Preface**

**** Holy, Holy, Holy**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

** Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide,...in your holy church, both now and forever.

Amen.

** Lord's Prayer

As we pray the Lord's Prayer together, we invite you to choose which version and language in which to pray. Several versions are printed on the laminated card for you.

Invitation to Communion

Lamb of God



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Communion

As Lutheran Christians we believe the words of Jesus, "This is my body, this is my blood given for you for the forgiveness of sin." If you desire to receive this gift, you are welcome to commune here. All who do not commune may come for a blessing. The ushers will invite the assembly from the front row to the back row to come to the chancel to receive communion from the pastor via the center aisle. Once you receive your communion, please use the side aisles to return to your pew. Please be sure to discard your cups in the trash bin on your way out of the church - please do not leave used communion cups in the pews or pew racks. If you prefer juice, please let the assisting minister know.

** Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

Communion Hymn

To You All Hearts Are Open

ACS 1012



The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a repeat sign. The lyrics are: "To you all hearts are o - pen, to you all de - sires known. To you there are no se - crets, al - might - y God; we come to you." The third staff includes a triplet of eighth notes and a "Last time" marking above the final measure.

Communion Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

Together, let us pray.

Embodied God,

at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.

With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,

empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors

and touch the world with your love.

Amen.

Announcements

Sending

We are sent into the world to serve.

** Blessing

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

** Sending Hymn

What Wondrous Love Is This

ELW 666

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,

that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

**** Dismissal**

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

*Chancel flowers are given by the Potter and Cook families
in memory of Robert W. Ragsdale*

Enjoy today's service? Visit our Facebook page and invite a friend, comment, or leave a review. Please text the word "welcome" to 855-965-5200 to be added to our email list. May God go with you today and everyday.

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**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

Participants in Today's Service

Pastor:

The Rev. Mark Walters

Music Director:

Claudio Espejo

Assisting Minister/Lector:

Michael Farthing

Usher:

John Rodammer

Altar Guild:

Karleen Strayer

Camera:

John Gordon

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

Pastor F. Mark Walters (lvtheos@gmail.com 410-739-5365)

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JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, April 2 | 9:30 AM

Maundy Thursday, April 6 | 7 PM

Good Friday, April 7 | 7 PM

Easter Sunday, April 9 | 9:30 AM

