



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

HOLY COMMUNION

First Sunday in Lent
February 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

When we face our sin we are driven to God's forgiveness.

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.

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

** Gathering Hymn

Praise and Thanks and Adoration

ELW 783



1 Praise and thanks and ad - o - ra - tion, Son of God, to you we give,
2 Hold me ev - er in your keep - ing, com - fort me in pain and strife;



for you chose to serve cre - a - tion, died that sin - ers all might live.
through my laugh - ter and my weep - ing, lift me to a no - bler life.



Dear Lord Je - sus, guide my way; faith - ful let me day by day
Draw my fer - vent love to you; con - stant hope and faith re - new



fol - low where your steps are lead - ing, find ad - ven - ture, joys ex - ceed - ing!
in your birth, your life and pas - sion, in your death and res - ur - rec - tion.

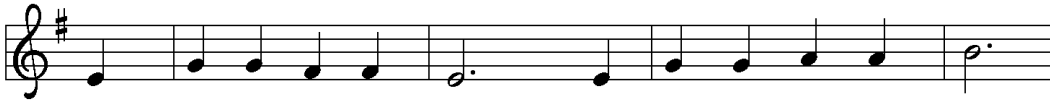
** Greeting

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.

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

**** Hymn of Praise**



- 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

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 (p. 2)

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 32

- ¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!
- ²**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**
- ³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.
- ⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**
- ⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the
guilt of my sin.
- ⁶**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**
- ⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- ⁸**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**
- ⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."
- ¹⁰**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**
- ¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

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

Second Reading

Romans 5:12-19 (p. 1027-1028)

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

** 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

Matthew 4:1-11 (p. 879)

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
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

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

** Hymn of the Day

When We are Tested

ACS 922



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

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

**** 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.
	God, in your mercy,	hear our prayer.

Meal

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

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

** Offering Song

Take My Life That I May Be (Verse 1)

ELW 685



- 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**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe....Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup, we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
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

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

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 for the hymn. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. A repeat sign follows. The second staff continues the melody with a quarter note C5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note F5. The third staff features a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) followed by a quarter note C5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note F5. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a final whole note G4. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

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.

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

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

Sending

We are sent into the world to serve.

** Blessing

** Sending Hymn

Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer

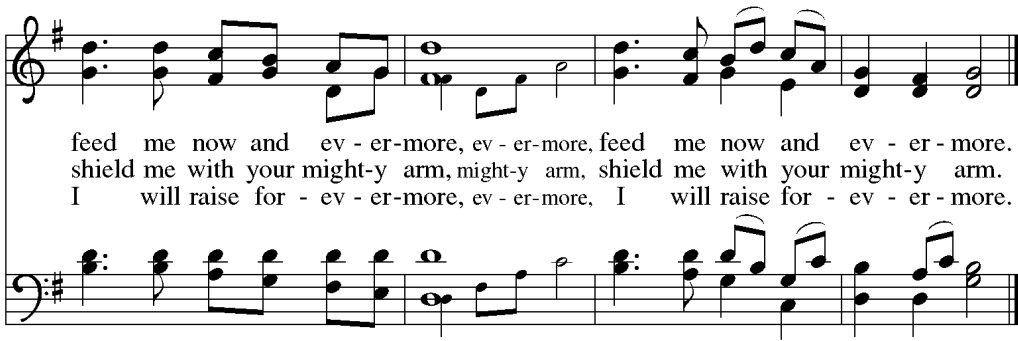
ELW 618

1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es

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



feed me now and ev - er-more, ev - er-more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
 shield me with your might-y arm, might-y arm, shield me with your might-y arm.
 I will raise for - ev - er-more, ev - er-more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

**** Dismissal**

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

Postlude

Chancel flowers are given by John Rodammer to celebrate spring.

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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