



# St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

## HOLY COMMUNION

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
January 28, 2024

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.

## Gathering

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Joys & Concerns**

**\*\* Confession and 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, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of life,

**you promise good news of great joy for all people,  
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,  
our resources, and our security.**

**We nurture conflict and build barriers.  
We neglect the needs of our neighbors  
and ignore the groaning of creation.  
Have mercy on us.  
Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.  
Where we are reluctant, give us courage.  
Where we are cynical, restore our trust.  
Renew us with your grace  
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.  
Amen.**

Hear the good news:  
We are children of God and heirs of God's promises  
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.  
In ✝ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.  
Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth  
shall know the salvation of God.  
**Amen.**

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

## \*\* Gathering Hymn

*Faith Begins by Letting Go*

ACS 1004

1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,  
2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - 'ry's roots a - live  
3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,

tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:  
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,  
shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;

pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.  
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.  
till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

## \*\* 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.**

# \*\* Kyrie

Daniel D. Howe

(organ) High voices Ky-ri-e e lei - son. Women Ky-ri-  
Low voices Low voices  
Ky-ri-e e lei-son. Ky-ri-e e lei-son.

e e lei - son. Chris - te e lei - son. e lei -  
All  
e e lei - son.

son. High voices Ky-ri-e e lei - son High Ky-ri-  
Low voices Low voices  
Ky-ri-e e lei - son Ky-ri-e e lei-son

e e lei - son All Ky - ri - e e lei - son

© 1995 by Howe/Lipson

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

# \*\* Hymn of Praise

Daniel Howe

A - rise and shine for your light has come,

High voices

Low voices

(All) the glo - ry of the Lord is ri - sen up on you!

your light has come;

FINE

A -  
A -  
A -  
A -

rise your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey; show  
rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pri - son doors; pro -  
rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born; bind  
rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song! Rise

forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to day.  
claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor. A -  
up the bro - ken heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

To the beginning

D.C. al Fine

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

**\*\* 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.

# Word

*God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.*

**First Reading**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 (p. 174)

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm**

Psalm 111

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

**<sup>2</sup>Great are the works of the LORD,  
studied by all who delight in them.**

<sup>3</sup>Full of honor and majesty is his work,  
and his righteousness endures forever.

**<sup>4</sup>He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;  
the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

<sup>5</sup>He provides food for those who fear him;  
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

**<sup>6</sup>He has shown his people the power of his works,  
in giving them the heritage of the nations.**

<sup>7</sup>The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
all his precepts are trustworthy.

**<sup>8</sup>They are established forever and ever,  
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

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

<sup>9</sup>He sent redemption to his people;  
he has commanded his covenant forever.  
Holy and awesome is his name.

<sup>10</sup>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all those who practice it have a good understanding.  
His praise endures forever.

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (p. 1043)

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

## \*\* Gospel Acclamation



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## \*\* Gospel

Mark 1:21-28(p. 910)

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

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

## \*\* Gospel Acclamation

*Please see gospel acclamation above.*

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

**\*\* Hymn of the Day**

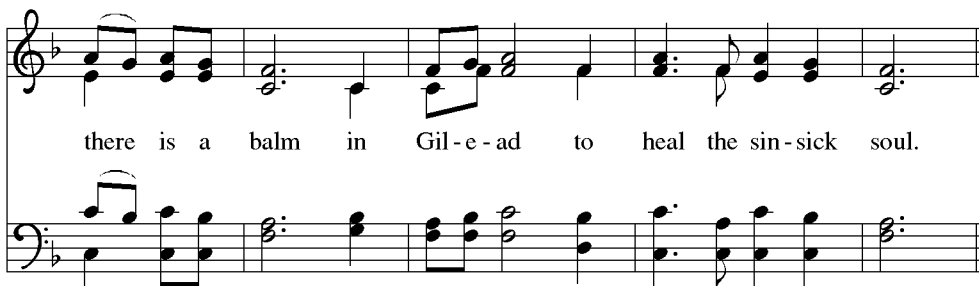
*There Is a Balm in Gilead*

ELW 614

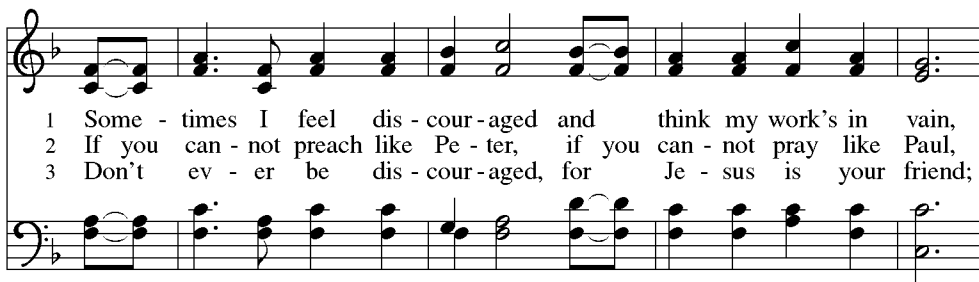
*Refrain*



There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;



there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.



1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,  
 2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,  
 3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

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





# 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 not 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

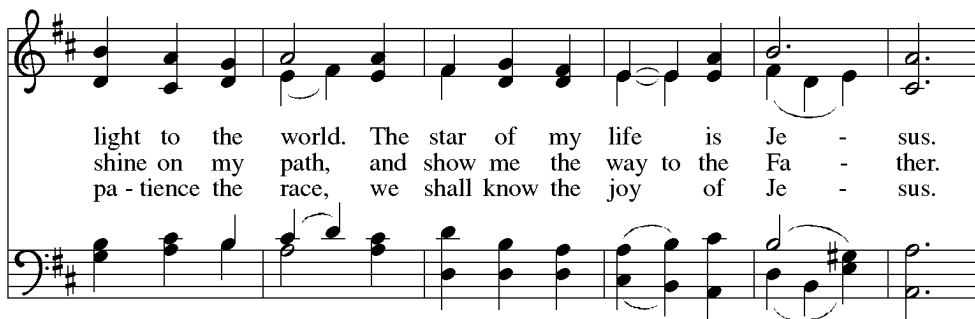
*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

ELW 815

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness,  
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

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

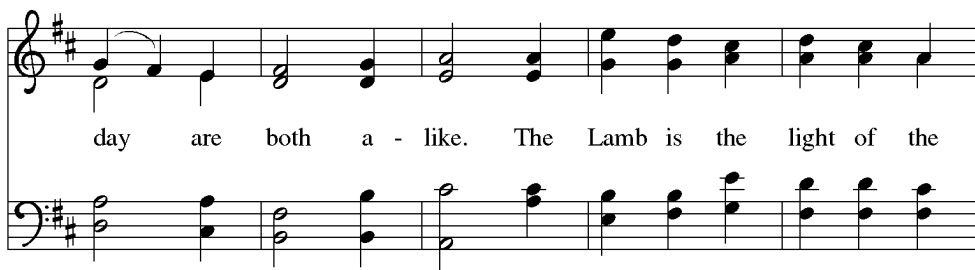


light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

*Refrain*



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934  
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson  
Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

\*\* 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

Daniel D. Howe

1 Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly,

3 Lord God of pow - er and might,

5 Heav - en and earth are full of your

7 glo - ry, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - a in the

9 high - est. Blest is the one who

11 comes in the name of the Lord! Ho - san - na, Ho -

13 san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na!

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

## **\*\* Thanksgiving at the Table**

Holy, just, and merciful God....We proclaim this truth: Death is part of life.

**Christ has died.**

But death will not have the last word.

**Christ has risen!**

And suffering will end.

**Christ will come again...**

...and again and again, every time suffering is alleviated,  
comfort is given, food is offered, hope is restored.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this body gathered here  
and on our union with each other and with these gifts of bread and cup.  
May we become your body for the sake of a world  
where justice rolls down like an ever-flowing stream.

All praise to God, **Creator of Love!**

All praise to Jesus, **Love Incarnate!**

All praise to Spirit, **Love In Action!**

**Amen.**

## **\*\* Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

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

# Lamb of God

Howe/Lipson

High voices Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

Low voices Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world.

world. High voices Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

Low voices Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world.

All world. Have mer - cy on us, Have mer - cy on us.

Have mer - cy on us. High voices Lamb of

Low voices Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world.

God, you take a - way the sin of the world. High voices Lamb of

Low voices Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world.

God, you take a - way the sin of the world. All Grant us peace. A - men.

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

## Communion

*Holy Communion is a free gift of God's grace and love. Everyone is welcome to share in this meal. If you wish to receive words of blessing, instead of or in addition to the Bread and Cup, simply tell the minister. Wheat and GF wafers are available as are red wine and amber juice.*

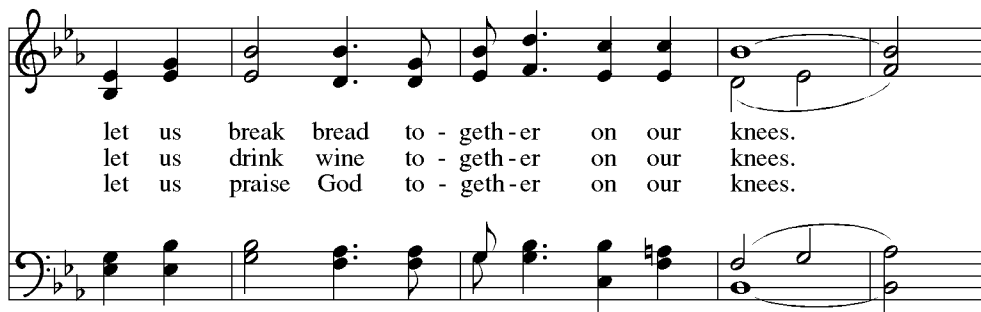
## Communion Hymn

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

ELW 471



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

*Refrain*



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

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

A musical score for a two-part setting of the Communion Blessing. The score is written on two staves, a treble staff (top) and a bass staff (bottom), both in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the word "me." The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

## Communion Blessing



# Sending

*We are sent into the world to serve.*

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Together, let us pray.

Giver of every gift,  
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.  
Raise us to life by your power  
for the benefit of all and to your glory,  
now and forever.  
Amen.

## **Announcements**

### **\*\* Blessing**

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

**\*\* Sending Hymn**

*O God of Light*

ELW 507



1 O God of light, your word, a lamp un - fail - ing,  
2 From days of old, through blind and will - ful a - ges,  
3 Un - dimmed by time, those words are still re - veal - ing,  
4 To all the world your sum - mons you are send - ing,



shall pierce the dark - ness of our earth - bound way  
though we re - belled, you gent - ly sought a - gain,  
to sin - ful hearts your jus - tice and your grace;  
through all the earth, to ev - 'ry land and race,



and show your grace, your plan for us un - veil - ing,  
and spoke through saints, a - pos - tles, proph - ets, sa - ges,  
and quest - ing spir - its, long - ing for your heal - ing,  
that myr - iad tongues, in one great an - them blend - ing,



and guide our foot - steps to the per - fect day.  
who wrote with ea - ger or re - luc - tant pen.  
see your com - pas - sion in the Sav - ior's face.  
may praise and cel - e - brate your gift of grace.

Text: Sarah E. Taylor, 1883–1954, alt.

Music: ATKINSON, H. Barrie Cabena, b. 1933

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Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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

## **\*\* Dismissal**

Go in peace,  
**To Love, To Invite, To Serve.**  
Great are the works of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

*The chancel flowers are given by John Rodammer in honor of his wife's birthday.*

*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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Our Communion Prayers were adapted from the liturgy provided by Reconciling Works for Reconciling in Christ Sunday 2024. The full RIC 2024 liturgy draws from several sources, including Dr. Marcia McFee's Roll Down Justice from the Worship Design Studio. The worship outline was created by David Horton, Word and Service Intern for ReconcilingWorks and edited by Deacon Liz Colver and Rev. Heather Thonvold. Used by permission.

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

## **Participants in Today's Service**

### **Pastor:**

The Rev. Susan Loney  
pastor@ststeph.org

### **Music Director:**

Claudio Espejo

### **Assisting Minister/Lector:**

Michele Torchia

### **Usher:**

John Gordon

### **Altar Guild:**

Karleen Strayer

### **Camera:**

Michael Lehm

### **Ministers:**

The people of St. Stephen's

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