



# St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

## HOLY COMMUNION

First Sunday in Lent  
February 18, 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,  
who writes the law on our hearts,  
who draws all people together through Jesus.

**Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,  
 we confess that we are caught in snares of sin  
 and cannot break free.  
 We hoard resources while our neighbors  
 are hungry and cold.  
 We speak in ways that silence others.  
 We are silent when we should speak up.  
 We keep score in our hearts.  
 We let hurts grow into hatred.  
 For all these things and for sins only you know,  
 forgive us, Lord.  
 Amen.

Here is a flood of grace:  
 Out of love for the whole world,  
 God draws near to us,  
 breaks every snare of sin,  
 washes away our wrongs,  
 and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.  
 Amen.

**\*\* Gathering Hymn**

*Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized*

ELW 304

1 **Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you**  
 2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant  
 3 Straight - way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - beyed the  
 4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be

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

came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as  
 true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's  
 call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to  
 signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may

ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.  
 ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.  
 give your life for all, to give your life for all.  
 per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt.  
 Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561  
 Text © 1985 The Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing, Inc. 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.

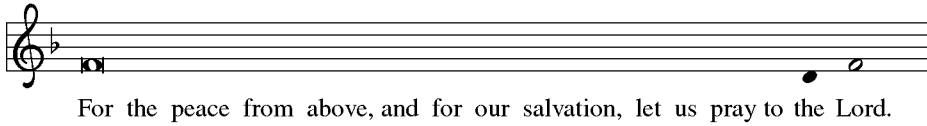
**And also with you.**

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

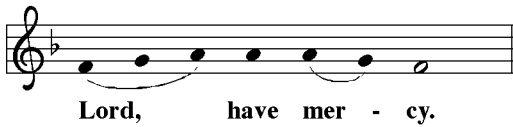
**\*\* Kyrie**



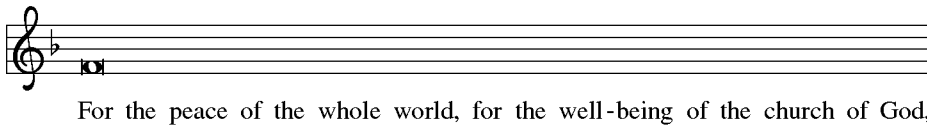
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



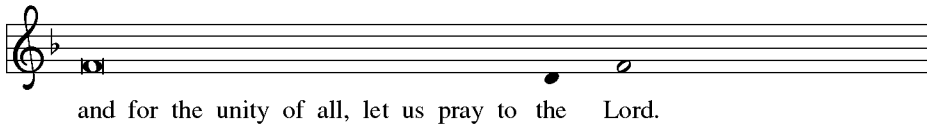
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



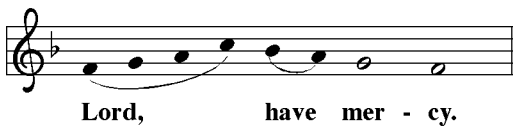
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



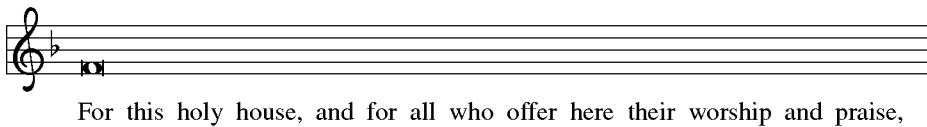
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



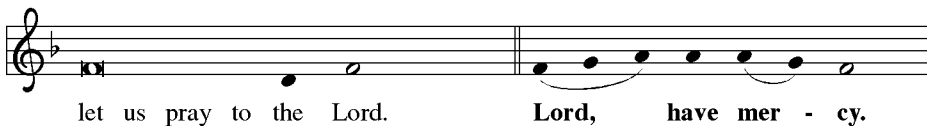
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



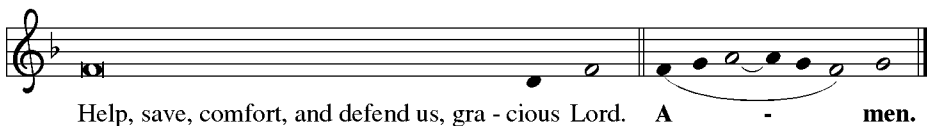
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

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

## \*\* Hymn of Praise

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

\*\* 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**

Genesis 9:8-17 (p. 7)

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm**

Psalm 25:1-10

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**O my God, in you I trust;  
do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.**

<sup>7</sup>Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

<sup>8</sup>**Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

<sup>9</sup>He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way.

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

<sup>10</sup>All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

**Second Reading**

1 Peter 3:18-22 (p. 1105-1106)

“Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

**\*\* Gospel Acclamation**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

**\*\* Gospel**

Mark 1:9-15 (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.*

**Sermon**

The Rev. Susan Loney

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

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

*Thy Holy Wings*

ELW 613

1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me,  
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast  
3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.

and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.  
where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.  
Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.

Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,  
Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,  
Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,

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



and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.  
 for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.  
 and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite  
 Music: BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR, Swedish folk tune; arr. hymnal version  
 Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., agent. www.selahpub.com.  
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

## \*\* Apostles' Creed

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:            Hear us, O God.                            **Your mercy is great.**

\*\* 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 Jesus to Walk with Me*

ELW 325

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with  
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with  
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

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

me; all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. walk with me.  
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version  
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

**\*\* 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.

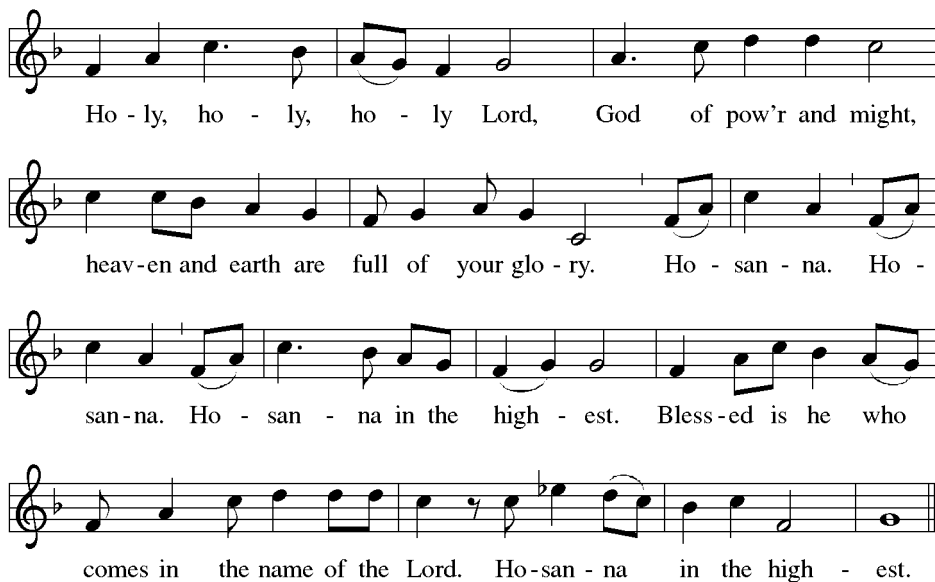
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*\* Preface**

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

## \*\* Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

## \*\* Thanksgiving at the Table

Blessed are you, O God of the universe...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.

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

**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**

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

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## 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.*

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

# Communion Hymn

One Bread, One Body

ELW 496



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bles-sing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,  
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,  
3 Grain for the fields, scat - tered and grown,



wom - an or man, no more.  
one in the Lord of all.  
gath - ered to one for all.

Text: John Foley, sr, b. 1939

Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, sr

Text and music © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

## Communion Blessing

## Announcements

# Sending

*We are sent into the world to serve.*

## Post Communion Prayer

Together, let us pray.

Generous God,  
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.  
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,  
now make us one loaf to feed the world;  
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.  
Amen.

## \*\* Blessing

## \*\* Sending Hymn

*Bless Now, O God, the Journey*

ELW 326

The musical score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is primarily composed of quarter notes and half notes, with some eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,  
2 Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind-ing way;  
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

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



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.  
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus-tains the day.  
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun-tain round,  
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;  
 but wait-ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.  
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.  
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993  
 Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.  
 Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
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\*\* 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.**  
Remember God's promises.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*The chancel flowers are given by John Rodammer  
in honor of his sister Ruth'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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**\*\* 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:**

John Gordon

**Usher:**

John Rodammer

**Altar Guild:**

Sally Dudderar

**Camera:**

Michael Lehm

**Ministers:**

The people of St. Stephen's

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church  
1301 N Broom St. Wilmington, DE 19806 302-652-7623  
www.ststeph.org office@ststeph.org

# Concerts at St. Stephen's



## WHAT WONDROUS LOVE

Classical Pieces, Spirituals and Hymn Sing

Joanne R. Hench, organist  
Sunday, February 18 | 4 pm

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church  
1301 N Broom St | Wilmington DE 19806  
ststeph.org | 302-652-7623