



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

HOLY COMMUNION

Third Sunday in Lent
March 12, 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

Today's Scripture readings speak of God's gifts of life-giving waters.

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

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

ELW 658

1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of
2 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to
3 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our
4 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our

life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -
feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -
chang - ing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you
mo - ments fair and bright! Oh, chase the night of sin a -

parts we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.
head; our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.
turn, blest, when by the faith we hold you fast.
way! Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

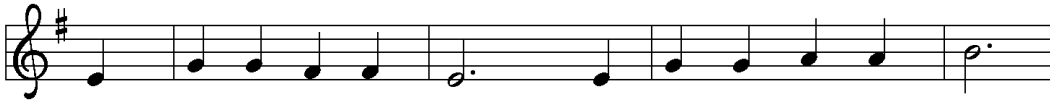
** Greeting

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**



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

Exodus 17:1-7 (p. 63)

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 95

¹Come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

²**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

³For you, LORD, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.

⁴**In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

⁵The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.

⁶**Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

⁷For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

⁸**"Harden not your hearts,
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

⁹There your ancestors tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

¹⁰**Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'**

¹¹Indeed I swore in my anger,
'They shall never come to my rest.'

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

Second Reading

Romans 5:1-11 (p. 1027)

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**

John 4:5-42 (p. 969-970)

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

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

**** Hymn of the Day**

Come to the Water of Life

ACS 955



1 All who are thirst - y for mer - cy, all who are thirst - y for
2 All who are thirst - y for heal - ing, all who are thirst - y for
3 All who are thirst - y for beau - ty, all who are thirst - y for
4 All who are thirst - y for jus - tice, all who are thirst - y for



love; all who are thirst - y for love, for mer - cy,
touch; all who are thirst - y for touch, for heal - ing,
truth; all who are thirst - y for truth, for beau - ty,
peace; all who are thirst - y for peace, for jus - tice,



come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.

** 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.

**** 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 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 (Verse 2)

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.

** 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 Song

Jesus Gave Me Water by Sam Cooke

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

** Sending Hymn

Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer

ELW 618

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The lyrics are: 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.

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

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

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.

** 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 Warner Family
in memory of John, Lydia and Judy Warner, and Mario Iona*

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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Participants in Today's Service

Pastor:

The Rev. Mark Walters

Music Director:

Claudio Espejo

Assisting Minister/Lector:

Michael Farthing

Usher:

John Gordon

Altar Guild:

Michele Torchia

Camera:

Mike Lehm

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

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

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

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CONCERTS AT ST. STEPHEN'S



Classical Selections for the Piano

Claudio Espejo, piano
Sunday, March 19 | 4 pm

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

Free to the community
Donations appreciated