



# St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

## HOLY COMMUNION

Sixth Sunday of Easter  
May 5, 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

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**Prelude:** *Prelude in C sharp Major BWV 849*

Bach

**Welcome**

**Joys & Concerns**

**\*\* Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
the wellspring of grace,  
our Easter and our joy.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism,...entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John...in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

**\*\* Gathering Hymn**

*I Come with Joy*

ELW 482



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are  
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er  
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in  
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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**\*\* 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.**

**\*\* 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 a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



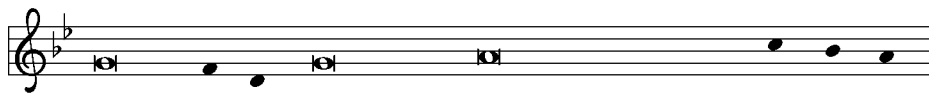
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and

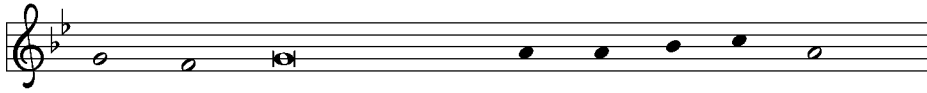
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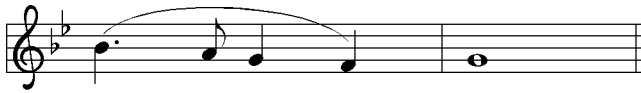
praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

## \*\* Hymn of Praise



*Refrain*  
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



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



*Refrain*  
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

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



2 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.



*Refrain*  
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



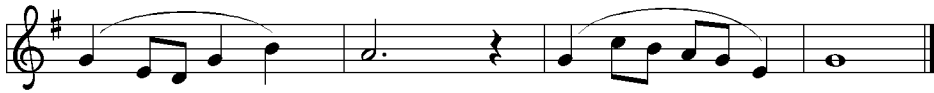
3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the



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, 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**

Acts 10:44-48

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

### **Psalm**

Psalm 98

<sup>1</sup>O sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have gotten him victory.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup>He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.  
All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.

<sup>4</sup>**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

<sup>5</sup>Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

<sup>6</sup>**With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
the world and those who live in it.

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

<sup>8</sup>Let the floods clap their hands;  
let the hills sing together for joy

<sup>9</sup>at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming  
to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.


**Second Reading**

1 John 5:1-6


Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

**\*\* Gospel Acclamation**

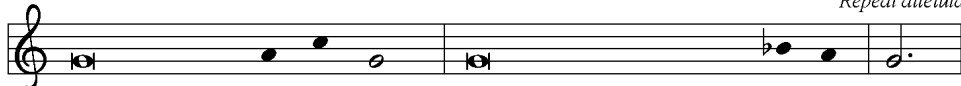


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

**\*\* Gospel**

John 15:9-17

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you O Lord.**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you O Christ.**

**\*\* Gospel Acclamation**

*Please see gospel acclamation above.*

**Sermon**

The Rev. Kristine Peterson

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



## \*\* Hymn of the Day

*Great God, Your Love Has Called Us*

ELW 358

1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for  
2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and  
3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us  
4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and  
5 Great God, in Christ you set us free, your life to live, your

love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,  
cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,  
as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,  
call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,  
joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty

though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our  
by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems  
but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your  
and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -  
to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that

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

heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.  
 close con-fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.  
 mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.  
 a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.  
 faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936  
 Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889–1953  
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 Music © Oxford University Press.

## \*\* Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth,  
 of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,  
 eternally begotten of the Father,  
 God from God, Light from Light,  
 true God from true God,  
 begotten, not made,  
 of one Being with the Father;  
 through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,  
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
 and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
 he suffered death and was buried.**

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

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **\*\* Prayers of the People**

*Each portion of the prayer ends with:*

Response:            God of grace,    receive 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 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.*

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

## \*\* Offering Song

*Now the Green Blade Rises*

ELW 379



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

## \*\* Offering Prayer

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

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

## \*\* Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

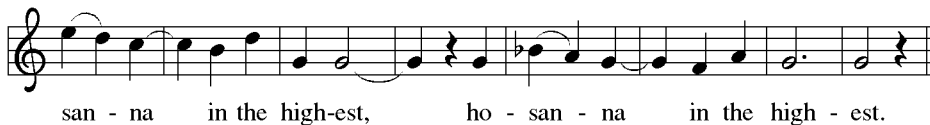
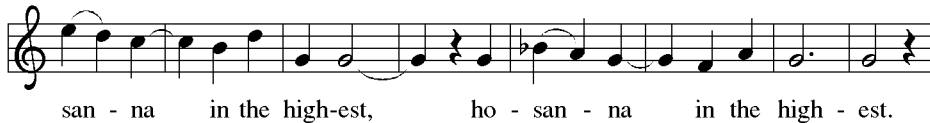
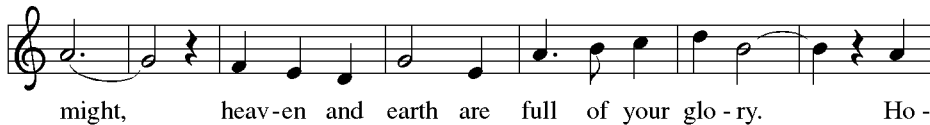
And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and  
praise.

## \*\* Preface

## \*\* Holy, Holy, Holy



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

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

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

**We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

**We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

**We thank you, O God.**

In the night in which he was betrayed,.... we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your spirit...in your church without end. **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.

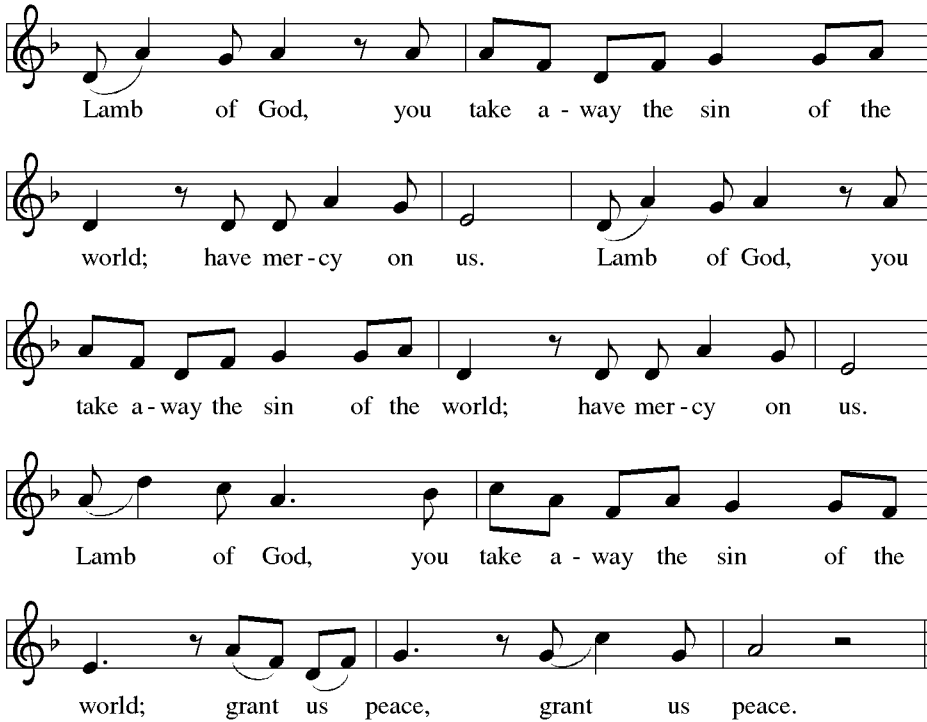
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

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, 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

*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.



sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

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

## Communion Blessing

### **\*\* Post Communion Prayer**

Together, let us pray.

Shepherding God,  
 you have prepared a table before us  
 and nourished us with your love.  
 Send us forth from this banquet  
 to proclaim your goodness  
 and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,  
 our redeemer and friend.  
 Amen.

## Announcements

## Farewell and Godspeed

\*\* 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

The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope  
✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

## \*\* Sending Hymn

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

ELW 836

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

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

Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness, drive the gloom of doubt a-way.  
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flow-'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,  
 Thou our Fa-ther, Christ our broth-er, all who live in love are thine;

Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.  
 chant-ing bird, and flow-ing foun-tain call us to re-joice in thee.  
 teach us how to love each oth-er, lift us to the joy di-vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922  
 Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

**\*\* Dismissal**

Go in peace,  
**To Love, To Invite, To Serve.**

Christ is Risen!  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** *Fugue in C sharp Major BWV 849*

Bach

*Chancel flowers are given by Sue Linderman in honor of Bob Linderman's birthday*

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

## Participants in Today's Service

**Pastor:**

The Rev. Kristine Peterson

**Music Director:**

Claudio Espejo

**Assisting Minister/Lector:**

Michael Farthing

**Usher:**

John Rodammer

**Altar Guild:**

Sally Dudderar

**Camera:**

John Gordon

**Ministers:**

The people of St. Stephen's

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Text the word "welcome" to 855-965-5200 to receive our weekly e-newsletter.

May God go with you today and every day.

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