



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

HOLY COMMUNION

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 10, 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: *Freddie Freeloader by Miles Davis*

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.

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

** Gathering Hymn

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

ELW 445



- 1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow.
- 2 We who bring them long for nurture; by your milk may we be fed.
- 3 Oh, how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!



Number them among your people; bless as Christ blessed long ago.
Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.
To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!



Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.
God, renew us, guide our footsteps; free from sin and all its snares,
We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born.



Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.
one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.
By your grace, our lives we offer. Re-create us; God, transform!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

Text © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. The Copyright Company, Nashville, TN.

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** Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

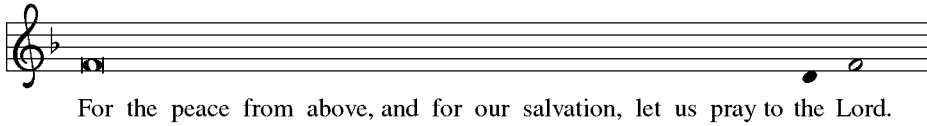
And also with you.

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

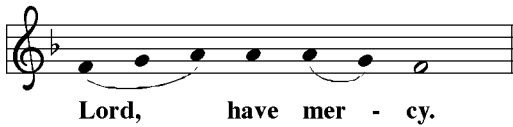
**** Kyrie**



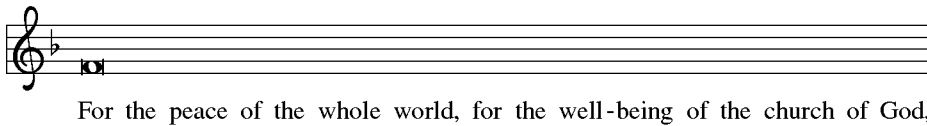
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



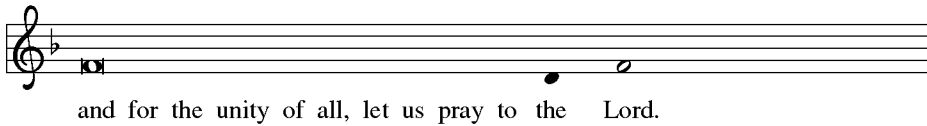
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



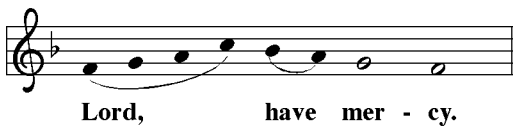
Lord, have mer - cy.



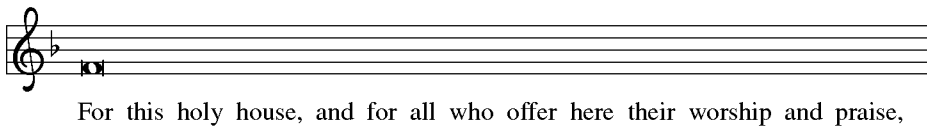
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



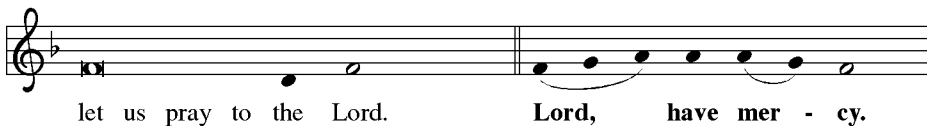
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



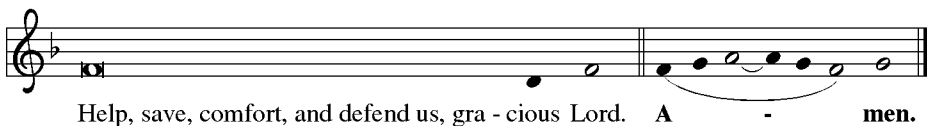
Lord, have mer - cy.



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

Numbers 21:4-9 (p. 138-139)

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.

**²Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
those he redeemed from trouble**

³and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

**¹⁷Some were sick through their sinful ways,
and because of their iniquities endured affliction;**

¹⁸they loathed any kind of food,
and they drew near to the gates of death.

**¹⁹Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress;**

²⁰he sent out his word and healed them,
and delivered them from destruction.

**²¹Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.**

²²And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices,
and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

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

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10 (p. 1064-1065)

“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**

John 3:14-21 (p. 968)

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 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

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading

ELW 401

Njo - o kwe - tu, Ro - ho mwe - ma, M - fa - ri - ji we - tu.
1 Gra - cious Spir - it, heed our plead - ing, fash - ion us all a - new.
2 Come to teach us, come to nour - ish those who be - lieve in Christ.
3 Guide our think - ing and our speak - ing done in your ho - ly name.

Tu - fu - ndi - she ya mbi - ngu - ni, tu - we wa - tu wa - pya.
It's your lead - ing that we're need - ing, help us to fol - low you.
Bless the faith - ful, may they flour - ish, strength - ened by grace un - priced.
Mo - ti - vate all in their seek - ing, free - ing from guilt and shame.

Refrain

Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

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

4 Not mere knowledge, but discernment,
nor rootless liberty;
turn disquiet to contentment,
doubt into certainty.

5 Keep us fervent in our witness,
unswayed by earth's allure.
Ever grant us zealous fitness,
which you alone assure.

Text: Wilson Niwagila; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

Music: NJOO KWETU, ROHO MWEMA, Wilson Niwagila; arr. Egil Hovland, b. 1924

English and Swahili text and tune © Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Arr. © Egil Hovland. Used by permission.

**** 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.

Come, Holy Spirit.

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

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.

Communion Blessing

** 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.

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.

Announcements

** Blessing

** Sending Hymn

We Are Marching in the Light

ELW 866

The musical score is written for a two-part setting in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, then a dotted quarter note B4. The bass line starts with a quarter note G2, followed by a quarter note A2, then a dotted quarter note B2. The lyrics are: *Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -*
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the

The second system continues the melody and bass line. The treble clef melody has a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) followed by a quarter note G4. The bass line has a triplet of eighth notes (G2, A2, B2) followed by a quarter note G2. The lyrics are: *nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',*
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,

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

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-, kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of, the light of God.

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba _____ oo _____
We are march - ing _____ oo _____

Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba,
We are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing, march - ing,

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-, kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of, the light of God.

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

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

Si - ya - ham - ba _____ oo _____
 We are march - ing _____ oo _____

The first system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. It contains a melody with eighth and quarter notes, including some rests. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. The lyrics are written below the staves.

Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba,
 We are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing, march - ing,

The second system of the musical score also consists of two staves. The upper staff continues the melody from the first system, ending with a triplet of eighth notes. The lower staff continues the accompaniment, also ending with a triplet of eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staves.

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

Text: South African traditional; tr. *Freedom Is Coming*, 1984
 Music: SIYAHAMBA, South African traditional; arr. *Freedom Is Coming*
 Tr. and arr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

** 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.

We are saved by grace.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *Blue Monk by Thelonius Monk*

*Chancel flowers are given by Bill & Betty Sperati
in honor of Becky Sperati'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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Participants in Today's Service

Pastor:

The Rev. Susan Loney
pastor@ststeph.org

Music Director:

Claudio Espejo

Assisting Minister/Lector:

Karen Weber

Usher:

John Rodammer

Altar Guild:

Sally Dudderar

Camera:

Ann Iona Warner

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

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