

# St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

## HOLY COMMUNION

Palm Sunday  
April 2, 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

The bookends of Passion Sunday and Easter Sunday are the central story of our Christian faith.

## Gathering

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

### Prelude

### Welcome

### Joys & Concerns

### \*\* Liturgy of the Palms

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Hosanna in the highest!**

Let us pray. Mercifully assist us, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts whereby you have given us life everlasting; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

### **Palm Sunday Gospel**

Matthew 21:1-11 (p. 898)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph and was proclaimed King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along the way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory. And grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Hosanna in the highest!**

### **\*\* Processional Hymn**

*Prepare the Royal Highway*

ELW 264

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. 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 staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The lyrics are: 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near! 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal king! 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king! 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

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

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring,  
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

*Refrain*  
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

**\*\* 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.*

## Liturgy of the Passion

Matthew 26:14-75 (p. 905-907)

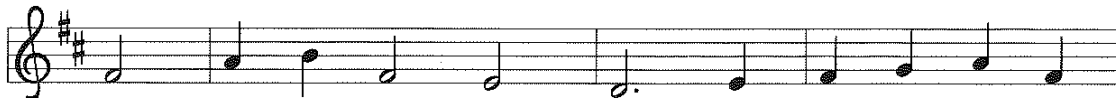
Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

## \*\* Hymn

*My Song is Love Unknown (verses 1-3)*

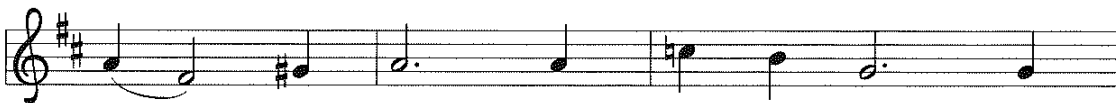
ELW 343



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to  
2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be -  
3 Some - times we strew his way and his sweet prais - es  
4 We cry out, we will have our dear Lord made a -



me, love to the love - less shown that they might  
stow; the world that was his own would not its  
sing; re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas  
way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of



love - ly be. Oh, who am I that  
Sav - ior know. But, oh, my friend, my  
to our king. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is  
life to slay. Yet cheer - ful he to



for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?  
friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend!  
all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.  
suf - f'ring goes that he his foes from thence might free.

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

5 In life no house, no home  
my Lord on earth might have;  
in death no friendly tomb  
but what a stranger gave.  
What may I say? Heav'n was his home  
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

6 Here might I stay and sing—  
no story so divine!  
Never was love, dear King,  
never was grief like thine.  
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend!

## Liturgy of the Passion

Matthew 27:1-66 (p. 907-909)

### \*\* Hymn

*My Song is Love Unknown (verses 4-6)*

ELW 343

*Silence for meditation*

### \*\* Prayers of the People

*Each portion of the prayer ends with:*

Response:	Merciful God,	<b>receive our prayer.</b>
	God, in your mercy,	<b>hear our prayer.</b>

# Meal

## 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.*

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

## \*\* Offering Song

*Take My Life That I May Be*

ELW 685

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The second system also has a vocal line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

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.

5 Take my will and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

## \*\* 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-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.

## \*\* Thanksgiving at the Table

Blessed are you, O God of the universe....Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup, we remember our Lord's passover from death to life 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.**

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

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.**

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**

*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.

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



## 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 packets from the pastor via the central aisle. Once you receive your communion, please use the side aisles to return to your pew. We will all take communion together. Please be sure to discard your cups in the trash bin on your way out of church. Please do not leave used communion cups in the pews or pew racks. If you prefer juice please let the assisting minister know.*

## Communion Hymn

*To You All Hearts Are Open*

ACS 1012



The image shows three staves of musical notation for the hymn "To You All Hearts Are Open". The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, accessible style. The lyrics are: "To you all hearts are o - pen, to you all de - sires known. To you there are no se - crets, al - might - y God; we come to you." The third staff includes a triplet of eighth notes and a "Last time" marking at the end of the phrase.

## 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

\*\* 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

## \*\* Sending Hymn

*Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!*

ELW 346



1 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Hear all the  
2 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly  
3 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! The hosts of  
4 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly



tribes ho - san - na cry; O Sav - ior meek, your road pur -  
pomp ride on to die. O Christ, your tri - umphs now be -  
an - gels in the sky look down with sad and won - d'ring  
pomp ride on to die, bow your meek head to mor - tal



sue, with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strewed.  
gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.  
eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.  
pain, then take, O Christ, your pow'r and reign!

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

*Chancel flowers are given by St. Stephen's to the Glory of God.*

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

*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 Rodammer

**Altar Guild:**

Sally Dudderar

**Camera:**

John Gordon

**Ministers:**

The people of St. Stephen's

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# JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK

**Maundy Thursday, April 6 | 7 PM**

**Good Friday, April 7 | 7 PM**

**Easter Sunday, April 9 | 9:30 AM**

**All are welcome!**



**St. Stephen's Lutheran Church  
1301 N Broom Street | [ststeph.org](http://ststeph.org)**