



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

HOLY COMMUNION

Baptism of Our Lord
January 12, 2025

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

Welcome

Joys & Concerns

**** Thanksgiving for Baptism**

In the name of the Father,
and of the ☩ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
 Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
 At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
 By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
 making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
 and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
 Shower us with your Spirit,
 and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise
 through Jesus Christ our Lord
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
 Amen.

**** Gathering Hymn**

Shall We Gather at the River

ELW 423

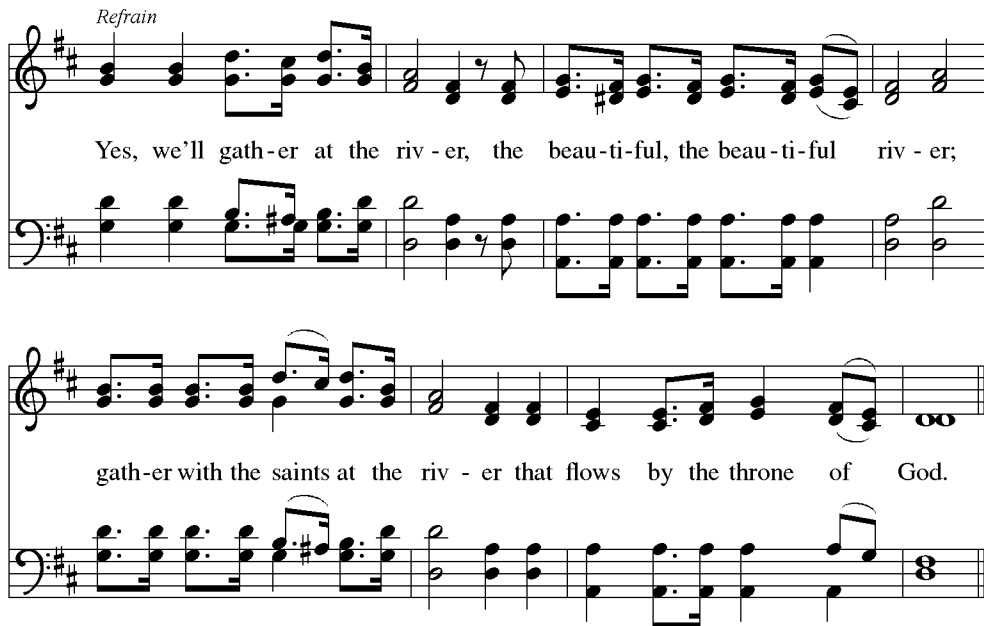
1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

The musical score consists of two systems. Each system has a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a bass clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (D#). The first system contains the first four lines of lyrics, and the second system contains the remaining lyrics. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving lines.

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

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv - er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv - er;

gath-er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.


Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899
 Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

**** 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.

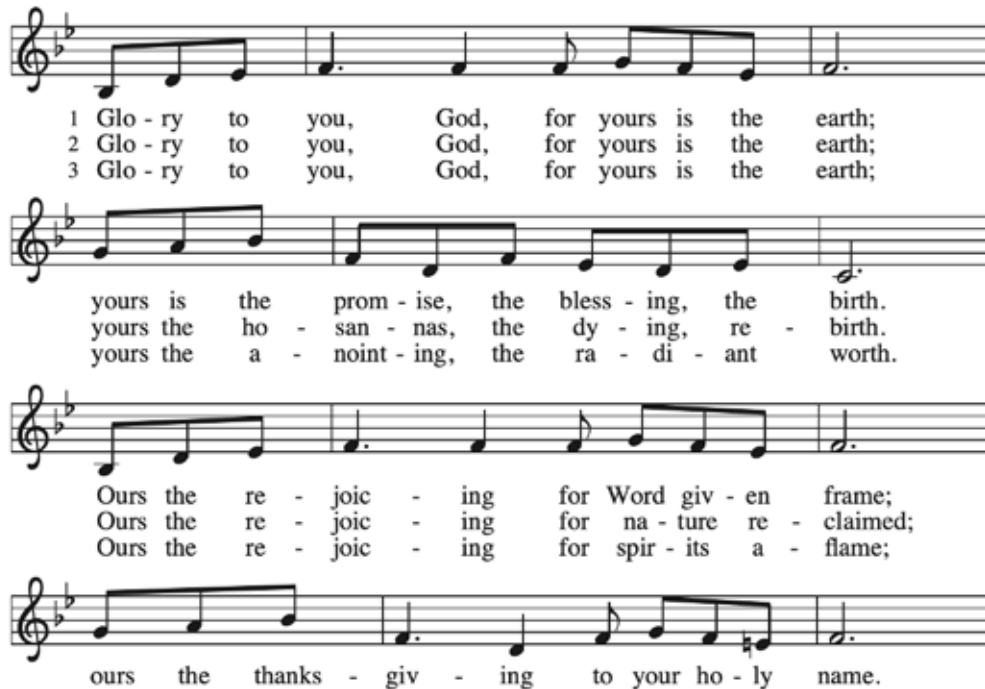
**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

** Kyrie



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.
Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

** Hymn of Praise



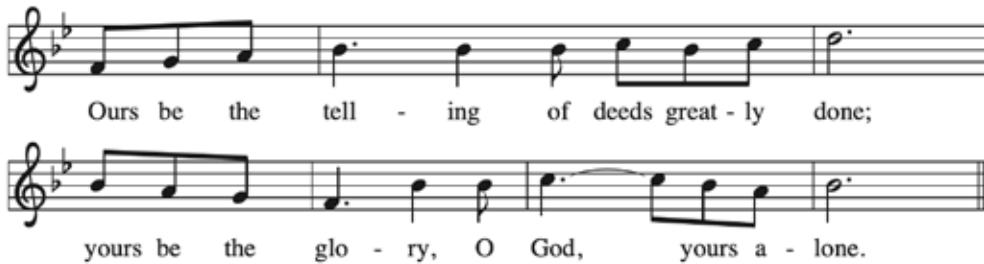
1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

** 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.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

First Reading

Isaiah 43:1-7

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 29

¹Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;
worship the LORD in holy splendor.

³The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over mighty waters.

⁴The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

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

⁶He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

⁷The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁹The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

¹¹May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Second Reading

Acts 8:14-17

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

**** Gospel Acclamation**



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

**** Gospel**

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

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. Susan Loney

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

**** Hymn of the Day**

O Living Breath of God

ELW 407



- 1 O liv-ing Breath of God, wind at the be-gin - ning up-on the wa - ters;
- 2 O liv-ing Breath of God, by whose pow'r the Son came to birth a - mong us;
- 3 O liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing us to life through bap-tis-mal wa - ters;



- O liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing the cre - a - tion to won-drous birth:
- O liv-ing Breath of God, who to the cre - a - tion gives life a - new:
- O liv-ing Breath of God, sigh-ing with cre - a - tion for free-dom's birth:

Refrain



Come now, and fill our spir - its; pour out your gifts a - bun - dant.



O liv-ing Breath of God, Ho-ly Spir-it, breathe in us as we pray.

Text: Osvaldo Catena, 1920-1986; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
Music: VÄRVINDAR FRISKA, Swedish folk tune
Tr. © 1998 Augsburg Fortress

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

**** Offering Song**

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing

ELW 531



1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is
2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; oh, taste the
3 The hun - gry heart he sat - is - fies, of - fers the



read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide,
peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine;
poor his par - a - dise. Now hear all heav'n and earth ap - plaud



and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.
he'll turn your wa - ter in - to wine.
the a - maz - ing good - ness of the Lord.



Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.



Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.



Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.



The feast is read - y to be - gin;

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



Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950
Music: Graham Kendrick
Text and music © 1989 Make Way Music, admin. Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

THE FEAST IS READY
LM and refrain

**** 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**



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

Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**** Thanksgiving at the Table**

O God most mighty,...Do this in remembrance of me.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. **Amen.**

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **Amen.**

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **Amen.**

O God most majestic,... the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior,
 life in you, 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.**

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

Invitation to Communion

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. Come forward, take an empty cup from the table, then kneel or stand along the Communion rail. If you require GF wafers, please tell the minister. Our chalices contain red wine and amber-colored juice. As you return to your seat, place your used cup in the receptacle at the end of the first row of pews. If you wish to receive words of blessing, simply tell the minister.

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

Communion Hymn

Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal

ELW 464



1 Bread of life, our host and meal, Je - sus, feed us.
2 Bread now break and wine now pour, Je - sus, feed us.
3 Grant for - give - ness in the feast— Je - sus, feed us—
4 Thank you for this gift we share. Je - sus, feed us.



Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.
Make us one, our hope re - store; feed us with your love.
for the great - est and the least; feed us with your love.
Save God's chil - dren ev - 'ry - where; feed us with your love.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943; Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: JESUS, FEED US, Ray Makeever; arr. Rusty Edwards

Text and music © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Communion Blessing

** Post Communion Prayer

Together, let us pray.

Nourishing God,

at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.

Strengthen us for service,

and send us out to embody your good news
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.

In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

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

Announcements

Sending

We are sent into the world to serve.

** Blessing

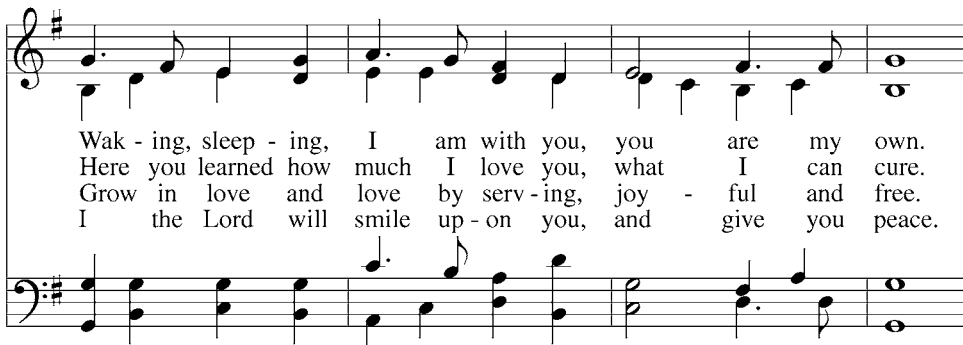
** Sending Hymn

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

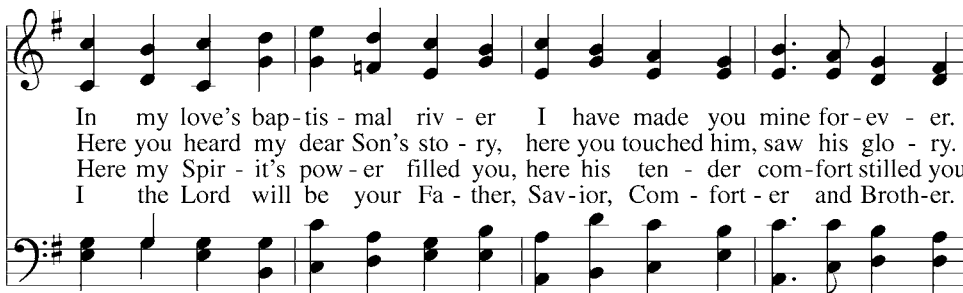
ELW 543



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.
4 "I the Lord will bless and keep you, and give you peace.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.
I the Lord will smile up - on you, and give you peace.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here his ten - der com - fort stilled you.
I the Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er and Broth - er.

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



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.”
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.”
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.”
 Go, my chil - dren, I will keep you, and give you peace.”

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919

Music: AR HYD Y NOS. Welsh: arr. R. Vaughan Williams

Text © 1983 Jaroslav J. Vajda

** Dismissal

Go in peace,
To Love, To Invite, To Serve.
 Live in hope.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

*Flowers are given by Bill & Betty Sperati
 in honor of our grandchildren, Lillith Sperati and Francis Fagnant-Sperati*

** 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:

Ann Dransfield

Altar Guild:

Michele Torchia

Usher:

Michele Torchia

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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