



# St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

## HOLY COMMUNION

Epiphany of Our Lord  
January 7, 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**

**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, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of life,

**you promise good news of great joy for all people,  
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,  
our resources, and our security.**

We nurture conflict and build barriers.  
 We neglect the needs of our neighbors  
 and ignore the groaning of creation.  
 Have mercy on us.  
 Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.  
 Where we are reluctant, give us courage.  
 Where we are cynical, restore our trust.  
 Renew us with your grace  
 and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.  
 Amen.

Hear the good news:  
 We are children of God and heirs of God's promises  
 through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.  
 In ☩ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.  
 Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth  
 shall know the salvation of God.  
 Amen.

## **\*\* Gathering Hymn**

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

ELW 275

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

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

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

## **\*\* 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

Daniel D. Howe

(organ) Ky-ri-e e lei - son. Women Ky-ri- Men Ky-ri-e e lei-son. Ky-ri-e e lei-son. Ky-ri-e e lei-son.

e e lei - son. Chris - te e lei - son. e lei - All e e lei - son.

son. Women Ky-ri-e e lei - son Women Ky-ri- Men Ky-ri-e e lei - son Men Ky-ri-e e lei-son Ky-ri-e e lei-son.

e e lei - son All Ky - ri - e e lei - son.

© 1995 by Howe/Lipson

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

# \*\* Hymn of Praise

Daniel Howe

A - rise and shine for your light has come,

(Women)

(Men)

A - rise and shine for

(All) the glo - ry of the Lord is ri - sen up on you!

FINE

A -

A -

A -

A -

your light has come;

rise your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey; show

rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pri - son doors; pro -

rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born; bind

rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song! Rise

forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to day.

claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor. A -

up the bro - ken heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.

up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

D.C. al Fine

\*\* 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**

Isaiah 60:1-6 (p. 676)

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm**

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

- <sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;
- <sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**
- <sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.
- <sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
- <sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.
- <sup>6</sup>**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**
- <sup>7</sup>In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- <sup>10</sup>**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**
- <sup>11</sup>May all kings bow down before him,  
and all the nations do him service.

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

<sup>12</sup>For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.

<sup>13</sup>He has compassion on the lowly and poor,  
and preserves the lives of the needy.

<sup>14</sup>From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,  
and precious is their blood in his sight.

## Second Reading

Galatians 5:13-23 1(p. 1062-1063)

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

## \*\* Gospel Acclamation

1  
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,  
4  
ia. My word will ne - ver come back to me emp - ty,  
7  
but will ac - com - plish my will says the Lord - and the word be - came  
10  
flesh and dwelt a - mong us. Al - le - lu - ia,  
13  
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

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

**\*\* Gospel**

Matthew 2:1-12 (p. 877-878)

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.  
The Gospel of the Lord.

Glory to you O Lord.  
Praise to you O Christ.

**\*\* Gospel Acclamation**

*Please see gospel acclamation on page 7.*

**Sermon**

The Rev. Susan Loney

**\*\* Hymn of the Day**

*O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright (verses 1, 3, 4)*

ELW 308



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with  
2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -  
3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there  
4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us,



God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!  
in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!  
falls from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.  
when not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



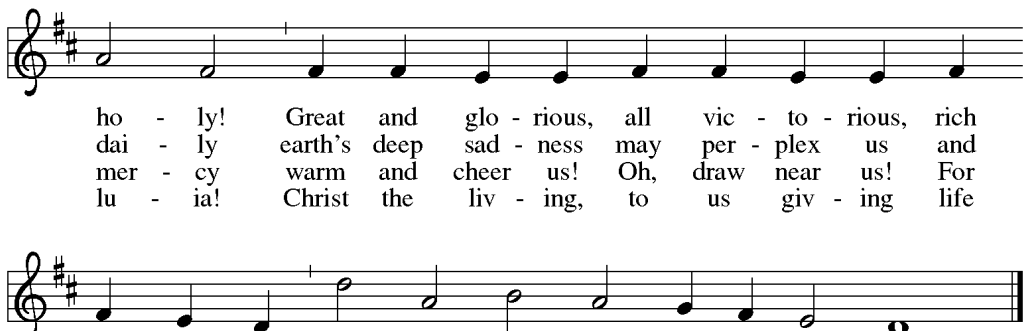
Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,  
In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es  
Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with  
Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him here



you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,  
of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though  
heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your  
and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion. Al - le -

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





ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich  
dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and  
mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For  
lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life

in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!  
dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.  
you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.  
for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## **\*\* Statement of Faith**

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 –  
that Christ breaks down the dividing walls between us  
and makes us one.

## **\*\* 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 to Walk as a Child of the Light*

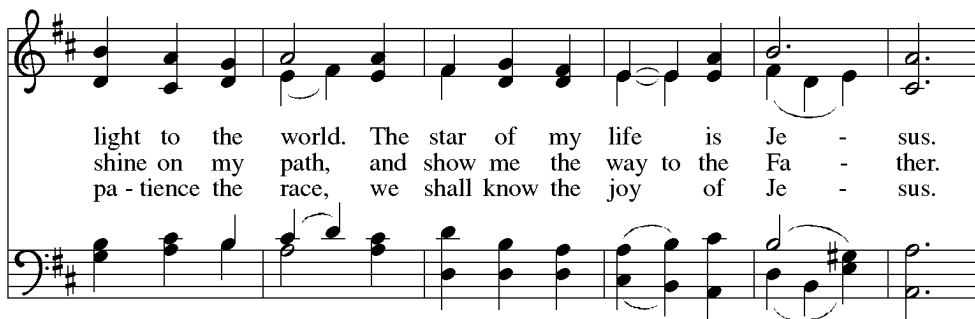
ELW 815

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness,  
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano/Alto and Bass/Tenor) in the key of D major (two sharps). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are arranged in three lines, with the first line corresponding to the first staff and the second line to the second staff. The lyrics are: 1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to; 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to; 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to. The second system of the score continues the melody with the lyrics: fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give; look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness,; be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with.

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

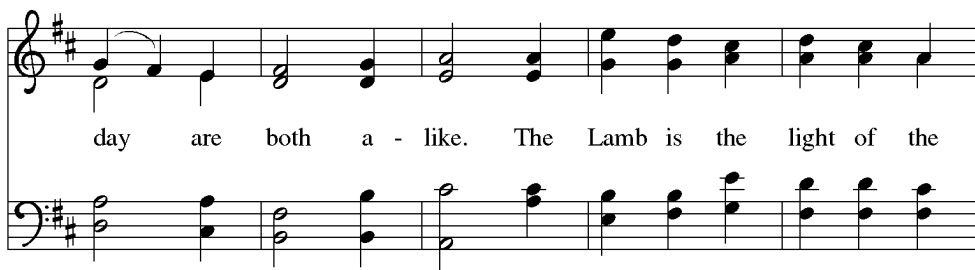


light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

*Refrain*



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934  
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson  
Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

**\*\* 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

Daniel D. Howe

1  
Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly,

3  
Lord God of pow - er and might,

5  
Heav - en and earth are full of your

7  
glo - ry, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - a in the

9  
high - est. Blest is the one who

11  
comes in the name of the Lord! Ho - san - na, Ho -

13  
san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na!

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

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

Holy, just, and merciful God....We proclaim this truth: Death is part of life.

**Christ has died.**

But death will not have the last word.

**Christ has risen!**

And suffering will end.

**Christ will come again...**

...and again and again, every time suffering is alleviated,  
comfort is given, food is offered, hope is restored.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this body gathered here  
and on our union with each other and with these gifts of bread and cup.  
May we become your body for the sake of a world  
where justice rolls down like an ever-flowing stream.

All praise to God, **Creator of Love!**

All praise to Jesus, **Love Incarnate!**

All praise to Spirit, **Love In Action!**

**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

Howe/Lipson

*Women* Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

*Men* Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world.

*Women* Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

*Men* Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world.

*All* world. Have mer - cy on us, Have mer - cy on us.

Have mer - cy on us. *Women* Lamb of

*Men* Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world.

God, you take a - way the sin of the world. *Women* Lamb of

*Men* Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world.

*All* God, you take a - way the sin of the world. Grant us peace. A - men.

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

## 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.*

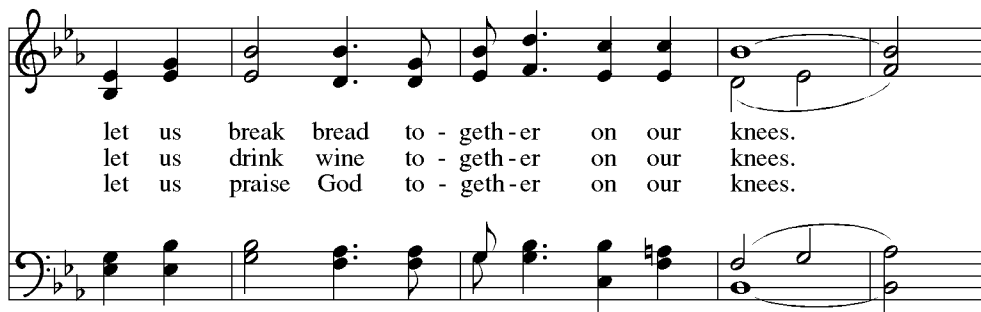
## Communion Hymn

*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.**

A musical score for a two-part setting of the Communion Blessing. The score is written on two staves, a treble staff (top) and a bass staff (bottom), both in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence. The lyrics are placed below the notes on the treble staff.

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

## Communion Blessing



# Sending

*We are sent into the world to serve.*

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Together, let us pray.

God our redeemer,  
you have fed us at this table  
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.

As you have gathered us in joy,  
send us forth as messengers of your peace.

Make us shine with the good news of your glory,  
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

## **Announcements**

## **\*\* Blessing**

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

**\*\* Sending Hymn**  
*Shine, Jesus, Shine*

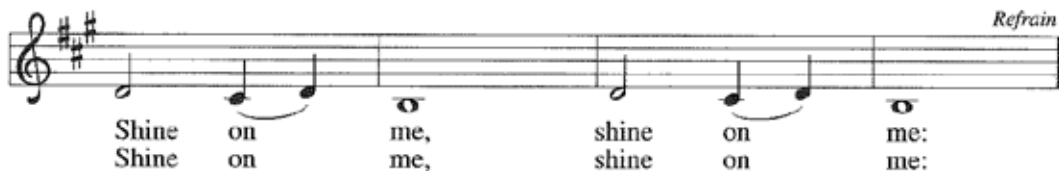
ELW 671

*Refrain*



Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;  
blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;  
send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!  
1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the  
2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -  
dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,  
play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,  
set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.

**\*\* 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 © 1987 Make Way Music, admin. Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE  
99 10 10 33 and refrain

## **\*\* Dismissal**

Go in peace. Your light has come.

Thanks be to God.

## **Postlude**

*The chancel flowers are given by Bill & Betty Sperati  
in honor of Josh 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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Our Communion Prayers were adapted from the liturgy provided by Reconciling Works for Reconciling in Christ Sunday 2024. The full RIC 2024 liturgy draws from several sources, including Dr. Marcia McFee's Roll Down Justice from the Worship Design Studio. The worship outline was created by David Horton, Word and Service Intern for ReconcilingWorks and edited by Deacon Liz Colver and Rev. Heather Thonvold. Used by permission.

**\*\* 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:**

Bob Linderman

**Usher:**

John Rodammer

**Altar Guild:**

Carol Landry

**Camera:**

Jared O'Brien

**Ministers:**

The people of St. Stephen's

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