



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

HOLY COMMUNION

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 4, 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.

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

** Gathering Hymn

Creating God Your Fingers Trace

ELW 684



- 1 Cre - at - ing God, your fin - gers trace the bold de -
- 2 Sus - tain - ing God, your hands up - hold earth's mys - t'ries
- 3 Re - deem - ing God, your arms em - brace all now de -
- 4 In - dwell - ing God, your gos - pel claims one fam - 'ly



signs of far - thest space; let sun and moon and stars and
known or yet un - told; let wa - ter's frag - ile blend with
spised for creed or race; let peace, de - scend - ing like a
with a bil - lion names; let ev - 'ry life be touched by



light and what lies hid - den praise your might.
air, en - a - bling life, pro - claim your care.
dove, make known on earth your heal - ing love.
grace un - til we praise you face to face.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934

Music: PROSPECT, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Text © 1979 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

** 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) High voices Ky-ri-e e lei - son. *Women* Ky-ri-
Low voices Low voices
Ky - ri - e e lei - son. Ky - ri - e e lei - son.

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

son. High voices Ky - ri - e e lei - son High Ky - ri-
Low voices Low voices
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,
High voices Low voices

A - rise and shine for

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

To the beginning

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 40:21-31 (p. 654-655)

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

¹Praise the LORD!

How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

²**The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.**

³He heals the brokenhearted,
and binds up their wounds.

⁴**He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.**

⁵Great is our LORD, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.

⁶**The LORD lifts up the downtrodden;
he casts the wicked to the ground.**

⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre.

⁸**He covers the heavens with clouds,
prepares rain for the earth,
makes grass grow on the hills.**

⁹He gives to the animals their food,
and to the young ravens when they cry.

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

¹⁰His delight is not in the strength of the horse,
nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;

¹¹but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

²⁰Praise the LORD!

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 9:16-23 (p. 1044)

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

** Gospel Acclamation

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

© 1995 by Howel/Lipson

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

**** Gospel**

Mark 1:29-39 (p. 911)

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.
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**

Precious Lord Take My Hand

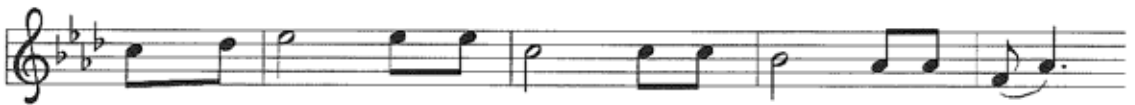
ELW 773



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2 When my way grows . . drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws . . near,



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
when my life is . . . al - most . . gone,
and the day is . . . past and . . . gone,



Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.



Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993
Music: George N. Allen, 1812-1877, adapt. Thomas A. Dorsey
Text and music © 1938, 1966 Unichappell Music Inc., admin. Hal Leonard Corp.

PRECIOUS LORD
irregular

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

Installation of Leaders in the Congregation

Serving on Council

Karleen Strayer, President
John Rodammer, Vice President
Claire Morse, Secretary
Ann Warner, Treasurer
Michael Lehm, Financial Secretary
Rick Feltman
Michele Torchia
Ann Dransfield
Karen Weber
Gary Gooden

Serving on the Nominating Committee

Bob Linderman
Sally Dudderar
Betty Sperati
Claire Morse

Endowment Fund Trustees

John Rodammer
Michael Farthing
Ken Nicholson

**** Prayers of the People**

Each portion of the prayer ends with:

Response: God of grace, receive our prayer.

**** 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

** 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 - na 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!

© 1995 by Howe/Lipson

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

**** Thanksgiving at the Table**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord....be all honor and glory, 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

Howe/Lipson

High voices Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

Low voices Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world.

High voices Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

Low voices Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world.

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

High voices Lamb of

Low voices Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world.

High voices Lamb of

Low voices Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world.

All Grant us peace. A - men.

© 1995 by Howe/Lipson

** 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.

The image shows a musical score for a communion blessing. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me." The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm.

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.

Giver of every gift,
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.
Raise us to life by your power
for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever.
Amen.

Announcements

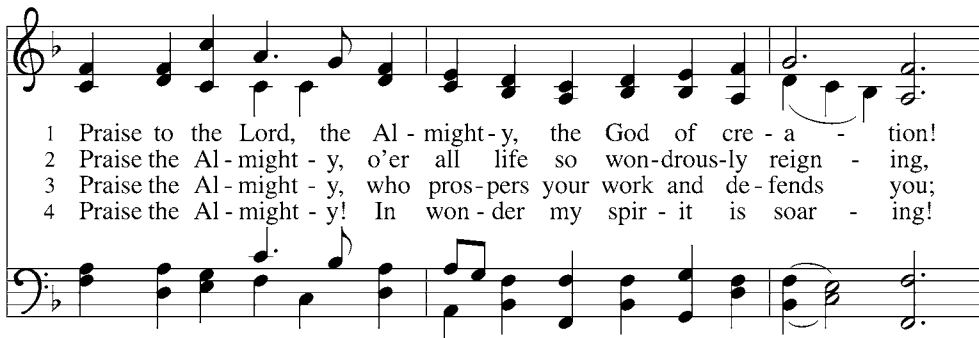
**** Blessing**

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

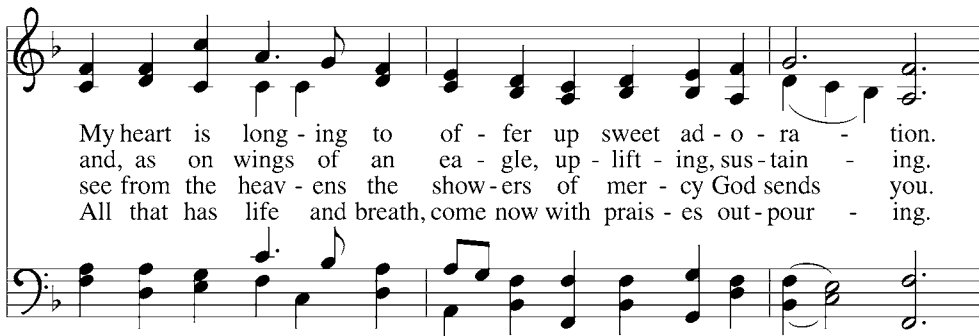
** Sending Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

ELW 858



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the God of cre - a - tion!
2 Praise the Al - might - y, o'er all life so won - drous - ly reign - ing,
3 Praise the Al - might - y, who pros - pers your work and de - fends you;
4 Praise the Al - might - y! In won - der my spir - it is soar - ing!



My heart is long - ing to of - fer up sweet ad - o - ra - tion.
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
see from the heav - ens the show - ers of mer - cy God sends you.
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es out - pour - ing.



Mel - o - dy make; dul - ci - mer, harp, now a - wake.
Have you not seen? All that is need - ful has been
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do;
Let the a - men sound from God's peo - ple a - gain,

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

Sound forth your praise, ev - 'ry na - tion.
 sent by God's gra - cious or - dain - ing.
 in - fi - nite Love here be - friends you.
 glad - ly for - ev - er a - dor - ing.

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1690; tr. composite
 Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Erneuertem Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665
 Text © 2000 Augsburg Fortress

**** Dismissal**

Go in peace,
To Love, To Invite, To Serve.
 Great are the works of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

The chancel flowers are given by Gary & Sue Gooden in memory of Woody.

*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.*

Worship elements taken from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS004228.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. 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:

Michael Farthing

Usher:

John Gordon

Altar Guild:

Carol Landry

Camera:

Kevin Loney
Michael Lehm

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
1301 N Broom St. Wilmington, DE 19806 302-652-7623
www.ststeph.org office@ststeph.org