



# St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

## HOLY COMMUNION

Third Sunday after Epiphany  
January 21, 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.

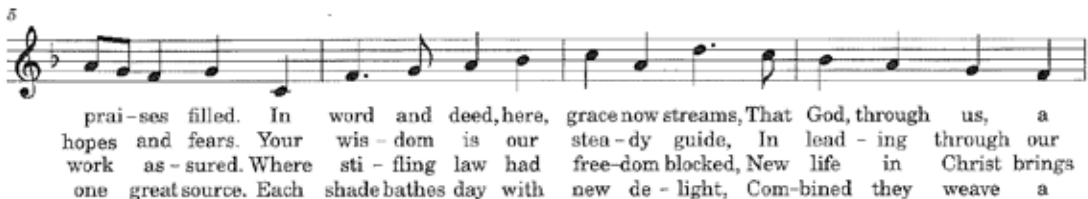
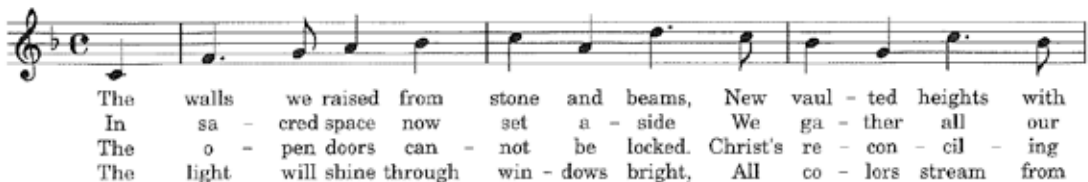
Hear the good news:  
 We are children of God and heirs of God's promises  
 through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.  
 In ☩ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.  
 Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth  
 shall know the salvation of God.  
 Amen.

## \*\* Gathering Hymn

*The Walls We Raised*

Text: Fred Fritschel

Music: James Fritschel



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

9



peo-ple may build. O - ther walls must fail, Of class and race. For  
 chal-leng-ing years. Strife of class must cease. Both rich and poor Have  
 com-mon ac-cord En - ter gates now wide, Both straight and gay. Through  
 u - ni - tive force. Voi - ces all can sing, From young to old, Let

14



Refrain:

Christ cre - ates new peace for all Where trust and en - mi - ty re - place. He is our  
 goals to reach of trust and peace. Which Christ has shown whom we a - dore.  
 Christ who sits on God's right side, We fol - low as he leads the way.  
 weak and strong their ta - lents bring. For with one force good news is told.

19



peace, whose work for us is done. He is our peace, in whom we all are one.

## **\*\* 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-e e lei-son. Men Ky-ri-e e lei-son.

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

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

Jonah 3:1-5, 10 (p. 845)

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm**

Psalm 62:5-12

<sup>5</sup>For God alone I wait in silence;  
truly, my hope is in God.

<sup>6</sup>**God alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.**

<sup>7</sup>In God is my deliverance and my honor;  
God is my strong rock and my refuge.

<sup>8</sup>**Put your trust in God always, O people,  
pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.**

<sup>9</sup>Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted.  
Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

<sup>10</sup>**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;  
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

<sup>11</sup>God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,  
that power belongs to God.

<sup>12</sup>**Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord,  
for you repay all according to their deeds.**

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

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 7:29-31(p. 1042)

Word of God. Word of Life.  
Thanks be to God.

## \*\* Gospel Acclamation

1  
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu -

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.

© 1995 by Howe/Lipson

## \*\* Gospel

Mark 1:14-20 (p. 910)

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 above.*

## Sermon

The Rev. Carla Christopher

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

# \*\* Hymn of the Day

Christ, Be Our Light

ELW 715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



*Refrain*  
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

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



## **\*\* 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:            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

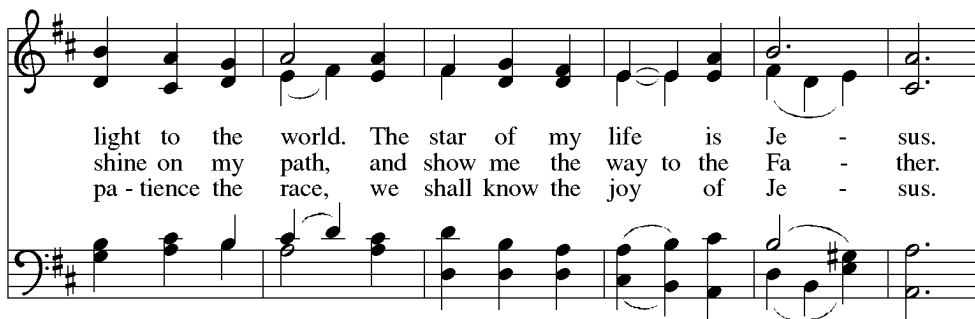
*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

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.

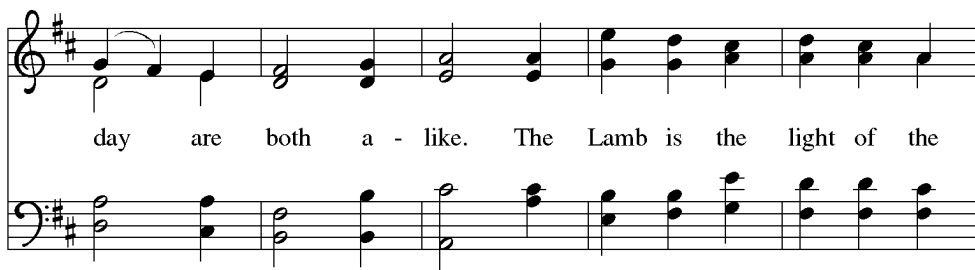


light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

*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 - 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

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

**5** *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

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

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

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

**17** 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.

**21** God, you take a - way the sin of the world. *All* 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.

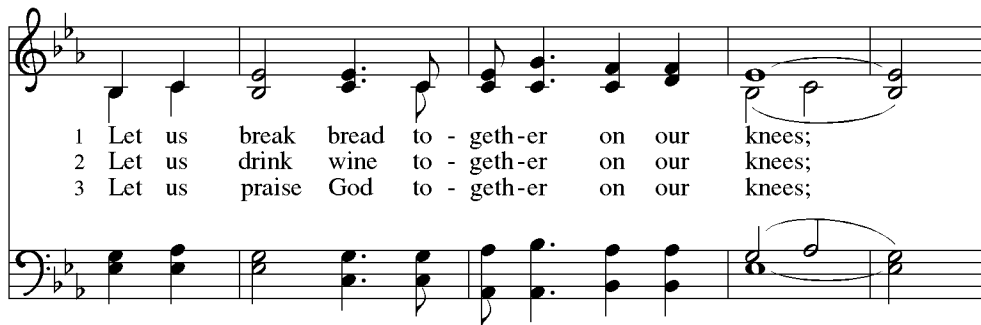
## Communion

*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.*

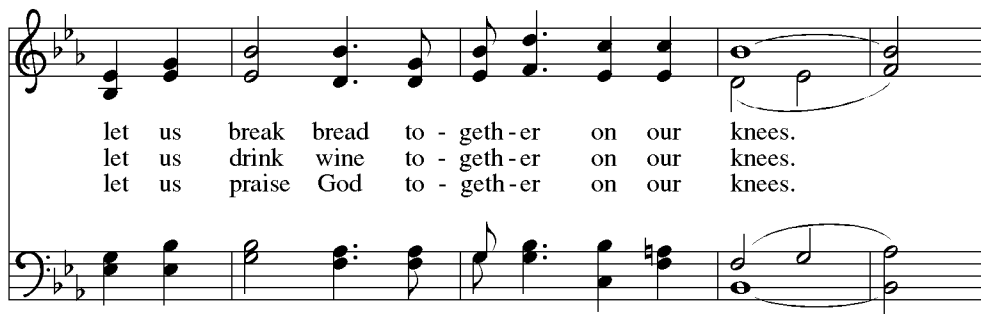
## Communion Hymn

*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 two voices, Treble and Bass, in 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 double bar line at the end of the phrase.

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

*Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

ELW 547



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,  
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.  
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed  
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.  
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls  
With your feast you feed us, with your light now

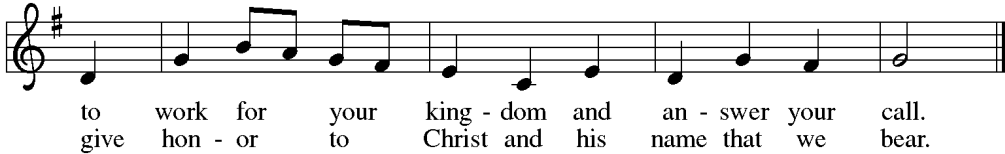


reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.  
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us  
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing

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



Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.  
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune  
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## **\*\* Dismissal**

Go in peace,  
**To Love, To Invite, To Serve.**  
The kingdom of God has come near.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

*The chancel flowers are given by Yvonne Lefm in honor of  
Cyndi, Yvette, Michael and Eric's birthdays on January 19th, 20th, 21st*

*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

### **Guest Preacher:**

The Rev. Carla Christopher

### **Music Director:**

Claudio Espejo

### **Assisting Minister/Lector:**

John Gordon

### **Usher:**

John Rodammer

### **Altar Guild:**

Sally Dudderar

### **Camera:**

Michael Lehm

### **Ministers:**

The people of St. Stephen's

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