

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church HOLY COMMUNION

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany February 5, 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 of the Day

The Word of God calls us to live righteously and be what we are in Christ: the salt of the earth.

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome

Joys & Concerns

** Confession & 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, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal,

we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves.

We have not practiced your righteousness.

Our hearts have turned away from you.

For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us,

that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Thus says our God....We are forgiven in the name of ₱ Christ our Savior.

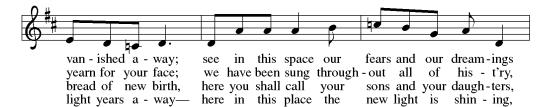
Amen.

** Gathering Hymn

Gather Us In ELW 532

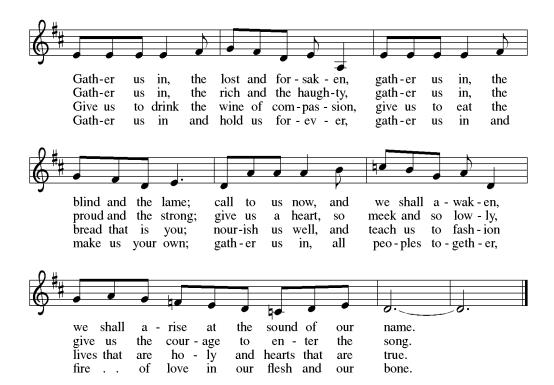


- 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa ter, here we will take the
- 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin ing, not in some heav en,





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



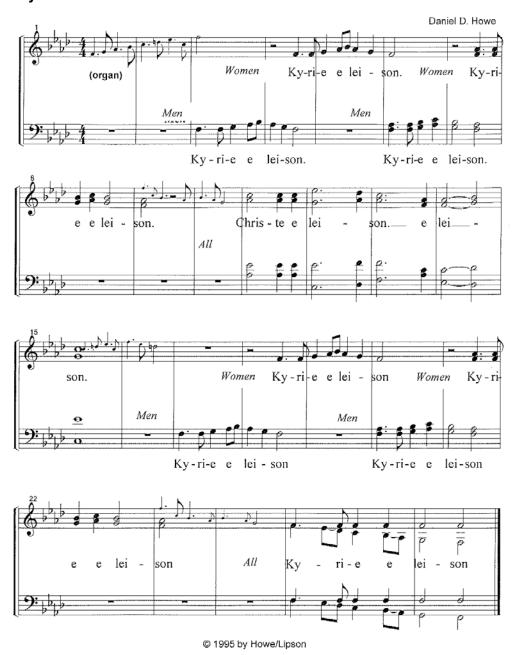
** Greeting

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



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

** Hymn of Praise



^{**} 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 58:1-9a [9b-12] (p. 674-675)

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm Psalm 112:1-9 [10]

¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD and have great delight in God's commandments!

- ²Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.
- ³Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.
- ⁴Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.
- ⁵It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.
- ⁶For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.
- ⁷They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
- ⁸Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.
- ⁹They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

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

[10The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;

the desires of the wicked will perish.]

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-12[13-16] (p. 1039)

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

** Gospel Acclamation



** Gospel

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

** Gospel Acclamation

Please see above.

Sermon

Matthew 5:13-20 (p. 880)

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

The Rev. Mark Walters

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

Christ, Be Our Light



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

** Apostles' Creed

Let us love one another, that with one mind we may confess the Holy Trinity, one in essence and undivided.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Installation of Council Members, Members of the Endowment Board of Trustees, Nominating Committee Members

The following people...mutual understanding in this this congregation. On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Will you accept and faithfully carry-out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

The assembly stands. Those being installed face the assembly.

People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Those being installed face the presiding minister, who addresses them.

I now declare you installed as Council Members, Members of the Endowment Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee of this congregation. Almighty Godbless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ. **Amen.**

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

** Prayers of the People

Each portion of the prayer ends with:

Response: Merciful God.

God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer. hear our prayer.

Meal

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

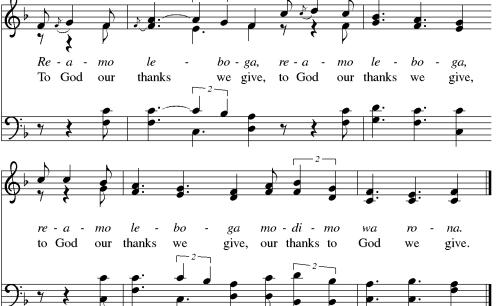
Offering

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 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.

** Offering Song

To God Our Thanks We Give

ELW 682

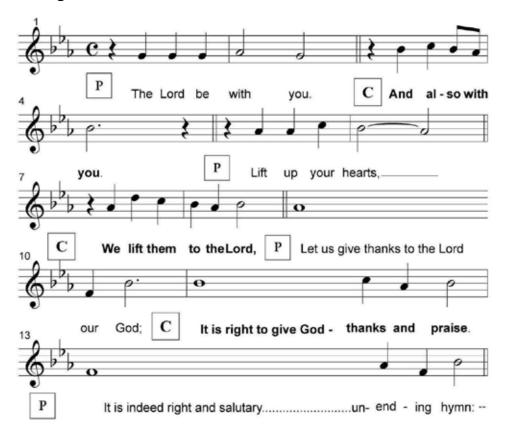


^{**} Please stand as you are able. Items in **bold** are to be spoken by the assembly.

** Offering Prayer

Assisting Minister leads the offering prayer and the assembly responds: Amen.

** Dialogue and Preface



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

** Holy, Holy, Holy



** Thanksgiving at the Table: Time after Epiphany

Blessed are you, O Holy God: you are the Life and Light of allboth now and forever.

Amen.

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

** Lord's Prayer

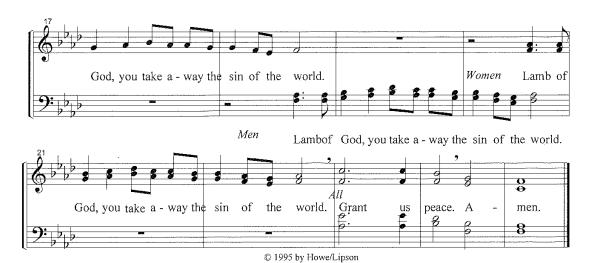
As we pray the Lord's Prayer together, we invite you to choose which version and language in which to pray. Several versions are printed on the laminated card for you.

Invitation to Communion

Lamb of God



^{**} 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 from the pastor via the center aisle. Once you receive your communion, please use the side aisles to return to your pew. Please be sure to discard your cups in the trash bin on your way out of the 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

How Beautiful on the Mountains



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



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

Communion Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

Together, let us pray.

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you.

Amen.

Announcements

Sending

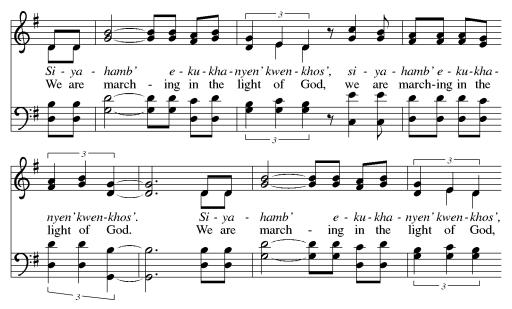
We are sent into the world to serve.

** Blessing

** Sending Hymn

We Are Marching in the Light

ELW 866



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** Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Chancel flowers are given by Gary & Sue Gooden in honor of Boy and Girl Scouts

^{**} 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:

Karen Weber

Usher:

John Gordon

Altar Guild:

Karleen Strayer

Camera:

Mike Lehm

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

Pastor F. Mark Walters (lvtheos@gmail.com 410-739-5365)

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

CONCERTS AT ST. STEPHEN'S



An Organ Recital

Featuring American Hymns and Spirituals

Christopher Gage Sunday, February 19|4 pm

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church 1301 N Broom St | Wilmington DE 19806 ststeph.org | 302-652-7623

Free to the community Donations appreciated