



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

HOLY COMMUNION

Presentation of Our Lord
February 2, 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: *Etude in e minor*

Chopin

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,
our creator,
our protector,
our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
 you speak blessing and compassion into the world.
 Forgive us for the ways we act
 with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.
 We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
 we resist your call to oppose injustice;
 we give in to scarcity and fear;
 we assume the worst about one another.
 Cleanse us from our faults
 and release us from their grasp.
 Show us your lovingkindness.
 Restore our hearts and repair your world,
 that we may live in Christ's ways.
 Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:
 "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
 I have called you by name. You are mine."
 In ☩ Christ, you are forgiven.
 In the Spirit, you are made free.
 Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
 live anew as beloved children of God.
 Amen.

**** Gathering Hymn**

We Are Marching in the Light

ELW 866

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
 We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the

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

nyen'kwen-khos'. *Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen'kwen-khos'.*
 light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march-ing in the light of God.

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-, kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of, the light of God.

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba _____ *oo* _____
 We are march - ing _____ *oo* _____

Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba,
 We are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing, march - ing,

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

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - , kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of, the light of God.

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba _____ oo _____
We are march - ing _____ oo _____

Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba,
We are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing, march - ing,

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Text: South African traditional; tr. *Freedom Is Coming*, 1984
Music: SIYAHAMBA, South African traditional; arr. *Freedom Is Coming*
Tr. and arr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

** 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.

** Kyrie

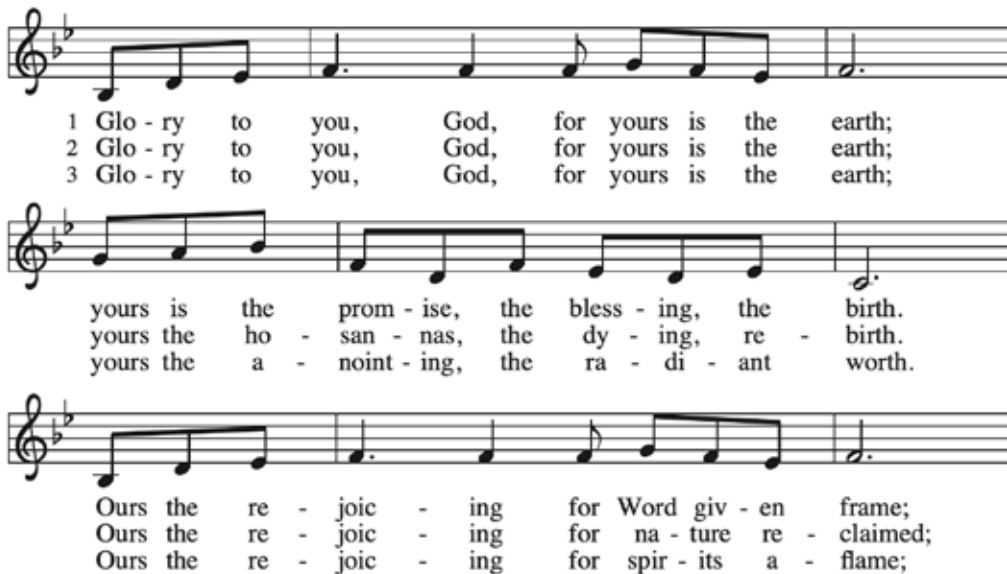


Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

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

** Hymn of Praise

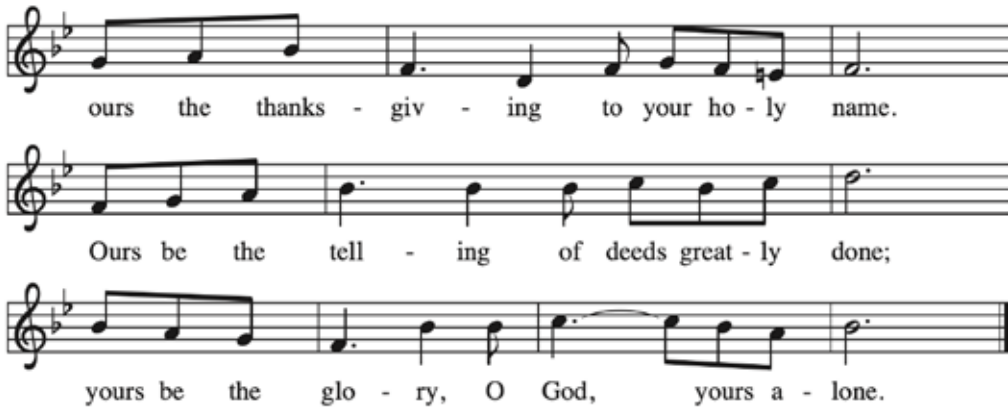


1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

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;

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



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.
Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;
yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

**** Prayer of the Day**

Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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

Word

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 84

¹How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts!

²**My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

³Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.

⁴**Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.**

⁵Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

⁶**As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.**

⁷They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

⁸**O Lord GOD of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob!**

⁹Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed.

¹⁰**For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.**

**I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents
of wickedness.**

¹¹For the Lord GOD is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor.
No good thing does the LORD withhold
from those who walk uprightly.

¹²**O LORD of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.**

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

**** Gospel Acclamation**



**** Gospel**

Luke 2:22-40

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.
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. Susan Loney

**** Hymn of the Day**

O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

ELW 313

1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,
2 Then grant that I may fol - low your gleam, O glo - rious Light,

for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:
till earth - ly shad - ows scat - ter, and faith is changed to sight;

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

a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,
till rap - tured saints shall gath - er up - on that shin - ing shore,

the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
where Christ, the bless - ed day - star, shall light them ev - er - more.

Text: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886–1981, alt.
 Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune; arr. hymnal version
 Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Installation of Council Members and Officers

** 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 what God has given us: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. A financial gift to St Stephen's supports the work of the congregation in our community.

** Offering Song

Welcome Table

ACS 969

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system contains three verses of lyrics. The second system contains three verses of lyrics. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the melody.

1 I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel-come ta - ble,
2 I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey,
3 I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er,

I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel-come ta - ble, some of these days.
I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon-ey, some of these days.
I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er, some of these days.

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

I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel-come ta - ble,
 I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey,
 I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er,

I'm goin' - a eat at the wel-come ta - ble, some of these days.
 I'm goin' - a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey, some of these days.
 I'm goin' - a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er, some of these days.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: WELCOME TABLE, African American spiritual; arr. Mark Hayes, b. 1953
 Arr. © 2003 Augsburg Fortress

**** Offering Prayer**

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
 and your abundance to the depths of the seas.
 Bless what we offer to your service:
 our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.
 Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,
 now and always.
Amen.

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

** Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

** Preface

** Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



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.

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

** Thanksgiving at the Table

** 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

Lamb of God



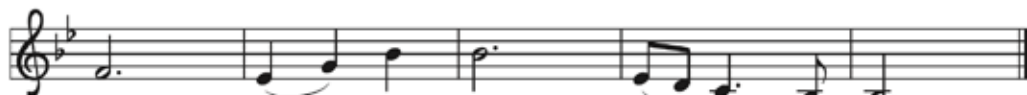
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



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.

** 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. 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.

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.

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

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

The musical score consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

The musical score continues with two staves, treble and bass clef, in the same key signature. The melody and bass line are shown, with lyrics written below the treble staff.

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

**** 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.

Announcements

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

Sending

We are sent into the world to serve.

** Blessing

The Spirit of the triune God
✚ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love.
Amen.

** Sending Hymn

Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing

ELW 545

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,

let us each, your love pos - sess - ing, tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace.
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.

The musical score consists of two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, while the bass staff provides harmonic support with chords and bass lines.

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

Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
 Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
 May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.
 Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

**** Dismissal**

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

Postlude: *Sonata in d minor*

D. Scarlatti

*Flowers are given by Michele Torchia & Rick Feltman
 in honor of our daughter Rachel Feltman's birthday*

** 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:

Michele Torchia

Altar Guild:

Carol Landry

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

