

# St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

## HOLY COMMUNION

Palm Sunday  
March 24, 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

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

*The assembly gathers outside the usual worship space, so that all may enter in procession. Palm branches are distributed before the service begins.*

### **Acclamation**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

### **\*\* Processional Gospel**

Mark 11:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.  
Glory to you O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you O Christ.

### **\*\* Blessing of Palms**

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

## Procession

Let us go forth in peace,  
in the name of Christ. Amen.

## \*\* Processional Hymn

*Prepare the Royal Highway*

ELW 264

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

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

*Refrain*

Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

The image shows a musical score for a refrain. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The music is a simple, folk-like tune with a steady rhythm.

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**\*\* 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.

**\*\* 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.*

## \*\* Gospel Acclamation

*Sing My Tongue (verse 1)*

ELW 356



1 Sing, my tongue, the glo - rious bat - tle; tell the tri - umph  
2 God in mer - cy saw us fall - en, sunk in shame and  
3 Tell how, when at length the full - ness of the ap - point - ed  
4 Thir - ty years a - mong us dwell - ing, Je - sus went from  
5 Bend your boughs, O tree of glo - ry, your re - lax - ing



far and wide; tell a - loud the won - drous sto - ry  
mis - er - y, felled to death in E - den's gar - den,  
time was come, Christ, the Word, was born of wom - an,  
Naz - a - reth, des - tined, ded - i - cat - ed, will - ing,  
sin - ews bend; for a while the an - cient rig - or



of the cross, the Cru - ci - fied; tell how Christ, the  
where in pride we claimed the tree; then an - oth - er  
left for us the heav'n - ly home, blazed the path of  
did his work, and met his death; like a lamb he  
that your birth be - stowed, sus - pend; and the Lord of



world's re - deem - er, van - quished death the day he died.  
tree was cho - sen, which the world from death would free.  
true o - be - dience, shone as light a - midst the gloom.  
hum - bly yield - ed on the cross his dy - ing breath.  
heav'n - ly beau - ty gent - ly on your arms ex - tend.

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

6 Faithful cross, true sign of triumph,  
be for all the noblest tree;  
none in foliage, none in blossom,  
none in fruit your equal be;  
symbol of the world's redemption,  
for your burden makes us free.

7 Unto God be praise and glory;  
to the Father and the Son,  
to the eternal Spirit honor  
now and evermore be done;  
praise and glory in the highest,  
while the timeless ages run.

Text: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, 530–609; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
Music: FORTUNATUS NEW, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929  
Music © 1967 Concordia Publishing House.

## **\*\* Gospel**

Mark 14:1-15:47

A Dramatic Reading of the Passion, according to Mark

Narrator: Ann Warner and Ann Dransfield  
Jesus: The Rev. Susan Loney  
Peter: Rick Feltman  
Judas: Sally Dudderar  
High Priest: Michele Torchia  
Servant Girl: Rowan Deeney  
Pilate: Carol Landry  
Bystander: Michele Torchia  
Centurion: Rick Feltman

## **\*\* Gospel Acclamation**

*Sing My Tongue (verse 7)*

## **Reflection**

The Rev. Susan Loney

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

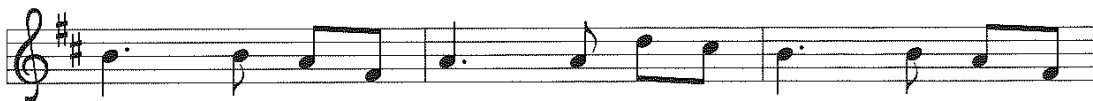
\*\* Hymn of the Day

Lamb of God

ELW 336



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have  
2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and  
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y  
scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a  
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God.  
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God. O Lamb of  
rod and to be called a lamb of God.



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me



in your pre-cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Text: Twila Paris, b. 1958

Music: Twila Paris

Text and music © 1985 Straightway Music/Mountain Spring Music

YOUR ONLY SON

LMD

\*\* 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:           Hear us, O God  
                          God, in your mercy,

**Your mercy is great.  
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 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.*

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

**\*\* Offering Song**

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

ELW 325

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with  
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me: I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with  
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me: all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
when my head is bowed in sor - row,

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



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. walk with me.  
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version  
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

**\*\* 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**

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

## \*\* Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## \*\* Thanksgiving at the Table

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God....For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, ...To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**Amen.**

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

## \*\* 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

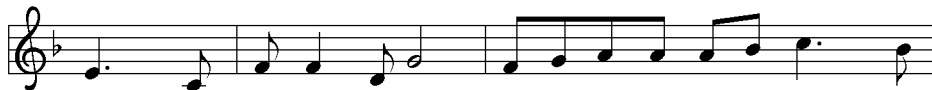
### Lamb of God



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.

\*\* 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

*One Bread, One Body*

ELW 496

*Refrain*



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bles-sing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.

1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,  
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,  
3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,



*Refrain*

wom - an or man, no more.  
one in the Lord of all.  
gath - ered to one for all.

Text: John Foley, sj, b. 1939

Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, sj

Text and music © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

## Communion Blessing

# Sending

*We are sent into the world to serve.*

## Post Communion Prayer

Together, let us pray.

Generous God,  
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.  
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,  
now make us one loaf to feed the world;  
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.  
Amen.

## Announcements

### \*\* **Blessing**

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

\*\* Sending Hymn

*Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!*

ELW 346



1 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Hear all the  
2 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly  
3 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! The hosts of  
4 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly



tribes ho - san - na cry; O Sav - ior meek, your road pur -  
pomp ride on to die. O Christ, your tri - umphs now be -  
an - gels in the sky look down with sad and won - d'ring  
pomp ride on to die, bow your meek head to mor - tal



sue, with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strewed.  
gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.  
eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.  
pain, then take, O Christ, your pow'r and reign!

Text: Henry H. Milman, 1791–1868, alt.  
Music: THE KING'S MAJESTY, Graham George, 1912–1993  
Music © 1941 by The H.W. Gray Co. Inc. Copyright renewed. All rights reserved.

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

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace,

**To Love, To Invite, To Serve.**

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** *Bach Chorale*

*Chancel flowers are given by Chuck & Carol Landry in honor of Cheryl's birthday*

*Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.*

*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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**\*\* 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:**

Ann Iona Warner

**Spirit Pole:**

Morna Deeney

**Usher:**

John Rodammer

**Altar Guild:**

Sally Dudderar

**Camera:**

Jared O'Brien

**Ministers:**

The people of St. Stephen's

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