



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

HOLY COMMUNION

Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 26, 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 A-flat Major* by Claudio Espejo

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**

Making Their Way

ACS 979



1 Mak-ing their way down through the a-ges, sin-ners and saints have
2 Mak-ing their way all the world o-ver, Chris-tians as-sem-ble
3 Mak-ing our way sea-son by sea-son, pil-grims, we jour-ney

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

heard God's call: wealth - y and poor, pow - er - ful, low - ly,
 on this day, hear - ing the Word, shar - ing the Ban - quet,
 till life's end, trav - el - ing light, shar - ing the rich - es,

Je - sus' dis - ci - ples, one and all. Gath - ered for wor - ship, of - fer - ing thanks,
 learn - ing to walk in Je - sus' way. Mem - bers of Christ, u - nit - ed in love,
 car - ing for strang - er as for friend, till in the joy of long - ing ful - filled,

the great - est with the least have come to share this feast.
 they seek our God to know, and so to - geth - er grow.
 to - geth - er we will come to our e - ter - nal home.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: KOMT NU MET ZANG, A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclank*, 1626; arr. Adrian Engels, 1906–2003

Text © 2011 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

Arr. © 1967 Goois en Sticht, BV, Baarn, The Netherlands, admin. OCP, 5536 N. Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved.


** 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.**

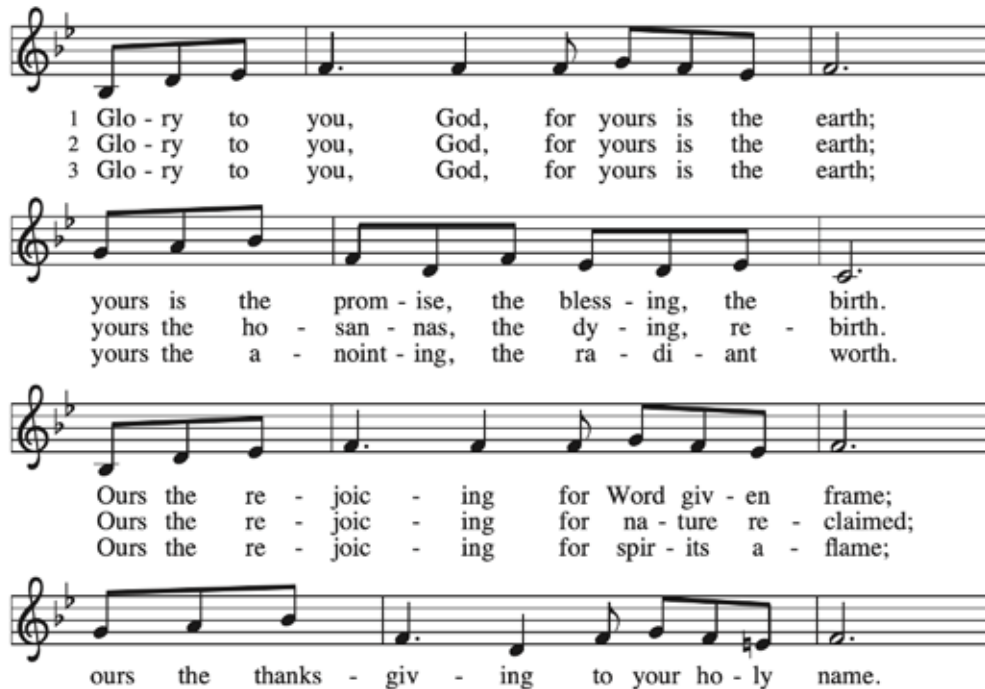
** Kyrie



Musical notation for the Kyrie section, consisting of three staves of music in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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



Musical notation for the Hymn of Praise section, consisting of four staves of music in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats. The lyrics are written below the notes.

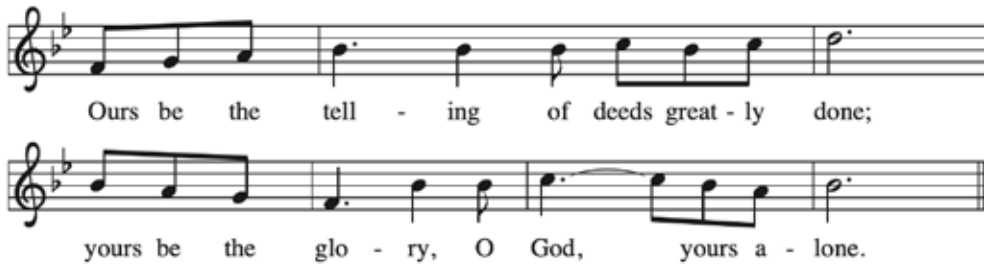
1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

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;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

** 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.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

First Reading

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 19

¹The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

²Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

³There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

⁴yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.
In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

⁵which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

⁶Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.

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

⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

⁸**the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;**
the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;

⁹the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;**
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

¹¹Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²**But who can detect their errors?**
Clear me from hidden faults.

¹³Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart**
be acceptable to you,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

**** Gospel Acclamation**



**** Gospel**

Luke 4:14-21

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

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

**** Gospel Acclamation**

Please see gospel acclamation on page 6.

Sermon

The Rev. Susan Loney

**** Hymn of the Day**

Let Streams of Living Justice

ELW 710



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance; pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934
Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934
Text © 1989 William Whitla.

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

** Apostles' Creed

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.

** Prayers of the People

Each portion of the prayer ends with:

Response: God of grace, receive 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 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.

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

** Offering Song

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing

ELW 531



1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is
2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; oh, taste the
3 The hun - gry heart he sat - is - fies, of - fers the



read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide,
peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine;
poor his par - a - dise. Now hear all heav'n and earth ap - plaud



and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.
he'll turn your wa - ter in - to wine.
the a - maz - ing good - ness of the Lord.



Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.



Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.



Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.



The feast is read - y to be - gin;

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



Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950
Music: Graham Kendrick
Text and music © 1989 Make Way Music, admin. Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

THE FEAST IS READY
LM and refrain

**** 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.

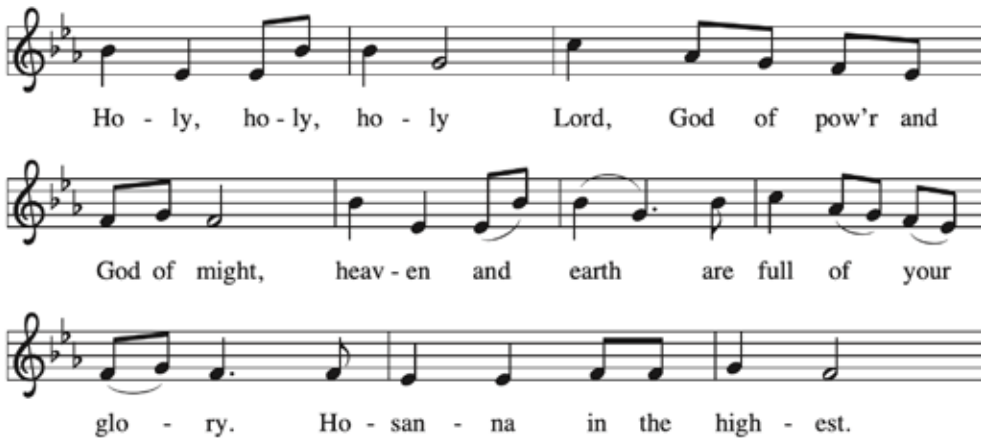
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**** Preface**

**** Holy, Holy, Holy**



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

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.

**** Thanksgiving at the Table**

O God most mighty,...Do this in remembrance of me.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. **Amen.**

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **Amen.**

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **Amen.**

O God most majestic,... the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior,
 life in you, 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.**

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

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.

Communion

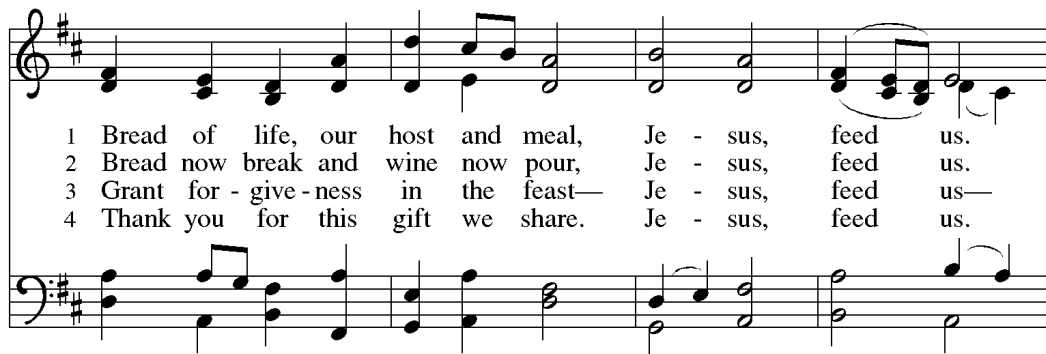
Holy Communion is a free gift of God's grace and love. Everyone is welcome to share in this meal. Come forward, take an empty cup from the table, then kneel or stand along the Communion rail. If you require GF wafers, please tell the minister. Our chalices contain red wine and amber-colored juice. As 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.

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

Communion Hymn

Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal

ELW 464



1 Bread of life, our host and meal, Je - sus, feed us.
2 Bread now break and wine now pour, Je - sus, feed us.
3 Grant for - give - ness in the feast— Je - sus, feed us—
4 Thank you for this gift we share. Je - sus, feed us.



Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.
Make us one, our hope re - store; feed us with your love.
for the great - est and the least; feed us with your love.
Save God's chil - dren ev - 'ry - where; feed us with your love.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943; Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: JESUS, FEED US, Ray Makeever; arr. Rusty Edwards

Text and music © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Communion Blessing

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

** 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

Sending

We are sent into the world to serve.

** Blessing

** Sending Hymn

Now Thank We All Our God

ELW 840

1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,

who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,

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

who, from our moth-ers' arms, has blest us on our way
 and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per-plexed,
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;

with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878
 Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTTE, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

** Dismissal

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

Postlude: *Scarlatti Sonata in E Major*

Flowers are given by John Rodammer in honor of his wife'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:

Michael Farthing

Altar Guild:

Karleen Strayer

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

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.

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.

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