



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

HOLY COMMUNION

Third Sunday in Lent
March 3, 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: *Improvisation on Today's Hymns*

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,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.**

We speak in ways that silence others.

We are silent when we should speak up.

We keep score in our hearts.

We let hurts grow into hatred.

**For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord.**

Amen.

Here is a flood of grace:

Out of love for the whole world,

God draws near to us,

breaks every snare of sin,

washes away our wrongs,

and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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

** Gathering Hymn

My Lord of Light

ELW 832



1 My Lord of light who made the worlds, in wis - dom you have spo - ken;
2 My Lord of love who knew no sin, a sin - ner's death en - dur - ing;
3 My Lord of life who came in fire when Christ was high as - cend - ed:
4 My Lord of lords, one Trin - i - ty, to your pure name be giv - en



but those who heard your wise com-mands your ho - ly law have bro - ken.
for us you wore a crown of thorns, a crown of life se - cur - ing.
your burn - ing love is now re - leased, our days of fear are end - ed.
all glo - ry now and ev - er - more, all praise in earth and heav-en.



Text: Christopher Idle, b. 1938

Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune; arr. Alice Parker, b. 1925

Text © 1980 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

** Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

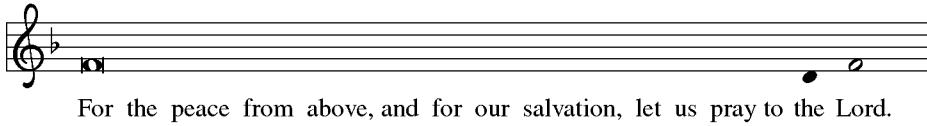
And also with you.

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

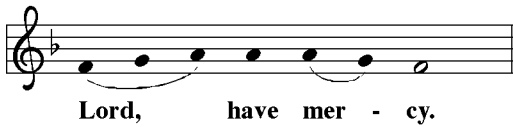
**** Kyrie**



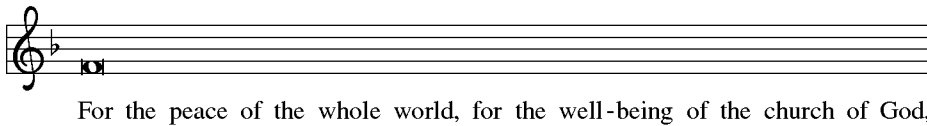
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



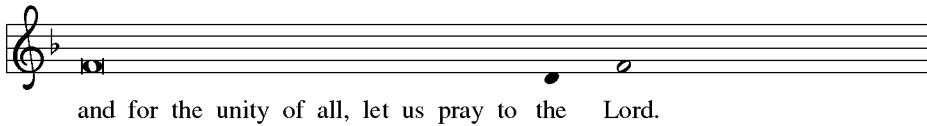
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



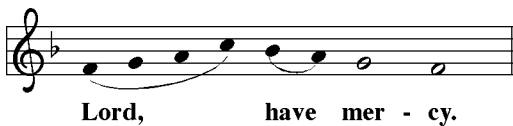
Lord, have mer - cy.



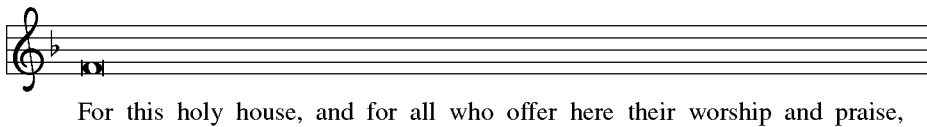
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



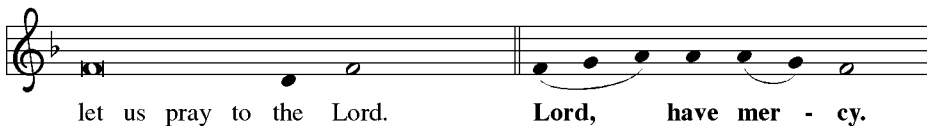
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



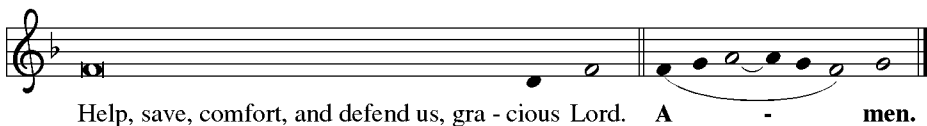
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

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

** Hymn of Praise

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

** 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

Exodus 20:1-17 (p. 65-66)

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.

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

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

⁴**yet 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.

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

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.

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

¹⁰More 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.

¹²But 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.

¹⁴Let 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 1:18-25 (p. 1038)

“Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

** Gospel Acclamation



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

**** Gospel**

John 2:13-22 (p. 967-968)

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

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

**** Gospel Acclamation**

Please see gospel acclamation on page 7.

Sermon

The Rev. Susan Loney

**** Hymn of the Day**

Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth

ELW 727



1 Lord Christ, when first you came to earth, up -
 2 O awe - some Love, which finds no room in
 3 New ad - vent of the love of Christ, will
 4 O wound - ed hands of Je - sus, build in



on a cross they bound you, and mocked your sav - ing
 life where sin de - nies you, and, doomed to death, shall
 we a - gain re - fuse you, till in the night of
 us your new cre - a - tion; our pride is dust, our



king - ship's worth by thorns with which they crowned you. And
 bring to doom the pow'r that cru - ci - fies you, till
 hate and war we per - ish as we lose you? From
 vaunt is stilled; we wait your rev - e - la - tion. O



still our wrongs may fash - ion now new thorns to pierce that
 not a stone is left on stone, and then the na - tions'
 an - cient doubts our minds re - lease to seek the king - dom
 Love that tri - umphs o - ver loss, we bring our hearts be -

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



stead - y brow, and robe of sor - row round you.
pride, o'er - thrown, will nev - er - more de - fy you!
of your peace, by which a - lone we choose you.
fore your cross; come, fin - ish your sal - va - tion.

Text: W. Russell Bowie, 1882–1969, alt.
Music: MIT FREUDEN ZART, medieval European tune

** 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: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

** 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 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;

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

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,

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.

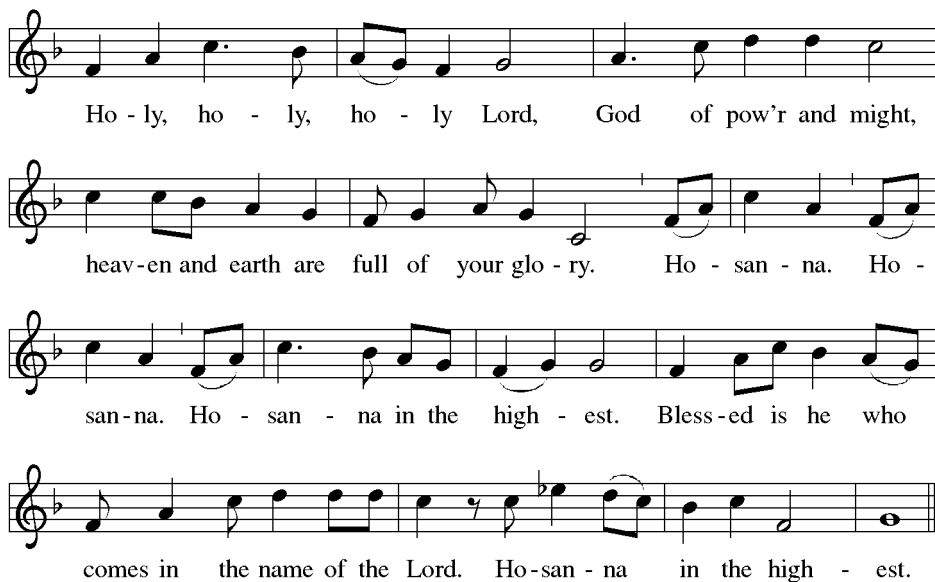
We lift them to the Lord.

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

Blessed are you, O God of the universe...as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth,

burning with justice, peace, and love.

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

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
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.

Invitation to Communion

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

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.

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.

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

Communion Hymn

One Bread, One Body

ELW 496



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,



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

Text: John Foley, sr, b. 1939

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

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** 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

All My Hope on God Is Founded

ELW 757



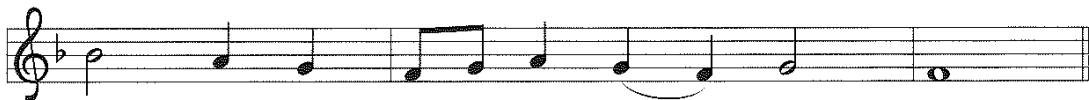
1 All my hope on God is found - ed who will all my
2 Mor - tal pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown be -
3 Great thy good-ness, e'er en - dur - ing; deep thy wis - dom,
4 Still from earth to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of



trust re - new, who through change and chance will guide me,
tray our trust; what with care and toil we fash - ion,
pass - ing thought; splen - dor, light, and life at - tend thee,
praise be done, high a - bove all prais - es prais - ing



on - ly good and on - ly true. God un - known, God a -
tow'r and tem - ple, fall to dust. But thy pow'r, hour by
beau - ty spring - ing out of naught. Ev - er - more from thy
for the gift of God's own Son. Christ doth call one and



lone, call my heart to be thine own.
hour, is my tem - ple and my tow'r.
store new - born worlds rise and a - dore.
all: ye who fol - low shall not fall.

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; para. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.

Music: Herbert Howells, 1892–1983

Music © 1968 Novello & Co, Ltd., London

MICHAEL
8787337

** 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.

The commandments of the Lord are clear!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *Invention in D Major by Claudio Espejo*

*Chancel flowers are given by Michele Torchia
in memory of Frank Torchia on his 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:

Jared O'Brien

Usher:

John Gordon

Altar Guild:

Karleen Strayer

Camera:

Kevin Loney

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

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