



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

**EPIPHANY
CHRISTOMATHY**

9:30 am Sunday, January 5, 2025



Gathering

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

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.

Prelude

Welcome

Joys and Concerns

**** Call to Worship**

God is our light and our salvation,
our refuge and our stronghold.

From the rising of the sun to its setting,
we praise your name, O God.

For with you is the fountain of life,
and in your light we see light.

** 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 Lesson: Genesis 1:1-5

Tim Gough

Spoken Response: "I Wake Close to Morning" by Mary Olivier Ann Dransfield

** Hymn

Light Shone in Darkness

ELW 307



1 Light shone in dark - ness at the world's cre - a - tion,
2 Light shone in dark - ness at the new cre - a - tion;
3 Light shines in dark - ness till the full cre - a - tion;



bath - ing in beau - ty na - ture's rev - e - la - tion. All that has be - ing,
Christ rose in glo - ry, won for us sal - va - tion. Sing, earth and heav - en,
Christ's bod - y, groan - ing, suf - fers trib - u - la - tion, longs for God's jus - tice,



cry in ad - o - ra - tion, "Praise for the light. A - men!"
hymns of ju - bi - la - tion, praise for the light. A - men!
glob - al trans - for - ma - tion, prays for the light. A - men!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: LUX IN TENEBRIS, Mark Sedio, b. 1954

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Music © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

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

** Hymn

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

ELW 326

1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
 2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
 but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

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

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.

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

** Hymn

Each Winter as the Year Grows Older

ELW 252



1 Each win - ter as the year grows old - er, we each grow old - er,
 2 When race and class cry out for trea - son, when si - rens call for
 3 Yet I be - lieve be - yond be - liev - ing that life can spring from
 4 So e - ven as the sun is turn - ing to jour - ney to the
 5 O Child of ec - sta - sy and sor - rows, O Prince of peace and



too. The chill sets in a lit - tle cold - er; the
 war, they o - ver - shout the voice of rea - son and
 death, that growth can flow - er from our griev - ing, that
 north, the liv - ing flame, in se - cret burn - ing, can
 pain, bright - en to - day's world by to - mor - row's, re -



ver - i - ties we knew seem shak - en and un - true.
 scream till we ig - nore all we held dear be - fore.
 we can catch our breath and turn trans - fixed by faith.
 kin - dle on the earth and bring God's love to birth.
 new our lives a - gain; Lord Je - sus, come and reign!

Text: William Gay, b. 1920, alt.
 Music: CAROL OF HOPE, Annabeth Gay, b. 1925
 Text and music © 1971 United Church Press.

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

** Hymn

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright! Verses 1 & 3

ELW 308



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with
 2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -
 3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there
 4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us,



God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!
 in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!
 falls from God a - bove; a ray of pur - est plea - sure.
 when not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,
 In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es
 Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with
 Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him here



you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,
 of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though
 heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your
 and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion. Al - le -



ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich
 dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and
 mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For
 lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life

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



in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.
you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.
for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Fifth Lesson: John 1:1-14

Michael Farthing

Spoken Response: “Epiphany” by Joyce Rupp

Michele Torchia

**** Prayers of the People**

Each portion of the prayer ends with:

Response: Lord, in your mercy, **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

Love Has Come

ELW 292



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de Noël's composés en langue provençale*, 1856

Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

** Offering Prayer

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

** Words of Institution

** 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

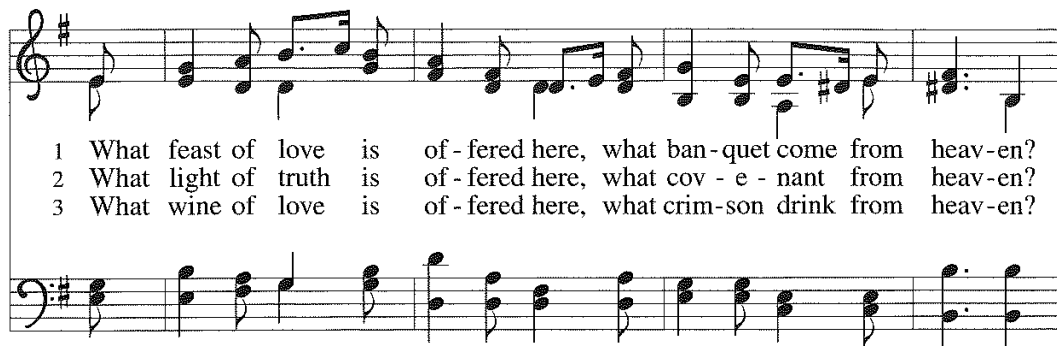
Communion

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

What Feast of Love

ELW 487



1 What feast of love is of-fered here, what ban-quet come from heav-en?
2 What light of truth is of-fered here, what cov-e-nant from heav-en?
3 What wine of love is of-fered here, what crim-son drink from heav-en?

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

What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
 What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won - drous word is giv - en?
 What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?

This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
 This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
 This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.

Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
 Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
 Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
 Music: English ballad, 16th cent.
 Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, admin. OCP Publications

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

Communion Blessing

Announcements

Sending

We are sent into the world to serve.

**** Sixth Lesson:** Matthew 5:14-16

Tim Gough

**** Spoken Response:** "Blessed Are You Who Bear the Light" by Jan Richardson

Pastor Sue

**** Sending Song**

Drawn to the Light

ELW 593



1 Peo - ple who walk in dark - ness have sought a light in the
2 How can we tell a heav - en from hell if ev - 'ry - one
3 Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none! The Lamb is the



heart of the dark - est night. Just when we thought all would be
dwells in the dark of night? Morn-ing dis - pels, gent - ly com -
one who is shin - ing bright, bids us to come! Life has be -

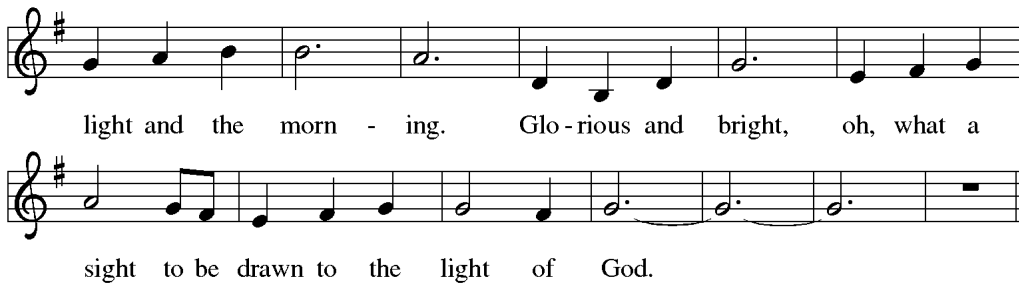


lost, we were drawn to the light of God.
pels, and we're drawn to the light of God.
gun when we're drawn to the light of God.



Refrain
Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the

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



light and the morn - ing. Glo - rious and bright, oh, what a
sight to be drawn to the light of God.

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
 Music: LA CROSSE, John C. Ylvisaker
 Text and music © 1990 John C. Ylvisaker.

**** Dismissal**

Go in peace,
To Love, To Invite, To Serve.
 The light shines in the darkness.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

*Chancel flowers are given by Bill & Betty Sperati
 in honor of Joshua Sperati'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:

Tim Gough

Lectors:

Ann Dransfield, Michael Farthing, John Gordon
Bob Linderman, William Sperati, Michele Torchia

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.

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