

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

+ Fifth Sunday in Lent
April 6, 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 (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

Welcome

Joys & Concerns

**** Confession and Forgiveness**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.**

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

**Transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In ☩ Christ, your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

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

**** Gathering Hymn**

Lord, Your Hands Have Formed

ELW 554



1 Lord, your hands have formed this world, ev - 'ry part is shaped by
2 Yours the soil that holds the seed, you give warmth and mois - ture,
3 Like a mat you roll out land, space to build for us and



you— wa - ter tum - bling o - ver rocks, air, and sun - light:
too. Sprout-ing blos - soms, crops and buds, trees and plants: the
you earth - ly homes and, bet - ter still, homes for Christ: the



each day's signs that you make all things new.
sea - son's signs that you make all things new.
tru - est sign that you make all things new.

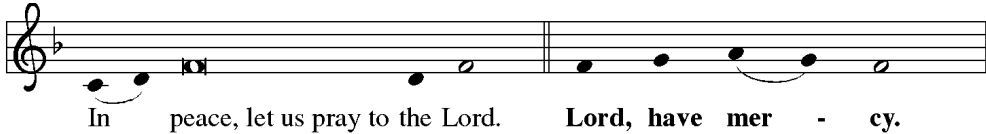
Text: Ramon and Sario Ollano; para. James Minchin, b. 1942; tr. Delbert Rice
Music: GAYOM NI HIGAMI, Ikalahan (Philippines) traditional
Text © James Minchin, admin. Asian Institute for Liturgy & Music., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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

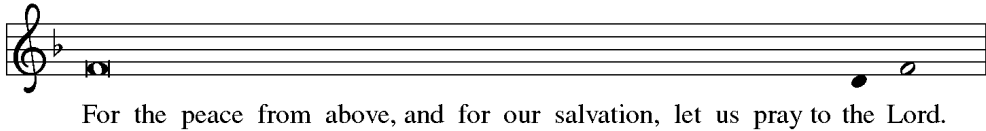
** Greeting

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.

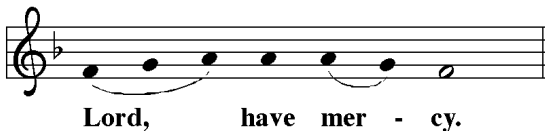
** Kyrie



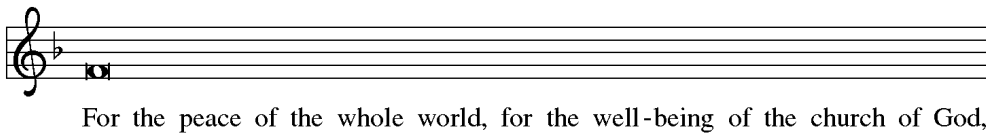
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



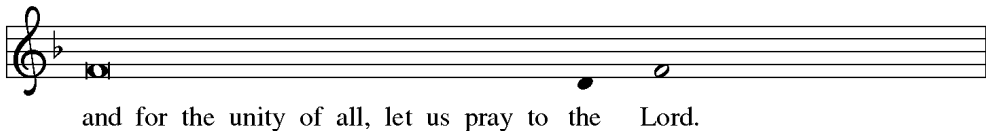
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



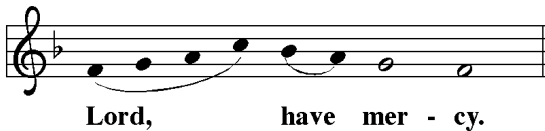
Lord, have mer - cy.



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

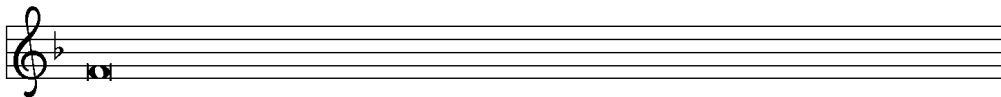


and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

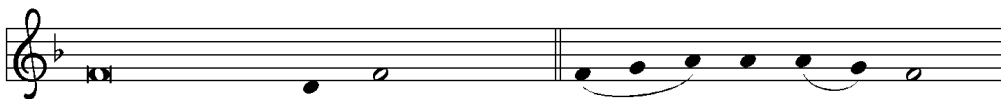


Lord, have mer - cy.

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

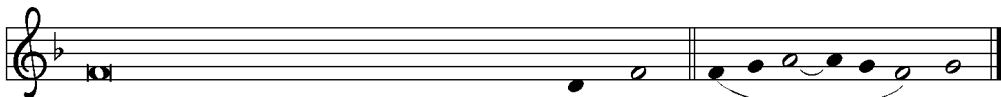


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



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

**** Prayer of the Day**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, 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, proclamation and song.

First Reading

Isaiah 43:16-21

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 126

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

²**Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”**

³The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

⁴**Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.**

⁵May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.**

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

**** Gospel Acclamation**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

**** Gospel**

John 12:1-8

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.

Healing Rite with Anointing and Laying of Hands

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

** Hymn of the Day

Holy Woman, Graceful Giver

ACS 1002



1 Ho - ly wom - an, grace - ful giv - er, proph - et,
 2 How the fra - grance filled the dwell - ing! How the
 3 Lov - ing - ly Christ stilled the scoff - er who would
 4 Though dis - dained or though con - test - ed, acts of



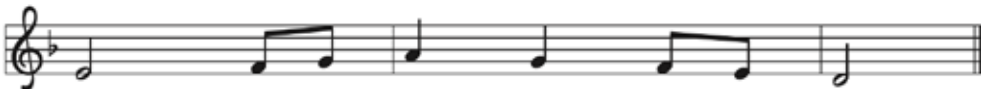
ser - vant, and be - liev - er, Mar - y with the oint - ment
 act of beau - ty well - ing blest all those with - in the
 grasp - ing guard the cof - fer, point - ing to a hid - den
 love are nev - er wast - ed: beau - ty is a face of



jar, sought by Christ, by scorn un - daunt - ed, knelt in
 place! How the act of pure de - vo - tion, whis - p'ring
 trove: not all trea - sures gain and pro - fit, feed the
 God. Grace - ful Mar - y, by your giv - ing, you have



love, his feet a - noint - ed for his com - ing bur - ial
 of his com - ing pas - sion, blest the heart of Christ with
 poor, and feed the spir - it acts of beau - ty, acts of
 shown a way of liv - ing: acts of beau - ty, love, and



hour, for his com - ing bur - ial hour.
 grace, blest the heart of Christ with grace!
 love, acts of beau - ty, acts of love.
 good, acts of beau - ty, love, and good.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: ALABASTER JAR, Anne Krentz Organ, b. 1960

Text © 2016 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Music © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

** 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 in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

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

Meal

God feeds us at the table of mercy and grace.

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.

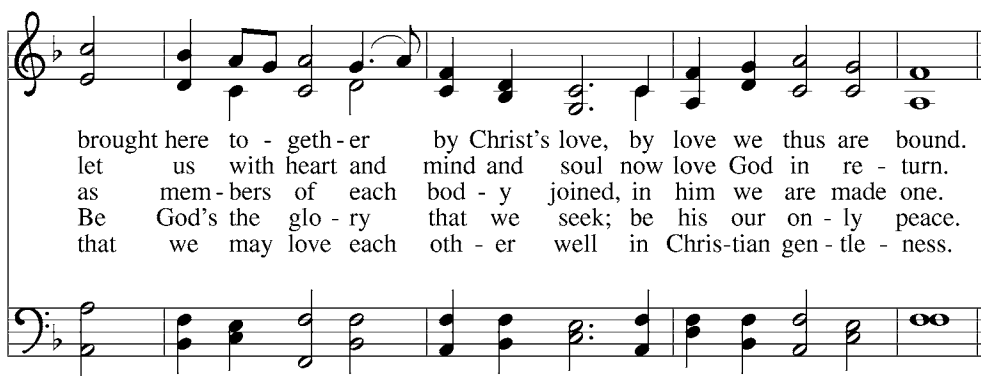
** Offering Song

Where Charity and Love Prevail

ELW 359



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

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

** Offering Prayer

Gracious Provider,
you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

** 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 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.

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

** Thanksgiving at the Table

...we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

** 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

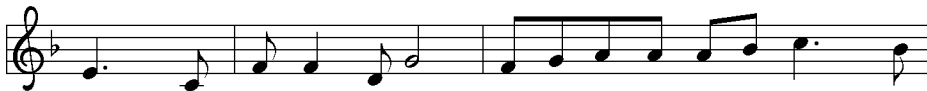
Lamb of God



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. 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

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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

**** Communion Blessing**

**** Post Communion Prayer**

Together, let us pray.

Generous Host,
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Announcements

Sending

We are sent into the world to serve.

**** Blessing**

God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
✚ bless you you now and forever. Amen.

**** Sending Hymn**

Oh, That I Had A Thousand Voices

ELW 833

1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
3 The name of Je - sus charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease,
4 He speaks, and lis - t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive;

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

the glo - ries of my God and king, the tri - umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.
sings mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.

5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

** Dismissal

Go in peace,
To Love, To Invite, To Serve.
God is gracious and merciful.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Chancel flowers are given by John Rodammer in memory of his brother-in-law Lee

** 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

Music Director:

Dr. Claudio Espejo

Assisting Minister/Lector:

Ann Dransfield

Camera:

John Gordon

Altar Guild:

Sally Dudderar

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