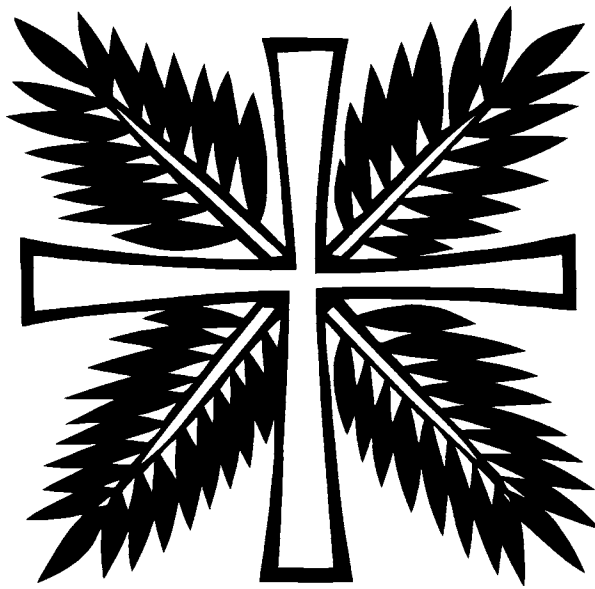


# St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

+ Palm and Passion Sunday  
April 13, 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.*

## **Gathering**

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

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

Luke 19:28-40

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you O Lord.**

<sup>28</sup> After he had said this, [Jesus] went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

<sup>29</sup> When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, <sup>30</sup> saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" <sup>32</sup> So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" <sup>34</sup> They said, "The Lord needs it." <sup>35</sup> Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup> As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, <sup>38</sup> saying,

"Blessed is the king

who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven,

and glory in the highest heaven!"

<sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." <sup>40</sup> He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

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.**

**\*\* Blessing of Palms**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept.*

We praise you, O God,  
for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
Today he entered the holy city in triumph  
and was proclaimed messiah and king  
by those who spread garments and branches along his way.  
Bless these branches and those who carry them.  
Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross,  
so that, joined to his death and resurrection,  
we enter into life with you;  
through the same Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**


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

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


## \*\* Gathering 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.

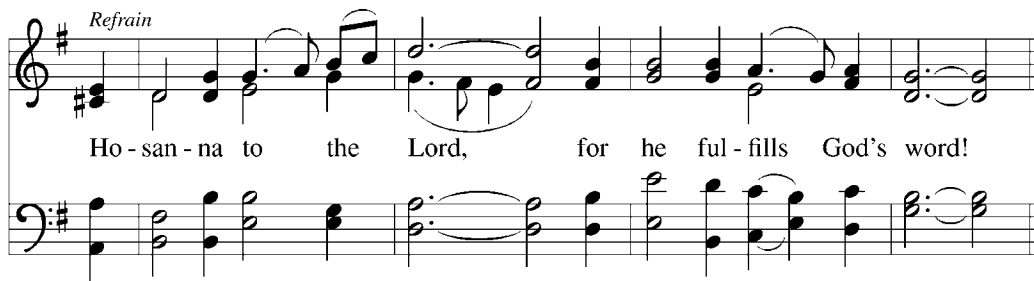


Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



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.



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**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through 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, 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**

Luke 22:47-23:49

*Please refer to the bulletin insert. The congregation will read in unison lines  
labeled ALL.*

A Dramatic Reading of the Passion, according to Luke

Narrator: Michael Farthing

Voice One: Michele Torchia

Voice Two: Betty Sperati

Voice Three: Ann Dransfield

**\*\* Gospel Acclamation**

*Sing My Tongue (verse 7)*

**Reflection**

The Rev. Barbara Melosh

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

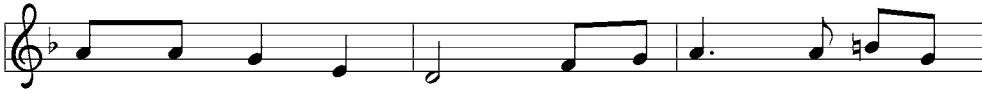
## \*\* Hymn of the Day

### *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery*

ELW 334



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your  
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed  
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of  
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and  
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you  
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the  
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.  
bod - y of our Lord.  
riv - er, you the sea.

#### *General*

Light of life beyond conceiving,  
mighty Spirit of our Lord;  
give new strength to our believing,  
give us faith to live your word

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800.442.3358.

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## \*\* 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.*

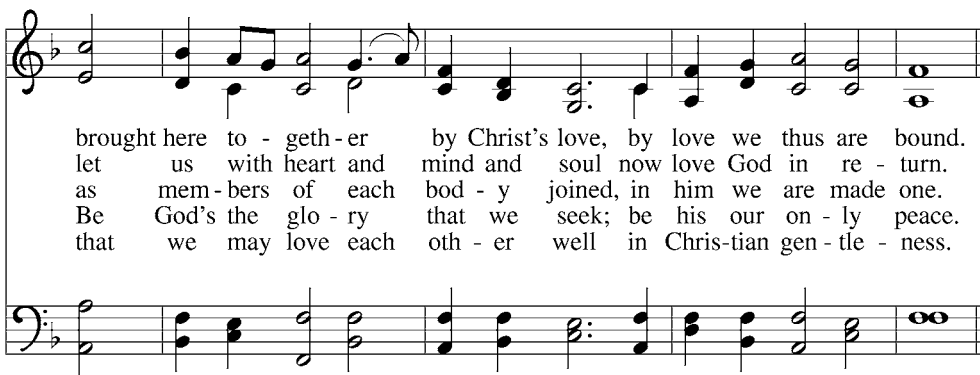
## \*\* Offering Song

*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

Text © 1960 World Library Publications, 3708 River Rd., Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158. All Rights Reserved.

\*\* 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.

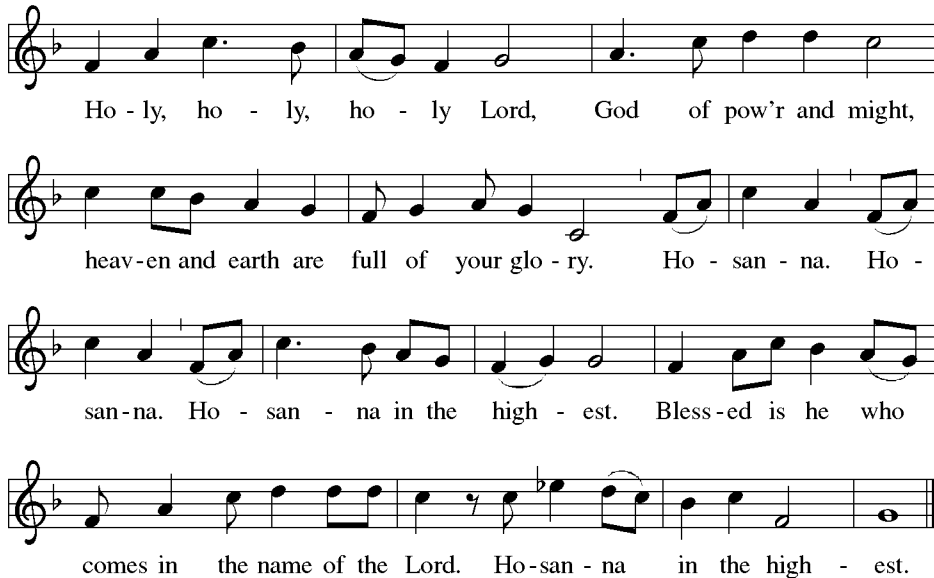
**And also with you.**

**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.

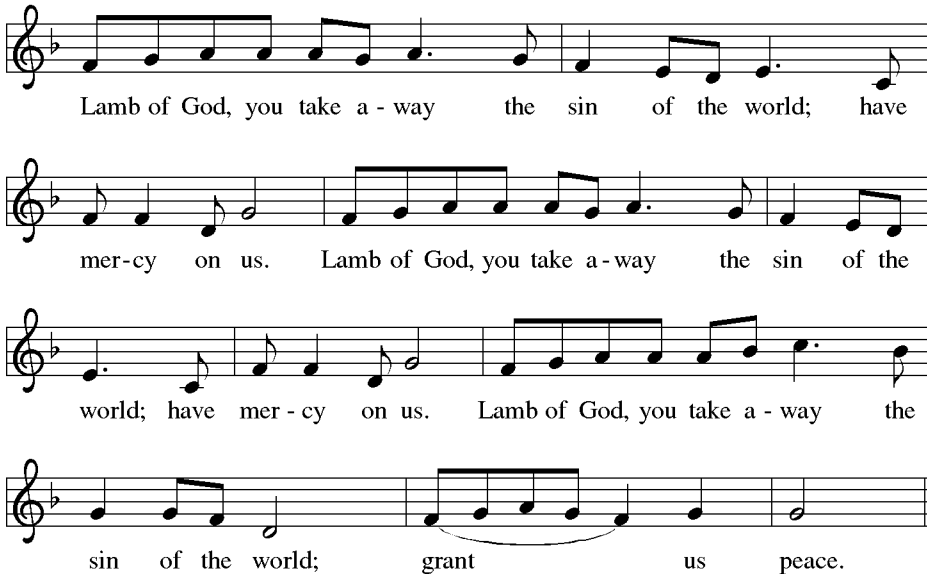
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

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**



The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The final note of the fourth staff is a double bar line.

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 now and forever.  
Amen.

**\*\* 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

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## \*\* Dismissal

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

**Postlude:** Chorale BWV 40/8 “Freuet euch, ihr Christen alle”

J.S. Bach

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

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

## **Participants in Today's Service**

### **Presiding Minister**

The Rev. Barbara Melosh

### **Music Director:**

Dr. Claudio Espejo

### **Assisting Minister/Lector:**

Michele Torchia

### **Spirit Pole/Crucifer:**

Rowan and Morna Deeney

### **Altar Guild:**

Karleen Strayer

### **Ministers:**

The people of St. Stephen's

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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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