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St. Stephen's Lutheran Church  
Worship Service with Holy Communion  
Sunday, February 14, 2021 ■ 9:30 a.m.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church  
Transfiguration of Our Lord  
Worship Service with Holy Communion

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WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Reflection on "Arise, Your Light Has Come"

Philip Dahl

Welcome

Singing Bowl *Silence is kept for reflection.*

\* Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross,  
the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose voice is upon the waters,  
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,  
whose goodness cascades over all creation.

**Amen.**

Let us trust in the abundant grace of God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,  
you search us and know us.  
You are acquainted with all our ways.  
We confess we turn inward  
often failing to follow your way of love:  
failing to trust those who are not like us,  
to steward the earth and its resources,  
to consider generations to come.  
Forgive us, gracious God,  
for all we have left undone that would please you.  
Receive all of us in your divine mercy.  
**Amen.**

How vast is God's grace!  
Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus,  
our sins are washed away  
and we are claimed as God's own beloved.  
In the wake of God's forgiveness,  
we are called to be the beloved community  
living out Christ's justice  
and the Spirit's reconciling peace.  
**Amen.**

## WE GIVE OUR PRAISE

### \* Hymn

### “Arise, Your Light Has Come”

ELW #314 vs. 1, 4

**Arise, your light has come!  
The Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God  
which shines on you today.**

**Arise, your light has come!  
The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing,  
God's pow'r will make us strong.**

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947  
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### \* 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

ELW Page 98

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

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

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 mercy.**

For this holy house,  
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
**Amen, amen.**

### \* Hymn of Praise

ELW Page 101

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.  
Power and riches, wisdom and strength,  
and honor and blessing and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God,  
and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing and honor, glory and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.  
Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**\* Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God,  
**the resplendent light of your truth shines  
from the mountaintop into our hearts.  
Transfigure us by your beloved Son,  
and illumine the world with your image,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.  
Amen.**

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

**First Reading**

**2 Corinthians 4:3-6**

3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. 6 For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Word of God, Word of Life.  
**Thanks be to God**

**Reading from the Psalms**

**Psalms 50:1-6**

1 The mighty one, God the LORD,  
speaks and summons the earth  
from the rising of the sun to its setting.  
2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,  
God shines forth.  
3 Our God comes and does not keep silence,  
before him is a devouring fire,  
and a mighty tempest all around him.  
4 He calls to the heavens above  
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:  
5 "Gather to me my faithful ones,  
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"  
6 The heavens declare his righteousness,  
for God himself is judge.

Word of God, Word of Life.  
**Thanks be to God**

The Holy Gospel according to St Mark,  
**Glory to you, O Lord**

**\* Gospel**

**Mark 9:2-9**

2 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, 3 and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. 4 And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. 5 Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." 6 He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. 7 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" 8 Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. 9 As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord,  
**Praise to you, O Christ**

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

## Hymn

"How Good, Lord, to Be Here!"

ELW #315 vs. 1, 2, 5

How good, Lord, to be here!  
Your glory fills the night;  
your face and garments, like the sun,  
shine with unborrowed light.

How good, Lord, to be here!  
your beauty to behold  
where Moses and Elijah stand,  
your messengers of old.

How good, Lord, to be here!  
Yet we may not remain;  
but since you bid us leave the mount,  
come with us to the plain.

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## \* Prayers of Intercession

*Petition response* Leader: ... Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

## \* Sharing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
*We invite you to share the peace with those with you  
and with us with "thumbs up" or comments on our Facebook page.  
Text someone you care about.*

**Offering** [Invitation to support ongoing ministries of St. Stephen's]

## \* Words of Institution

## \* Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## \* Invitation to Communion

Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus.  
Come and be fed.

## Communion is Received

ELW Page 112

*The body of Christ, given for you  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

Amen.

"Beautiful Savior"

ELW #838 vs. 3, 4

Fair is the sunshine,  
fair is the moonlight,  
bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter,  
Jesus shines purer  
than all the angels in the sky.

**Beautiful Savior,  
Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor,  
praise, adoration,  
now and forevermore be thine!**

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904  
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The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ  
Strengthens you and keeps you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

**\* Prayer after Communion**

Christ Jesus,  
at this table we have feasted on your very life  
and are strengthened for our journey.  
Send us forth from this banquet  
nourished in body and in spirit  
to proclaim your good news  
and serve others in your name.  
**Amen.**

**WE GO INTO THE WORLD**

**\* Blessing**

God the creator strengthen you;  
Jesus the beloved fill you;  
and the Holy Spirit the comforter  
✠ keep you in peace.  
**Amen.**

**Hymn**

**“Alleluia, Song of Gladness”**

**ELW #318 vs. 1, 2, 4**

**Alleluia, song of gladness,  
voice of joy that cannot die;  
alleluia is the anthem  
ever dear to choirs on high;  
in the house of God abiding  
thus they sing eternally.**

**Alleluia you are sounding,  
true Jerusalem and free;  
alleluia, joyful mother,  
bring us to your jubilee;  
here by Babylon's sad waters  
mourning exiles still are we.**

**In our hymns we pray with longing:  
Grant us, blessed Trinity,  
at the last to keep glad Easter  
with the faithful saints on high;  
there to you forever singing  
alleluia joyfully.**

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.  
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**\* Dismissal**

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\* Postlude**

**Celebration on “Jesus Loves Me”**

**Ben D.**



## Jesus said ...

*"My Father's House shall be a house of prayer."*

Please include the following people in your prayers this week: **Dorrie, Delores, Lynne, Janel, Laura, Frances, Kevin, Renee and Ismera, Crystal, Lawrence.**

*Each week* different families will be included in special prayers. Please hold in your prayers:

**Michael and Lynn, Matt, Katie, Sophia and Gabriella, Tom and Terry, Randy, Patrick, Sarah, Max, Will and Kate.**

*Each week* different missions that St. Stephen's support through our Sunday offerings are included in our prayers. This week we offer prayers for **Loaves & Fishes**, a nonprofit organization serving free, nutritious meals to those in need. They are guided by their vision that all people, regardless of socioeconomic, cultural or ethnic background, deserve to meet their basic needs for food, dignity and respect.

*Each week* different missions that St. Stephen's support through our Sunday offerings this week we offer prayers for the **Union Gospel Mission of the Twin Cities**, a Christian ministry dedicated to serving people who are struggling with homelessness, poverty, and addiction in our community. The Gospel Mission is helping men, women, and children rebuild their lives—physically, emotionally, spiritually and educationally.

*We* also offer prayers for our **brothers and sisters in Christ in the villages of Iwonde and Ihimbo, Tanzania.**

*We* pray for **residents and staff of group homes and care facilities, and all healthcare workers.**

*We* pray also for those away from home serving in the military: **Ben, Nick, Jeremy, Matthew, Zachary, Sam, Troy, Tricia, Adam, Nick, Peter DJ, Christopher, Gene, Sam, Andrew..** (Please help us keep our military member listing up to date. Thank you.)

## Leaders in Today's Service

Pastor .....	The Rev. Tim Thompson Ph.D
Lay Liturgist .....	Debbie Pirkl
Christian Music Leader .....	Ben D.
Special Music .....	Philip Dahl
Lectors.....	Erica Oswald, Jackie Hanson
Audio Visual Ministry .....	Norm Goetzke, Dean Hostager, Jan Perkins
Prayer Chain.....	Rachel Circle, Mary Circle, Kathy Ericson, Abby Vavra
Altar Guild.....	Lori Ritt
Outdoor Street Sign.....	Jerry Thoreson



## Today's Altar Flowers

In appreciation for the pastors, staff and volunteers who make it possible for us to worship and be connected during the pandemic. Your efforts are appreciated!

Given by: Dottie Culbert



ST STEPHEN'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Senior Pastor John Snider | Associate Pastor of Discipleship Tim Thompson**  
1575 Charlton Street ■ West St. Paul, MN 55118



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