



---

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church  
Worship Service with Holy Communion  
Sunday, February 21, 2021 ■ 9:30 a.m.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church  
First Sunday in Lent  
Worship Service with Holy Communion

---



WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Reflection on "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Bryon Dockter

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,  
the keeper of the covenant,  
the source of steadfast love,  
our rock and our redeemer.  
**Amen.**

God hears us when we cry,  
and draws us close in Jesus Christ.  
Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Fountain of living water,  
**pour out your mercy over us.**  
**We long to be free.**  
**Rebuild what we have ruined**  
**and mend what we have torn.**  
**Wash us in your cleansing flood.**  
**Make us alive in the Spirit**  
**followers in the way of Jesus,**  
**as healers and restorers of the world you so love.**  
**Amen.**

Beloved, God's word never fails.  
The promise rests on grace:  
by the saving love of Jesus Christ,  
the wisdom and power of God,  
your sins are ✚ forgiven,  
and God remembers them no more.  
Journey in the way of Jesus.  
**Amen.**

## WE GIVE OUR PRAISE

### \* Hymn

### "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

ELW #504 vs. 1, 4

A mighty fortress is our God,  
a sword and shield victorious;  
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod  
and wins salvation glorious.  
The old satanic foe  
has sworn to work us woe!  
With craft and dreadful might  
he arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.

God's Word forever shall abide,  
no thanks to foes, who fear it;  
for God himself fights by our side  
with weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house,  
goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
though life be wrenched away,  
they cannot win the day.  
The kingdom's ours forever!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
All rights reserved. Used by permission under  
AUGSBURG FORTRESS #SB158773  
ONE LICENSE #A-708293 R-196364

### \* 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

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
***Lord, have mercy upon us.***  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
***Christ, have mercy upon us.***  
Lord, have mercy upon us.  
***Lord, have mercy upon us.***

SBH page 19

### \* Prayer of the Day

Holy God, heavenly Father,  
**in the waters of the flood**  
**you saved the chosen,**  
**and in the wilderness of temptation**  
**you protected your Son from sin.**  
**Renew us in the gift of baptism.**  
**May your holy angels be with us,**  
**that the wicked foe**  
**may have no power over us,**  
**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

Genesis 9:8-17

8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9 "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. 11 I estab-

lish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." 12 God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13 I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 15 I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." 17 God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

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

**Reading from the Psalms**

**Psalm 25:1-10**

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
- 2 O my God, in you I trust;  
do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.
- 3 Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
- 4 Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
teach me your paths.
- 5 Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.
- 6 Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.
- 7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!
- 8 Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
- 9 He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way.
- 10 All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

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

**Gospel Acclamation**

**"Jesus, Remember Me"**

**ELW #616**

**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**

Text © Luke 23:42; Taizé Community  
Text © 1981 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent.  
7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
All rights reserved. Used by permission under  
AUGSBURG FORTRESS #SB158773  
ONE LICENSE #A-708293 R-196364

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

**\* Gospel**

**Mark 1:9-15**

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. 11 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." 12 And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. 13 He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. 14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

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

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

ELW #517 vs. 1, 3

Lord, keep us steadfast in your word;  
curb those who by deceit or sword  
would wrest the kingdom from your Son  
and bring to naught all he has done.

O Comforter of priceless worth,  
send peace and unity on earth;  
support us in our final strife  
and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.  
All rights reserved. Used by permission under  
AUGSBURG FORTRESS #SB158773  
Public Domain

\* 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]

Offertory Response

“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”

ELW #188

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

All rights reserved. Used by permission under  
AUGSBURG FORTRESS #SB158773  
Public Domain

\* 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

Jesus draws the whole world to himself.  
Come to this meal and be fed.

Communion is Received

ELW Page 112

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

Amen.

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ  
Strengthens you and keeps you in his grace.

**Amen.**

**\* Prayer after Communion**

God of steadfast love,  
At this table you gather your people  
into one body for the sake of the world.  
Send us in the power of your Spirit,  
that our lives bear witness to the love  
that has made us new  
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

**WE GO INTO THE WORLD**

**\* Blessing**

You are what God made you to be:  
created in Christ Jesus for good works,  
chosen as holy and beloved,  
freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you ✝ that you may be a blessing,  
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.  
**Amen.**

**Hymn**

**“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”**

**ELW #325 vs. 1, 2**

**I want Jesus to walk with me;  
I want Jesus to walk with me;  
all along my pilgrim journey,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

**In my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
when my heart is almost breaking,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

Text: African American spiritual  
All rights reserved. Used by permission under  
AUGSBURG FORTRESS #SB158773  
ONE LICENSE #A-708293 R-196364

**\* Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\* Postlude**

**Celebration of “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”**

**Bryon Dockter**



## 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, John, Brenda, Lena, Laura, Frances, Joan, Jeremy.**

**Each week** different families will be included in special prayers. Please hold in your prayers: **John and Polly, Lisa, Douglas, Don and Betty, Keith, Noelle,**

**Each week** different missions that St. Stephen's supports through our Sunday offerings are included in our prayers. This week we offer prayers for **the Meals on Wheels program.** Fueled by a commitment to address senior hunger and isolation, they basic support that seniors need to maintain their health and independence in our community and virtually every other community in America.

**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. Dr. John Snider                              |
| Lay Liturgist .....         | Debbie Pirkl  |
| Director of Worship .....   | Bryon Dockter   |
| Song Leader .....           | Philip Dahl   |
| Lectors .....               | Jeff and Lynn Kubat                                   |
| Audio Visual Ministry ..... | Norm Goetzke, Matt Kirkwood, Jenny Van Pelt           |
| Prayer Chain .....          | Rachel Circle, Mary Circle, Kathy Ericson, Abby Vavra |
| Altar Guild .....           | Lori Ritt   |
| Outdoor Street Sign .....   | Jerry Thoreson  |



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



### **Bulletin Acknowledgements**

Liturgical texts, prayers, cover art and graphics: Sunday and Seasons.  
Reprinted with permission under AUGSBURG FORTRESS #SB158773

Music and Streaming Licenses: AUGSBURG FORTRESS #SB158773;  
ONELICENSE.NET License #A-708293 #R-196364; CCLI License #1664009 #20540802.