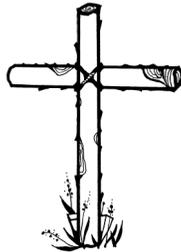




St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday, February 28, 2021 ■ 9:30 a.m.

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



WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP

Prelude

“Caritas Habundant”

Ben D.

Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179)
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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

“Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song”

ELW #808 vs. 1, 2

Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;
I'll tell ev'rybody about you wherever I go:
you alone are our life and our peace and our love.
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.

Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.

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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

SBH page 19

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.

* Prayer of the Day

O God,
**by the passion of your blessed Son
you made an instrument of shameful death
to be for us the means of life.**
**Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ
that we may gladly suffer shame and loss
for the sake of your Son, 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

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

First Reading

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. 2 And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." 3 Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 4 "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 5 No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. 7 I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. 15 God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 16 I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

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

Second Reading**Romans 4:13-25**

13 For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. 14 If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. 15 For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. 16 For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, 17 as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. 18 Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." 19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. 20 No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, 21 being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. 22 Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." 23 Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, 24 but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

*** Gospel****Mark 8:31-38**

31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." 34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38 Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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

Sermon**Pastor John****WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD****Hymn****"What Wondrous Love Is This"****ELW #666 vs. 1, 2**

**What wondrous love is this,
 O my soul, O my soul!
 What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
 What wondrous love is this
 that caused the Lord of bliss
 to bear the dreadful curse
 for my soul, for my soul,
 to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?**

When I was sinking down,
sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down
beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown
for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

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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.

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.

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*** 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

“Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song”

ELW #808 vs. 3, 4

As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,
to carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears.
For you saved me by giving your body and blood.
As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.

I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;
but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.
And with all of the family you saved by your love,
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.

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* **Dismissal**

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

* **Postlude**

Variation on “Caritas Habundant”

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, Kay, Delores, Lynne, Janel, Laura, Frances, Joan, Jeremy, Nancy, Kimberly, Pat.**

Each week different families will be included in special prayers. Please hold in your prayers: **Daniel, Teresa and Madelyn, Jacqueline, Byron, Kerry, Jim and Patrice.**

Each week different missions that St. Stephen's support through our Sunday offerings are included in our prayers. This week we offer prayers for **Lutheran Campus Ministry**. A ministry grounded in Christ, guided by the values of hospitality, service, justice, integrity and curiosity. Operating on university campuses throughout the country bringing together like minded individuals to share God's word.

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.)

Our condolences to Debbie, Tony and TJ Pirkl on the death of Tony's father, Jim Pirkl. Jim passed away on Wednesday, February 24.

In the midst of their sorrow may all find comfort in God's promise of life everlasting.

Leaders in Today's Service

Pastor.....	The Rev. Dr. John Snider
Lay Liturgist.....	Debbie Pirkl
Christian Music Leader	Ben D.
Special Guest Musician	Mary E. Larew
Lectors	Kathy Packer, Dave Bergeson
Audio Visual Ministry.....	The Gregory Family—Keith, Jessica and Max
Prayer Chain	Rachel Circle, Mary Circle, Kathy Ericson, Abby Vavra
Altar Guild	Lori Ritt
Outdoor Street Sign	Jerry Thoreson



ST STEPHEN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Senior Pastor John Snider | Associate Pastor of Discipleship Tim Thompson
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