



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday, February 7, 2021 ■ 9:30 a.m.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Worship Service with Holy Communion



WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Reflection on "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

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,
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

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

ELW #886 vs. 1, 2, 6

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.

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.

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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
Ben D.

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
Ben D.

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**

Everlasting God,
**you give strength to the weak
and power to the faint.
Make us agents of your healing and wholeness,
that your good news may be made known
to the ends of your creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 40:21-31

21 Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
23 who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
24 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
25 To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
26 Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.
27 Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?
28 Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
29 He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
30 Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
31 but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

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

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

Psalm Reading

- 1 Praise the LORD!
How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.
- 2 The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.
- 3 He heals the brokenhearted,
and binds up their wounds.
- 4 He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.
- 5 Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.
- 6 The LORD lifts up the downtrodden;
he casts the wicked to the ground.
- 7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre.
- 8 He covers the heavens with clouds,
prepares rain for the earth,
makes grass grow on the hills.
- 9 He gives to the animals their food,
and to the young ravens when they cry.
- 10 His delight is not in the strength of the horse,
nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;
- 11 but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.
- 20c Praise the LORD!

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

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

*** Gospel**

Mark 1:29-39

29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. 30 Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. 31 He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. 32 That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. 33 And the whole city was gathered around the door. 34 And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. 35 In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. 36 And Simon and his companions hunted for him. 37 When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." 38 He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." 39 And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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

Sermon

Pastor John

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn

"I Love to Tell the Story"

ELW #661 vs. 1, 3

**I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else would do.**

Refrain

I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story
that I have loved so long. *Refrain*

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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

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

Amen.

"We Come to the Hungry Feast"

**We come to the hungry feast
hungry for a word of peace.
To hungry hearts unsatisfied
the love of God is not denied.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.**

**We come to the hungry feast
hungry that the hunger cease,
and knowing, though we eat our fill,**

ELW Page 112

ELW #479 vs. 1, 3

**the hunger will stay with us; still
we come, we come to the hungry feast.**

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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

“Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word”

ELW #663 vs1-3

**Spread, oh, spread, almighty Word,
spread the reign of God the Lord.
Send forth our Creator's call,
heaven's gifts extend to all.**

**Tell of our Redeemer's grace,
who, to save our human race
and to pay rebellion's price,
gave himself as sacrifice.**

**Tell of God the Spirit giv'n
now to guide us on to heav'n,
strong and holy, just and true,
working both to will and do.**

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*** Dismissal**

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

*** Postlude**

Celebration of “Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word”

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, Laura, Frances, Dolores, Mary, Carrie, Kevin, Renee and Ismera.**

Each week different families will be included in special prayers. Please hold in your prayers: **Alan and Karen, Marvel, Beverly, Joyce, Tanya and Jaleena.**

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 are included in our prayers. This week we offer prayers for **Feed My Starving Children**. Founded in 1987, Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is a Christian non-profit that provides nutritionally complete meals specifically formulated for malnourished children. FMSC's mission is feeding God's starving children hungry in body and spirit.

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 **Dorothy Lea and Family** on the death of Dorothy's sister, Diane Flagherty. Diane passed away on Saturday, January 30th.

A celebration of Diane's life was held in Iowa this past week.

Our condolences to **Mark and Marsha Rogosheske and Family** on the death of their son Peter. Peter passed away on Sunday, January 24th. A celebration of Peter's life is planned for this summer.

**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 Pirkel
Director of Worship Bryon Dockter
Song Leader Deborah Ellis
Christian Music Leader Ben Dyleuth
Lectors Abby Vavra, Sara Ruff
Audio Visual Ministry Keith, Jessica and Max Gregory
Prayer Chain Rachel Circle, Mary Circle, Kathy Ericson, Abby Vavra
Altar Guild Lori Ritt
Outdoor Street Sign Jerry Thoreson



ST STEPHEN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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