

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Second Wednesday in Lent
Worship Service

March 1, 2023 6:30 p.m.



GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

* Singing Bowl

Silence is kept for reflection.

* Gathering Song

“All My Relatives”

Olson/Baer

Listen my sister, listen my brother,
so many features, so many colors
I have not loved you like I should love you
If I believe that God is love

Chorus:

Every face, all my relatives
Every race, all my relatives
Every place, all my relatives
Hear creation sing
One with everything

Where there is hurting, we share the hurting
Where there is justice, we share the justice
Where there is mercy, we share the mercy
if we believe that God is love (*Chorus*)

Where there is suff'ring, we share the suff'ring
Where there is praising, we share the praising
Where there is freedom, we share the freedom
If we believe that God is love (*Chorus*)

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* Opening

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Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
the light no darkness can overcome.
Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
and the day is almost over.
Let your light scatter the darkness
and illumine your church.
Behold, now is the acceptable time;
now is the day of salvation.
Turn us again, O God of our salvation,
that the light of your face may shine on us.
May your justice shine like the sun;
and may the poor be lifted up.

* **Lenten Canticle**

“Here For You”

Willers/Olson

**Ragged trav'ler rest your feet. There is room for you.
Wand'ring child rest your fears. There is love for you.**

Chorus:

I'm here for you. I'm here for you.

Weary father rest your head. There is peace for you.

Worn out mother rest your tears. There is hope for you. (Chorus)

Wounded sinner rest your soul. There is grace for you.

Share my body and my blood. There is life for you. (Chorus)

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* **Prayer of the Season**

Gracious God,

**In the beginning you created a world filled with beautiful connections,
and a wonderful unity,
among people, plants, animals, waters and sky...
all held together by your own love.**

**So much of that unity has been lost,
and so much brokenness has arisen since then.
But you are still ever-present with us,
and you are always at work mending the whole universe,
drawing all things together again in Jesus.**

**We thank you for your constant love
and we praise you for your faithfulness!**

**Make us faithful and joyful partners,
working side-by-side with you and each other,
in all our days and all our ways.
In Jesus' name, Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Lesson for the Day

1 John 4:7-12 MSG

My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love doesn't know the first thing about God, because God *is* love—so you can't know him if you don't love. This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God. My dear, dear friends, if God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other. No one has seen God, ever. But if we love one another, God dwells deeply within us, and his love becomes complete in us—perfect love!

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Meditation

“Connected”

Pastor Tim

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* **Prayers of Intercession**

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

* **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.

WE GO INTO THE WORLD

* **Blessing**

God, the giver of love,
✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.
Amen.

* **Sending Song**

"Send Us Out"

Hersch

We have been called by the Lord
We have been saved by the Word
Now let the Word be restored
Now let the Gospel be heard

Chorus:

Send us out to teach what God has done
Send us out to reach ev'ry single one
Send us out, send us out

We who were bound by our shame
Ruled by our fears within
Stand and declare by the name
Freedom from all of our sin (*Chorus*)

Bridge: (2X)

Teach what God has done, reach ev'ry single one (*Chorus*)

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* **Postlude**



Leaders in Today's Service

Presiding PastorThe Rev. Dr. John Snider
Preaching Pastor The Rev. Tim Thompson, Ph.D
Director of Worship.....Bryon Dockter
St. Stephen's Band Garrett Masters, Hannah Ruikka, Calvin Millett
..... Pastor John, Chris Becker
Communications and Media Coordinator Garrett Masters
Audio Visual Ministry Norm Goetzke
Altar GuildMary Jo Martinek, Lori Ritt
Prayer Chain Rachel Circle, Mary Circle, Abby Vavra, Janet Gibson
Outdoor Street SignJerry Thoreson

Senior Pastor John Snider | Associate Pastor of Discipleship Tim Thompson

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