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

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

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WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Reflection on "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

Ben D./Mary L.

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

### "Amazing Grace"

ELW #779 vs. 1, 2, 3

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

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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, rich in mercy,  
**by the humiliation of your Son  
you lifted up this fallen world  
and rescued us from the hopelessness of death.**  
Lead us into your light,  
that all our deeds may reflect your love,  
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

Numbers 21:4-9

4 From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. 5 The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." 6 Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. 7 The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. 8 And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." 9 So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

**Second Reading****Ephesians 2:1-10**

1 You were dead through the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. 3 All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us 5 even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ —by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— 9 not the result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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 John,  
**Glory to you, O Lord**

**\* Gospel****John 3:14-21**

14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. 19 And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. 20 For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. 21 But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

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

**Sermon****Pastor Tim****WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD****Hymn****“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”****ELW #759 vs. 1, 2**

**My faith looks up to thee,  
 thou Lamb of Calvary,  
 Savior divine!  
 Now hear me while I pray,  
 take all my guilt away,  
 oh, let me from this day  
 be wholly thine!**

**May thy rich grace impart  
 strength to my fainting heart,  
 my zeal inspire;  
 as thou hast died for me,  
 oh, may my love to thee  
 pure, warm, and changeless be,  
 a living fire!**

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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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**\* Offertory Prayer**

Faithful God,  
you walk beside us in desert places,  
and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven.  
Accompany us in this meal,  
that we may pass over from death to life  
with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

**\* 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.**

\* Farewell and God Speed to Ali Schloesser-Becht

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**

**“Lead Me, Guide Me”**

**ELW #768 vs. 1, 2**

*Refrain*

**Lead me, guide me, along the way; for if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

**I am weak and I need thy strength and pow’r  
to help me over my weakest hour.  
Help me through the darkness thy face to see.  
Lead me, O lord, lead me. *Refrain***

**Help me tread in the paths of righteousness  
be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.  
I am putting all my trust in thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain***

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\* **Dismissal**

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

\* **Postlude**

**Improvisation on “Laudate Dominum”**

**Ben D./Mary L.**



## Jesus said ...

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

Please include the following people in your prayers this week: **Dorrie, Delores, Laura, Pat, Mike.**

**Each week** different families will be included in special prayers. Please hold in your prayers: **John, Robert III, Nikki, and Robert IV, Steve, Carol and Lydia, Richard, Jody, Amanda and Kimberly, John and Gloria.**

**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 **Minnesota Council of Churches**, our partner in living out unity in faith in the community through connecting, engaging and renewing partnerships.

**We** also offer prayers for our **brothers and sisters in Christ in the villages of Iwonde and Ihimbo, Tanzania** especially with the challenges presented by the COVID virus as it affects their daily lives.

**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.)

*St. Stephen's invites you to add your prayer requests to our daily prayers. We hope that this list is placed inside everyone's Bible or devotional material. All prayer requests will be listed for three weeks. Please contact the church office if additional time is needed.*

### We offer our deepest and most sincere condolences to:

**Harlan and Joyce Rosvold and Family**  
on the recent death of their daughter Bonnie Risius.  
to the **Family and friends of Kay Westby** who passed away Monday, March 8th.  
A private family celebration of Kay's life was held here  
at St Stephen's on Friday, March 12.

**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. Tim Thompson, Ph.D	Lay Liturgist .....	Debbie PirkI
Christian Music Leader.....	Ben D.	Guest Musician .....	Mary E. Larew
Lectors.....	Brett and Janice Culver	Altar Guild.....	Lori Ritt
AV ...	Norm Goetzke, Dean Hostager, Jan Perkins	Street Sign.....	Jerry Thoreson
Prayer Chain .....	Rachel	Circle, Mary Circle, Kathy Ericson, Abby Vavra	



ST STEPHEN'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Senior Pastor John Snider | Associate Pastor of Discipleship Tim Thompson**  
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