



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

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



WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP

Prelude

“Giga from Partita No. 3 E Major”

J. S. Bach

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

“Lift High the Cross”

ELW #660 vs. 1, 3

Refrain

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain***

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain***

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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

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,
**with steadfast love you draw us to yourself,
and in mercy you receive our prayers.
Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit,
that through life and death we may live in 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

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Second Reading**Hebrews 5:5-10**

5 So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; 6 as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." 7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. 8 Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; 9 and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, 10 having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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 12:20-33**

20 Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. 21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." 22 Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. 23 Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. 27 "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." 29 The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." 30 Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. 31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." 33 He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

Sermon**Pastor John****WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD****Hymn****"My Song Is Love Unknown"****ELW #343 vs. 1, 4**

**My song is love unknown,
my Savior's love to me,
love to the loveless shown
that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?**

**We cry out; we will have
our dear Lord made away,
a murderer to save,
the prince of life to slay.
Yet cheerful he to suff'ring goes
that he his foes from thence might free.**

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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

***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

“Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”

ELW #772 vs. 1, 4

**Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways
to keep his statutes still!**

**Oh, that my God would grant me grace
to know and do his will!**

**Make me to walk in your commands,
'tis a delightful road;
nor let my head or heart or hands
offend against my God.**

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* **Dismissal**

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

* **Postlude**

“Preludio from Partita No. 3 E Major”

J. S. Bach



Jesus said ...

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

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

Each week different families will be included in special prayers. Please hold in your prayers: **John and Bonnie, Robert and Jane, Brenda and John, Loren and Donna, Jon, Lisa, Greta and Maya.**

Each week different missions that St. Stephen's support through our Sunday offerings this week we offer prayers for **MN FoodShare and Neighbor's Inc.** working in the community and beyond to help the needy and feed the hungry.

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.

Our condolences to Georgene Beales and Family on Bob's death Wednesday, March 10. Bob passed away peacefully at the St. Anthony Park Home in St. Paul. A celebration of Bob's life will be held hopefully sometime this summer when COVID restrictions are relaxed.

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 Jenny Van Pelt
Christian Music Leader Ben D.
Special Guest Musician Mary E. Larew
Lectors Matt Kirkwood, John Gieser
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



ST STEPHEN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Senior Pastor John Snider | Associate Pastor of Discipleship Tim Thompson
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