

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fifth Wednesday in Lent
Worship Service

March 22, 2023 6:30 p.m.

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

CONNECTED

EXPLORING THE GIFT—AND CHALLENGE—
OF BEING CONNECTED TO GOD, EACH OTHER,
AND THE WORLD

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**

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 Cantic**

“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****Matthew 19:13-15**

Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

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

Meditation**“Connected to the World”****Pastor John**

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

"For All"

Olson/Baer

Chorus
Your love, your love has no borders.
Your love, your love has no walls.
Your love, your love has no limits.
You love the world. Your love is here for all.

For all who are wand'ring, for all who are weak,
for all who seek shelter, for all who seek peace. *(Chorus)*

For all who are struggling, for all who have dreams,
for all who are captive, for all who are free. *(Chorus)*

For all who have plenty, for all who have need,
for all who are doubting, for all who believe. *(Chorus)*

For all who are suff'ring, for all who seek change,
for all who are sinners, for all who are saints. *(Chorus)*

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* Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve in love.
Thanks be to God.

* Postlude



Leaders in Today's Service

PastorThe Rev. Dr. John Snider
Lay Liturgist..... Debbie Pirkl
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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