



ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
WORSHIP SERVICE WITH COMMUNION
Sunday, March 26, 2023 - 9:30 a.m.

WELCOME to Worship at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church ...

In this Season of Lent we remember and observe the events that lead up to the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ. Moreover, in these forty days we are called to pray, fast and practice almsgiving [outward signs of our Christian love for others]. Through our Lenten practices, and particularly this Lenten Season, we are considering *Ubuntu*, or our connections ... to God, to each other, and to the world in this community of St Stephen's.

In Lenten worship, we sing music and pray our liturgy that assists us in this season of reflection and contemplation. How do we connect, or how are we connected? From the sign of the cross in ashes on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday; to the confession and absolution we make and receive at the start of Sunday worship; to the prayers we pray and the songs we sing together in assembly worship; as we pass the peace to each other, both present and online in our liturgy; to the Bread and the Wine we receive weekly in the Holy Meal. Our connections are around us everywhere, we sometimes tend to forget them or take them for granted. In our Lenten Journey through Holy Week to Easter, may we contemplate our connections, and how we establish new connections. Or, how we may strengthen existing ones, and repair those broken.

My God bless our worship in this season of Lent.
Bryon Dockter, Director of Worship



Today's Service Notes

**This service is being video recorded, live-streamed
and archived on our Facebook page.**

**It will also be available on Townsquare Comcast TV Channel 15
Please check their schedule for viewing times
<https://www.townsquare.tv/tv-schedules/ch15>**

* in bulletin indicates when Congregation should stand.
Bold text indicates Congregation Responses.

St. Stephen's Safety Committee encourages all who are eligible to receive their COVID boosters and flu shots. This is our best chance to create a safe environment for all at St. Stephen's and in the community. In addition, the current policy of St. Stephen's is **masks are optional for everyone, clergy and singers included.** However if you feel more comfortable wearing a mask, please know we welcome you to do so.

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

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism. [Reprinted with permission: Sunday and Seasons © 2022 Augsburg Fortress]



WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

Singing Bowl

Silence is kept for reflection.

*** Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess to you our faults and failings.
Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;
we spoil rather than steward your creation;
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;
we choose fear over compassion.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
as we seek to follow in your way of life.
Amen.

Hear the good news:
God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.
This promise is for you!
God embraces you with divine mercy,
† forgives you in Christ's name,
and revives you in the Spirit's power.
Amen.

* **Gathering Hymn**

“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

ELW #886 vs. 1, 2, 5, 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.**

**Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!**

**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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Music: Carl G. Gläser, 1784-1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872
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WE GIVE OUR PRAISE

* **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.

* **Lenten Canticle**

“Have Mercy On This Fallen World”

Peterson/Olson

Chorus:

**Have mercy on this fallen world
Have mercy on us
Have mercy on this fallen world
Mercy, Lord have mercy on us**

**For all of the days that have fallen apart, have mercy
For every life, for every heart, have mercy
For all those who hunger and struggle each day, have mercy
For all of the times that we turn away (Chorus)**

**For all who have fears that come with the night, have mercy
For all those who need to be held in the light, have mercy
For all of creation through famine or feast, have mercy
For all of the world to live in your peace (Chorus)
Lord have mercy on us**

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* **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God,
your Son came into the world
to free us all from sin and death.
Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit,
that we may be raised to new life in Christ
and serve you in righteousness all our days,
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

Romans 8:6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,

Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you,

so that you may be revered.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord

more than those who watch for the morning,

more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

and with him is great power to redeem.

It is he who will redeem Israel

from all its iniquities.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

* Gospel Verse

"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

Lemmel

Turn your eyes upon Jesus

Look full in His wonderful face.

And the things of earth will grow strangely dim

In the light of His glory and grace *(sung twice)*

CCLI Song # 15960

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The Holy Gospel according to St. John,
Glory to you, O Lord

* Gospel

John 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Sermon

Pastor Tim

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn

"Come to Me, O Weary Traveler"

ACS #1017

"Come to me, O weary trav'ler;
come to me with your distress;
come to me, you heavy-burdened;
come to me and find your rest."

"Do not fear, my yoke is easy;
do not fear, my burden's light;
do not fear the path before you;
do not run from me in fright."

"Take my yoke and leave your troubles;
take my yoke and come with me.
Take my yoke, I am beside you;
take and learn humility."

"Rest in me, O weary trav'ler;
rest in me and do not fear.
Rest in me, my heart is gentle;
rest and cast away your care."

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

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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

“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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Offertory Prayer

God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.
Amen.

*** Great Thanksgiving [sung]**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

ELW Page 144

*** 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

Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available from the servers.

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

Agnus Dei

“Lamb of God”

Thomsen

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.
grant us your peace.**

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CCLI #1664009 #20540802 Song #1940374

What wondrous love is this,
 O my soul, O my soul!
 What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
 What wondrous love is this
 that caused the Lord of bliss
 to bear the dreadful curse
 for my soul, for my soul,
 to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

When I was sinking down,
 sinking down, sinking down,
 when I was sinking down, sinking down,
 when I was sinking down
 beneath God's righteous frown,
 Christ laid aside his crown
 for my soul, for my soul,
 Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb
 I will sing, I will sing;
 to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
 to God and to the Lamb,
 who is the great I AM,
 while millions join the theme,
 I will sing, I will sing,
 while millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free,
 I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
 and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
 and when from death I'm free,
 I'll sing God's love for me,
 and through eternity
 I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
 and through eternity I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
 Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914-1997, alt.
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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
 today, tomorrow and forever. **Amen.**

* Prayer after Communion

Embodied God,
 at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
 With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
 empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
 and touch the world with your love.
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 Hymn**

“You Are the Way”

ELW #758

**You are the way; to you alone
from sin and death we flee;
all those who search for God, you find
and by your grace set free.**

**You are the truth; your word alone
true wisdom can impart;
you only can inform the mind
and purify the heart.**

**You are the life; the rending tomb
proclaims your conqu'ring arm;
and those who put their trust in you
not death nor hell shall harm.**

**You are the way, the truth, the life;
grant us that way to know,
that truth to keep, that life to win,
whose joys eternal flow.**

Text: George W. Doane, 1799-1859, alt.
Music: Psalter, Edinburgh, 1615
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* **Dismissal**

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

* **Postlude**



Jesus said ...

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



Please include the following people in your prayers this week:

**Rich Rabanus, Joyce Johnson, Nancy Lynn,
Laura Walsh (Snider), Jean Johnson (Martinek), Don Waska (Gralish).**

Each week different families will be included in special prayers.

Please hold in your prayers:

**Pamela and Daniel Sweeney, Jacqueline Barber, Brenda and John Gieser,
Beverly Kirk, Kathy Packer.**

Each week different missions that St. Stephen's support through our Sunday offerings. This week we offer prayers for

Meals on Wheels

Fueled by a commitment to address senior hunger and isolation, they basic support that seniors need to maintain their health and independence in our community and virtually every other community in America.

We also offer prayers for our **brothers and sisters in Christ in the villages of Iwonde and Ihimbo, Tanzania.**

We pray also for those away from home serving in the military:

**Tim Anderson, Ben Appenzeller, Nick Appenzeller, Jeremy Eittreim,
Matthew Eittreim, Zachary Ericson, Sam Gieser, Troy Hoban, Tricia Howe,
Adam Kenny, Nick Lane, Peter D. J. McKenzie, Donald McKenzie,
Christopher Meyers, Gene Morton, Sam Paton, Andrew Reed.**

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 prayers and condolences during this time of grief to
The Family and friends of Dwayne Oberg. Dwayne passed away Wednesday,
March 22. A celebration of his life will be held here at St. Stephen's
on **Friday, March 31th at 11:30 a.m.**
with visitation prior to the service beginning at 10:00 a.m.

**In the midst of sorrow may all find comfort in
God's promise of life everlasting.**

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. - John 14:27

Leaders in Today's Service

Pastor.....	The Rev. Tim Thompson, Ph.D
Lay Liturgist	Linda Becker
Director of Worship	Bryon Dockter
Song Leaders.....	Worship Chorus
Communications and Media Coordinator	Garrett Masters
Audio Visual Ministry	Norm Goetzke, Hannah Ruikka
Prayer Chain	Rachel Circle, Mary Circle, Abby Vavra, Janet Gibson
Altar Guild	Lori Ritt, Mary Jo Martinek
Street Sign	Jerry Thoreson



ST STEPHEN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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