



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday, March 7, 2021 ■ 9:30 a.m.

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



WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Reflection on "There in God's Garden"

Bryon Dockter

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

"There In God's Garden"

ELW #342 vs. 1, 2

There in God's garden
stands the Tree of Wisdom,
whose leaves hold forth
the healing of the nations:
Tree of all knowledge,
Tree of all compassion,
Tree of all beauty.

Its name is Jesus,
name that says, "Our Savior!"
There on its branches
see the scars of suff'ring;
see where the tendrils
of our human selfhood
feed on its lifeblood.

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tr. Erik Routley, 1917-1982
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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
Ben D.

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

Holy God,
through your Son
you have called us to live faithfully
and act courageously.
Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace,
and teach us the wisdom
that comes only 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

Exodus 20:1-17

1 Then God spoke all these words: 2 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; 3 you shall have no other gods before me. 4 You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, 6 but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. 7 You shall not make wrongful use of the

name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. 8 Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work. 10 But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. 11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. 12 Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. 13 You shall not murder. 14 You shall not commit adultery. 15 You shall not steal. 16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. 17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

18 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." 20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. 22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23 but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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 2:13-22

13 The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. 15 Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. 16 He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." 18 The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" 19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" 21 But he was speaking of the temple of his body. 22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The Gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Pastor John

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

ELW #324 vs. 1,4

**In the cross of Christ I glory,
tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.**

**Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.**

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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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* 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.

ELW Page 112

*** 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

“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

ELW #767 vs. 1, 2

**Lord, take my hand and lead me
upon life's way;
direct, protect, and feed me
from day to day.
Without your grace and favor
I go astray;
so take my hand, O Savior,
and lead the way.**

**Lord, when the tempest rages,
I need not fear;
for you, the Rock of Ages,
are always near.
Close by your side abiding,
I fear no foe,
for when your hand is guiding,
in peace I go.**

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825-1901; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
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*** Dismissal**

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

*** Postlude**

Celebration of “Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

Bryon Dockter



Jesus said ...

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

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

Each week different families will be included in special prayers. Please hold in your prayers:

Mark and Anne, Kelly, Michael, Amanda and Logan, Kristi and Lexi, David, Terri, Will and Myles, Ron.

Each week different missions that St. Stephen's supports through our Sunday offerings are included in our prayers. This week we offer prayers for **Neighbors Inc.** Neighbors is a non-profit social-service agency located in South St. Paul, providing emergency assistance and supportive assistance programs to low-income community members in the northern Dakota County communities of Inver Grove Heights, South St. Paul, West St. Paul, Mendota Heights, Mendota, Sunfish Lake and Lilydale.

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

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.

Leaders in Today's Service

Pastor.....	The Rev. Dr. John Snider
Lay Liturgist.....	Debbie Pirkel
Director of Worship.....	Bryon Dockter
Song Leader.....	Deborah Ellis
Christian Music Leader	Ben Dyleuth
Lectors	Lynda Bergeson, Jim Packer
Audio Visual Ministry.....	Norm Goetzke, Keith Gregory, Jan Perkins
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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