

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Third Wednesday in Lent

Worship Service

March 8, 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*)

Words and Music by Larry Olson & Karol Baer ©1992 Dakota Road Music.
All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.

ONE LICENSE #A-708293, R-196364 Song #127874; CCLI #1664009 #20540802 Song #1763486

* 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 Canticle

"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)

Words and Music by James Willers & Larry Olson
 ©2016 James Willers/Dakota Road Music.
 All rights reserved. Used by permission under
 ONE LICENSE #A-708293, R-196364 Song #26543

* 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

First Lesson for the Day

Acts 17: 24-28a

The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being';

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

Second Lesson for the Day

Matthew 22:36-40

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Meditation

"Connecting to God"

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**

"Send Us Out"

Hersch

**We have been called by the Lord
We have been saved by the Word
Now let the Word be restored
Now let the Gospel be heard**

Chorus:
**Send us out to teach what God has done
Send us out to reach ev'ry single one
Send us out, send us out**

**We who were bound by our shame
Ruled by our fears within
Stand and declare by the name
Freedom from all of our sin (Chorus)**

Bridge: (2X)
Teach what God has done, reach ev'ry single one (Chorus)

Words and Music by James Hersch ©1994 Dakota Road Music.
All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.

ONE LICENSE #A-708293, R-196364 Song #62625; CCLI #1664009 #20540802 Song #1790882

*** Dismissal**

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

*** Postlude**



Leaders in Today's Service

Presiding PastorThe Rev. Dr. John Snider
Preaching Pastor The Rev. Tim Thompson, Ph.D
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

1575 Charlton Street ■ West St. Paul, MN 55118



We at St Stephen's Lutheran Church recognize and respect intellectual property rights
and are committed to fulfilling our moral and legal obligations
with respect to our use of copyright-protected works.

Bulletin Acknowledgements

Liturgical texts, prayers, cover art and graphics: Sunday and Seasons
Reprinted with permission under AUGSBURG FORTRESS #SB158773

Music and Streaming Licenses: AUGSBURG FORTRESS #SB158773;
ONELICENSE.NET License #A-708293 #R-196364; CCLI License #1664009 #20540802; CCS License #14375.