



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Worship Service with Holy Communion
Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2021 ■ 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

Maundy Thursday—Stations of the Cross / Station Seven

Worship Service



Welcome to the Lenten journey to the cross ...

For this season of Lent at St Stephen's we are using the eight biblical Stations of the Cross as a framework for our worship, including Scripture readings, meditations, music and prayers. Beginning on Ash Wednesday and concluding on Good Friday, we will follow Jesus along the *Via Dolorosa*, the Way of Sorrow, as he journeys from Pilate's Hall to his death on the cross, meditating on one station each service.

We enter this journey with the penitent's prayer, "*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*" (Psalm 139:23-24)

We pray that you find peace and be blest by these reflections on God's grace and gift of love. Amen.

WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP

Music

Ben D.

Welcome

Hello and welcome to Lent at St Stephen's Lutheran Church in West St Paul, MN. Our 2021 Journey to the Cross focus' our meditation on eight Biblical Stations of the Cross. We have been reflecting on one station at each of our midweek Lenten meditations, including Ash Wednesday through Holy Week. Now we are focusing on Station 7: Jesus Cares for His Mother, leading up to Good Friday, tomorrow, Jesus Dies on the Cross. If you've missed previous meditations on the Stations of the Cross, you may view those on our Facebook page, sslcwsp.

Singing Bowl

Silence is kept for reflection.

* Confession and Forgiveness

Friends in Christ,
in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call
to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—
all that keeps us from loving God and each other.
This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church,
God never wearies of forgiving sin
and giving the peace of reconciliation.
Let us confess our sin
against God and our neighbor,
and enter the celebration of the great Three Days
reconciled with God and with one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us
even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.
By grace you have been saved.
In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
Almighty God strengthen you with power
through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
Amen.

* Hymn

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”

#345 vs. 1

Jesus, I will ponder now
on your holy passion;
let your Spirit now endow
me for meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith
may the image cherish
of your suff'ring, pain, and death,
that I may not perish.

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WE GIVE OUR PRAISE

* Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God the father,
and the Communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.
And also with you.

* Prayer of the Day

Holy God, source of all love,
on the night of his betrayal,
Jesus gave us a new commandment,
to love one another as he loves us.
Write this commandment in our hearts,
and give us the will to serve others
as he was the servant of all,
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

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

Gospel

John 13:1-17; 31b-35

1 Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. 2 The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, 4 got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" 7 Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." 8 Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." 9 Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" 10 Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." 11 For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." 12 After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? 13 You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. 14 So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. 16 Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. 17 If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. 31b Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. 32 If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 33 Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' 34 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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

Sermon

Pastor John

*** 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 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.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*** 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.

First Communion is Celebrated

*The following students are celebrating
their First Communion during this worship service:*

Charles Botnen, Calvin Harper, Liam Scibora

Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
Strengthens you and keeps you in his grace.

Amen.

*** Prayer after Communion**

Lord Jesus,
in a wonderful sacrament
you strengthen us with the saving power
of your suffering, death, and resurrection.
May this sacrament of your body and blood
so work in us that the fruits of your redemption
will show forth in the way we live,
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

WE CONTINUE OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

[A short time of silent prayer and meditation]

Let us continue our journey.

Stations of the Cross

Station 7: Jesus Cares for His Mother

Leader:

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother,
and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.
When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her,
he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple,
"Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. (John 19:25b-27)

Speaker:

Jesus, these women with your mother have been with you for much of your journey. I shouldn't be surprised that they are surrounding her with their love even in the midst of their own grief. Mary Magdalene, since the day you drove away her seven demons, has never faltered in her support. She has felt the full impact of your love. You made her whole. And here they stand suffering with you in your suffering.

Jesus, I wonder what Mary must be thinking, feeling as she stands and watches your life fade away hanging on that cross. Is she thinking back to the visit of the angel who announced your coming? Is

she remembering the words of old Simeon who took you as an eight day old baby in his arms and declared that you were God's salvation sent for all people, a light to the Gentiles and glory to Israel? Or is she reminded of that day in Jerusalem when you were twelve when she searched for you and could not find you? Finally there you were talking with the leaders of the temple who were listening intently. You asked her, "Did you not know I must be in my Father's house?" Is that when your mission became clear to Mary? Is she now wondering seeing you on that cross, "Can this be what his Father intended for him?"

And what brought this one disciple to be standing before your cross? The others have all run away in fear or disappointment. This disciple could be in real danger. Besides he is standing with the women. Men just don't associate with women who are not from their own family. What is he doing? Why is he here? Yet, you trust him so much that you tell him to take care of your mother for the rest of her life. I might visit her and bring her a meal once in a while. But to treat her like I would my own mother is a big commitment. You ask a great deal of him. Are you asking the same of me about other people's mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers? Am I willing to accept the others that God entrusts me to love?

Leader:

O Lord, make me whole so that I may love with the compassion with which you love. Give me the courage to stand beside those who are hurting and share their pain. You know everything about me, my weakness, my faults, and my sin. Redeem me and make me new. Through your strength and by your grace, make me a conduit of your love, not just to the lovable, but to any who need to be cared for and loved.

O Lord, hear our prayers.

Hymn

"This is Love"

Mike Young and Terry Butler

Verse 1

**Nail pierced hands a wounded side
This is love this is love
The holy heart was sacrificed
This is love this is love**

Chorus

**I bow down to the Holy One
I bow down to the Lamb
I bow down to the Worthy One
I bow down to the Lamb**

Verse 2

**The Son of God He died for us
This is love this is love
He walked the hill He bore the cross
This is love this is love**

Ending

**Nail pierced hands a wounded side
This is love this is love**

CCLI Song # 2477451
Mike Young | Terry Butler
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Leaders in Today's Service

Pastor	The Rev. Dr. John Snider
Lay Liturgist.....	Debbie Pirkl
Director of Worship.....	Bryon Dockter
Song Leader.....	Deborah Ellis, Philip Dahl
Christian Music Leader	Ben D.
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

1575 Charlton Street ■ West St. Paul, MN 55118

Office: (651) 457-6541 www.ststephenswsp.org



Bulletin Acknowledgements

Liturgical texts, prayers, cover art and graphics: Sunday and Seasons.
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