

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH
TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD SUNDAY



February 15, 2026

10 a.m.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

(850) 385-2728, Office

sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com, Email

<http://www.ststephenlutherantally.com>

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Rev. Tom Holdcraft, Pastor

Katharine Gossman, Music Director

Rita Ford, Office Manager

All Members, Ministers

Welcome, Everyone!

We are glad to have you with us this morning. If you need assistance in finding anything, one of our ushers will be glad to help you.

Restrooms are found in the fellowship hall and office building to the right as you exit the sanctuary. Proceed up the stairs and through the glass door. Unisex bathrooms are available through the kitchen in the office area.

“Let the Little Children Come” Matthew 19:14 - In accordance with St. Stephen’s mission “to be a welcoming community . . .” we encourage all ages to worship on Sundays. We also believe that children learn to welcome others by how they have been welcomed. If you are a parent of a young child, know that this community supports your efforts to engage your child in worship and understands that it can be a stressful process. Having children in worship is a joy that we treasure, so please know that we welcome you and your children as they learn to become active members in Christ’s body.

Please remember to turn off your cell phone during the liturgy.

All the hymns for the worship service are in the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship book and numbered by hymn, not page.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church (ELCA) is a Reconciling in Christ congregation that explicitly welcomes people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. St. Stephen is equally committed to anti-racism. We welcome people without regard to race, ethnicity, age, family status, economic status, or differing abilities.

All are invited to receive the sacrament. Lutherans believe that Jesus Christ is present in, with and under the consecrated bread and wine of Holy Communion. Those not wishing to commune are welcome to the altar to receive a blessing. To indicate this, please cross your arms over your chest. If you are not able to come forward, please inform the ushers and the meal will be brought to you.

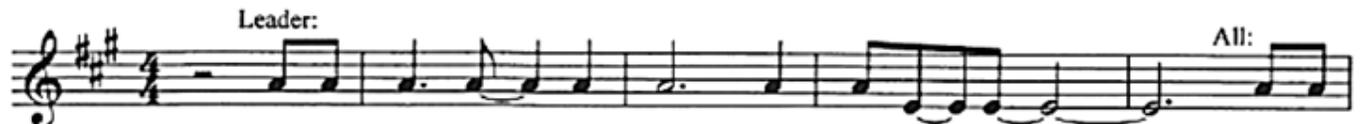
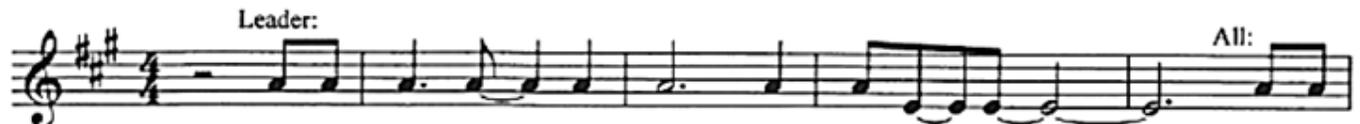
TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD SUNDAY

INTRODUCTION

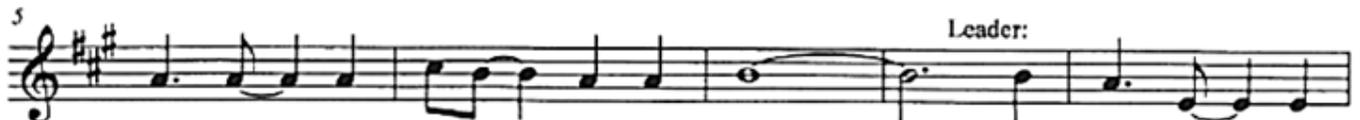
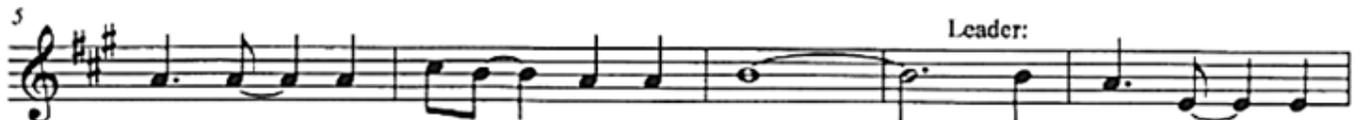
Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Leader:  All: 

May the peace of the Lord embrace us. May the

5  Leader: 

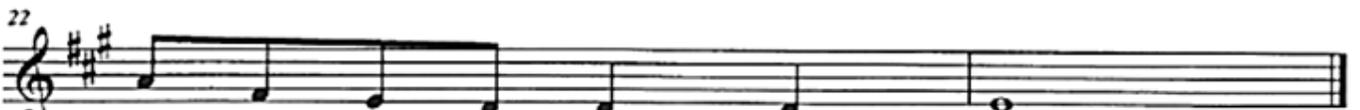
love of the Lord light our way. We come to you

10  All: 

lost and broken. Your brilliance illuminates our flaws.

16  Leader:  All: 

You know how our prayers ever fade. Yet always you

22 

open your arms to us.

The assembly stands.



+ GATHERING +

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

C **Amen.**

P Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence for reflection.

P Mighty God, lover of justice,

C **you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

P The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in ✠ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

C **Amen.**

We are for-giv - en._____ We're clean a - gain._____

5

Gone is the dark night of sin;_____ in comes the light.

9

We are re - born_____ through no power of our own._____ We are for-giv - en_____

12

and we are giv - en a new start.

17

We are for-give - en._____ We're clean a - gain._____ We are for-give - en,_____

20

and we are giv - en a new start. A - men._____ A - men. A - men._____

GATHERING HYMN ELW 834 *Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise* 

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt.
 Music: ST. DENJO, Welsh traditional, arr. John Roberts, 1807-1876

HYMN OF PRAISE



If God were an ea - gle, he'd
 If God were the wind, she'd run
 If God were a moun - tain, a
 God's more than a moun - tain, an



swoop through the trees. He'd flex all his fea - thers to
 rings 'round the clouds. She'd swirl 'round the world just ca -
 tow - er of stone, it would reach to the hea - vens, al -
 ea - gle, the wind. God stretch - es be - yond where our



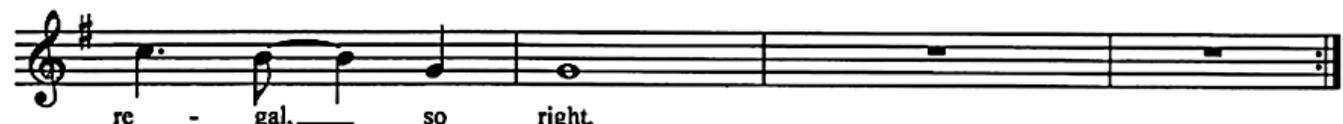
catch the least breeze. And peo - ple would shout,
 res - ing the crowds. And peo - ple would sigh,
 might - ty, a lone. And peo - ple would cry,
 hymns of praise end. Al - might - y and yet



"Oh, what beau - ty in flight!" If God were an ea - gle, so
 "Oh, what gen - tle - ness there!" If God were the wind, whis - pering
 "Oh, what strength we can feel!" If God were a moun - tain, a
 del - i - cate and light, God came in the form of a



re - gal, so right. If God were an ea - gle, so
 in eve - ry - where. If God were the wind, whis - pering
 pow - er so real. If God were a moun - tain, a
 ba - by one night, and that is the rea - son our



re - gal, so right.
 in eve - ry - where.
 pow - er so real.
 hearts burn so bright.

PRAYER OF THE DAY



P Let us pray.

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S TIME



+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Exodus 24:12-18

At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The “glory of the Lord” settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.

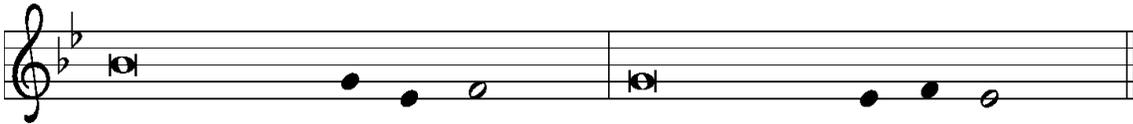
¹²The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. ¹⁴To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.” ¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. ¹⁸Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 2

We sing the psalm responsively.



Leader ¹ Why are the nations | in an uproar?

Why do the peoples mutter | empty threats?

C ² **Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes | plot together,
against the Lord and against the | Lord's anointed?**

L ³ "Let us break their | yoke," they say;

"let us cast off their | bonds from us."

C ⁴ **God whose throne is in heav- | en is laughing;
the Lord holds them | in derision.**

L ⁵ Then in wrath God | speaks to them,

and in rage fills | them with terror.

C ⁶ **"As for me, I have anoint- | ed my king
upon Zion, my | holy mountain."**

L ⁷ Let me announce the decree | of the Lord,

who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I be- | gotten you.

C ⁸ **Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for | your inheritance
and the ends of the earth for | your possession.**

L ⁹ You shall crush them with an | iron rod

and shatter them like a | piece of pottery."

C ¹⁰ **And now, you | kings, be wise;**

be warned, you rulers | of the earth.

L ¹¹ Submit to the | Lord with fear,

and with trembling | bow in worship;

C ¹² **lest the Lord be angry, and you perish in a sudden | blaze of wrath.**

Happy are all who take ref- | uge in God!

Spoken after the psalm is sung:

Amen.

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 1:16-21

At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.

¹⁶We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

R The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW 169



GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.

P The holy gospel according to Matthew, the seventeenth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” ⁸ And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. ⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON *We encounter the living word of God in the preaching.*

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY ACS 954 *You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd*



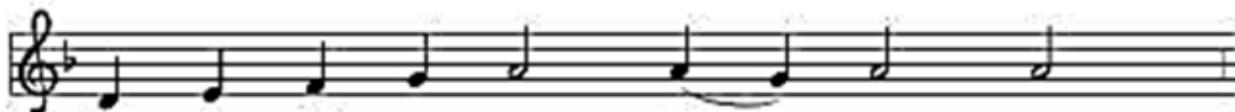
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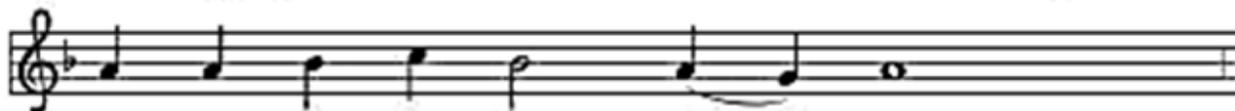
1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
 2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
 3 You, who walk each day be - side us,
 4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
 stripped of might up - on the cross,
 sit in pow - er at God's side.
 Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



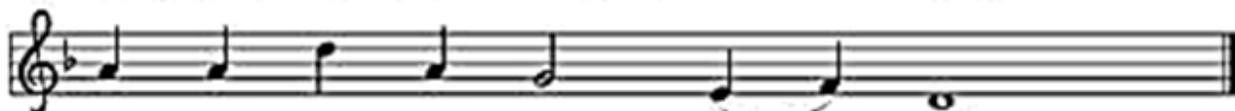
You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
 shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
 You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
 Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



of the way you took and gave.
 beg - gared by a sol - dier's loss,
 have a love that reach - es wide.
 wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



you, whom we both scorn and crave.
 you, who are both gift and cost.
 you, who are our pil - grim and guide.
 you, who are our death and life.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993
 Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.
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NICENE CREED

A Let us confess our faith.

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends: Merciful God,

Congregational response: receive our prayer.

PEACE

A The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

We greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

The assembly is seated.



+ MEAL +

Stephen Saint
@Stephen-Saint



venmo

Use this QR Code to connect to Venmo for a donation to St. Stephen. Code 5469.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including caring for those in need. We welcome you to place your gift in the offering plate near the baptismal font, mail it to the church, or by using the VENMO QR Code to the right.

ANTHEM

"O Splendor of God's Glory Bright" -Matsumara

O splendor of God's glory bright,
O splendor of God's glory bright.
From light eternal bringing light,
from light eternal bringing light,
bringing light, bringing light;

Thou light of life, light's living spring,
thou light of life, light's living spring,
True day, all days illumining,
true day, all days illumining,
illumining, illumining.

Come very sun of heaven's love,
come, very sun of heaven's love
In lasting radiance from above,
in lasting radiance from above,
from above, from above;

And pour the Holy Spirit's ray,
and pour the Holy Spirit's ray
On all we think or do today,
On all we think or do today,
on all we think or do today.
Amen, amen, amen.

OFFERING HYMN

The assembly stands to sing the offering hymn as the collection and the gifts are brought forward.

I reach in my pock - et___ to

6

pull out an of - fer-ing as if this gift were real-ly___ mine. It's not, Lord, I

10

know, but I cling to___ it so___ un - til my___ soul's voice can___ re -

15

mind me that what - ev - er I have,___ what - ev - er I have,

20

___ what - ev - er I have,___ Lord,___ is yours.

25

I vis - it with you___ for an hour on Sun - days___ as if it's a fav-or I

29

do. Lord, help me___ to see that to live faith - ful - ly is___ to



34
turn my days o - ver to you be cause what - ev - er I have,

39
_____ what - ev - er I have, _____ what - ev - er I have, Lord, is

43
yours. And now down the aisle comes a

48
gift like no oth - er. The bread and the wine make me free. The best gift of

52
yours is the son we a - dore. The on - ly gift I have is

57
me. Take me. What - ev - er I have, _____ what - ev - er I have, _____

62
_____ what - ev - er I have, Lord, is yours.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P Bless this bread, Holy God, baked by our hand but sanctified by your Word. On a night 2,000 years ago, shortly before he died to give us everlasting life, your loving Son took such bread and gave thanks to you. He broke it, gave it to his disciples and said, "Take this and eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Bless this wine, Holy God, poured by our hand but made precious by your Son's sacrifice. After supper that night, Jesus took a cup of wine, like this one, and gave you thanks. He gave it to his disciples, telling them, "Take this, all of you, and drink from it. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for all people so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

As the ushers direct you, come to the altar using the side aisles and return to your seat via the central aisle. The assisting ministers offer both wine (first) and grape juice (second) from pouring cups. Take a communion glass from one of the trays at the corners as you approach the rail. Leave the empty glass on the lower rail. Wheat free wafers are available, simply tell the pastor.

COMMUNION HYMN



Kneel me down now at your
 soul with your ho - li -
 sing of the peace I've
 light shin - ing in my



feet. Kneel me down now at your feet. Kneel me down, kneel me down,
 ness. Feed my soul with your ho - li - ness. Feed my soul, feed my soul,
 found. Hear me sing of the peace I've found. Hear me sing, hear me sing,
 heart. Keep this light shin - ing in my heart. Keep this light, keep this light,



at the al - tar kneel me down, for bread and wine, the
 with the Prom - ise feed my soul, with
 of your true love hear me sing, of
 shine right through me, keep this light, through



loving sign from you, God, and your Son. Feed my
 Hear me
 Keep this



Through bread and wine, the lov - ing sign from you, God, and your Son.



A - - - men.

COMMUNION HYMNS

ELW 838 *Beautiful Savior*

ELW 306 *Come, Beloved of the Maker*

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands.

+ SENDING +

BLESSING *We receive the blessings of the triune God.*

Leader:



May the peace of the Lord em -

7 All:



brace us. May the love of the Lord light our way.

12 Leader: All: Leader:



Show oth-ers that light! God's grace shines for ev-ery - one. May we

18 All:



care for each oth-er. May we share with our world.

SENDING HYMN ELW 671 *Shine, Jesus, Shine*

Refrain



Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;



blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.



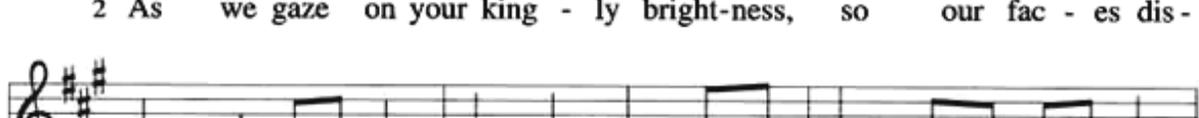
Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;



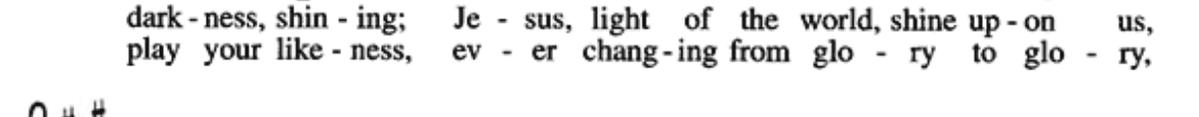
send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!



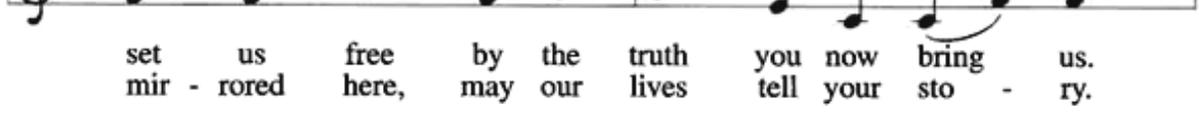
1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the



2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -



dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,
play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,



set us free by the truth you now bring us.
mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.



Refrain
Shine on me, shine on me.
Shine on me, shine on me.

DISMISSAL

A We believe out loud that God's mission for us is:

C to be an active community that welcomes all people to nurture and share their faith and gifts with everyone, according to God's call.

A Go in peace. Live in hope.

C Thanks be to God!

+ + +

Arise! The St. Stephen Service
Music by Tom Buchanan Lyrics by Ron Hartung

Sundays and Seasons v.20220805.1416
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**With today's altar flowers,
Susan and Mark Warren celebrate the February
birthdays of grandsons Jack and Luca**

SERVING EVERY SUNDAY

Pastor Tom, presiding and preaching

Katharine Gossman, piano

Karl Barton, flute

Denise Bookwalter, announcements

Choir: Jordi Banitt, Karl Barton, Melissa Barton, Mark Canning, Kirsten Ebbesen, Rita Ford, Rudy Hehn, Susan Hehn, Colleen Holdcraft, Pastor Tom Holdcraft, Olivia James, Lawana Lamb-Daniels, Sandy Ness, Simone Schuster, Dave Suhrweir, Cassandra White

Calendar for February 15 - February 22

Feb 15 Sun.	9:00 am	Bible study
	9:30 am	Choir rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship, Transfiguration of Our Lord
Feb 18 Wed.	Noon - 1 pm	Ashes in parking lot
	5:45 pm	Choir rehearsal
	6:00 pm	Ash Wednesday
	7:00 pm	Choir rehearsal
Feb 19 Thurs.	10:00 am	Bible study
Feb 22 Sun.	9:00 am	Bible study
	9:30 am	Choir rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship, First Sunday in Lent

SERVING TODAY AND ONE WEEK FROM TODAY

Serving	February 15	February 22
Assisting Minister	Kirsten Ebbesen	Jen Dritt
Cup Minister	Rita Ford	Susan Warren
Cantor	Susan Hehn	Cassandra White
Lector	Chris/Graham Reece	Karen Olson
Acolyte		
Tech Team	Loraine Sundberg Colin Hackley	Mark Greeley Ben Bush
Ushers	Bob Eshleman Patrick Kennell	Bob Eshleman Colin Hackley
Altar Guild	Barbara Sullivan Linda Eshleman	Rita Ford Susan Warren
Counters	Kirsten Ebbesen Marilyn Larson	Janet Barber Patricia Handschy

PRAYER REQUESTS

For the sick: Sallie Robinson (wife of Erik Robinson); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White); Laura McDuffie (sister of Rob Schiffer).

In treatment for cancer: Ruth Hartung; Scott Simmons (son of Sharon Simmons); Gordon Fleischer; Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; Linda Bobbitt, (friend of Cheryl Stuart) diagnosed with metastasized breast cancer.; David McManus (friend of Audrey Post); Shannon Miller (friend of Barb O'Donnell); Wayne Harrison (Jan Harrison's son); Pat Yeager (sister of Sue Canning).

Health and protection: For Frank "Ramy" Meyers following broken leg. For those encountering fear & uncertainty around government cuts and the future of Medicaid. For immigrants and refugees who are working and raising families in the United States to be safe and secure without unnecessary deportations.

For prisoners: All those on Death Row.

Other concerns: For Jeanette Sickel and family following the death of her cousin, Elaine Harris; Rick Bobbitt (friend of Cheryl Stuart), our shared sympathy on his death; For Sharon Simmons and family following the death of her sister, Sue Berent; Kevin Robinson (son of Erik Robinson), in need of encouragement; Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Allana Lochan-Tekaram (sister of Anita Sawh and Rita Ford), for hormone imbalance; Walt Steinworth (friend of Rob Schiffer), suffering from pericarditis and vestibular neuritis and learning to cope with dizziness and severe equilibrium problems; For Karen Olson.

Church concerns: St. Stephen's Church Council; the Florida-Bahamas Synod Council; all congregations searching for ways to stay connected and proclaim the Good News; Reconciling Works; Bishops Pedro Suarez and Yehiel Curry; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA Advocacy offices and ministry.

World concerns: For all people suffering and/or recovering from hurricanes; migrants and asylum seekers; civil rights for people around the world; a ceasefire in Ethiopia and in Ukraine; peace in Gaza and the Middle East.

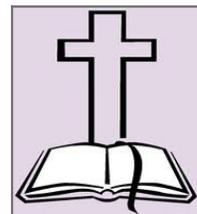
Next Sunday's Readings, First Sunday in Lent:

[Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7](#)

[Psalm 32](#)

[Romans 5:12-19](#)

[Matthew 4:1-11](#)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWER CHART FOR 2026: Do you have an anniversary, birthday or special memory you would like to honor? Celebrate the occasion by sponsoring the flowers for our service by signing up for the 2026 Flower Chart located on the sidewalk near the narthex. The cost is \$40, and you can place it in the offering plate.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER: Want to read a sermon you missed? Visit <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters>. Want to read the latest newsletters? Go to <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters>. Want to browse a collection of St. Stephen songs? They're at <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters>.

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