

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

## SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT



MARCH 16, 2025

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

Lori Zengel, Office Manager

All Members, Ministers

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**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. Please do not leave children under 12 unattended.

**“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. A nursery is available if parent or guardian desires. See usher for details.

**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.

**For safety** we no longer pass the offering plate. Financial gifts can be placed in the plate by the baptismal font.

**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.**

## INTRODUCTION

*Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."*

## PRELUDE

*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, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

P Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence for reflection.*

P Compassionate One,

C you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

P Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ✙ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

C Amen.



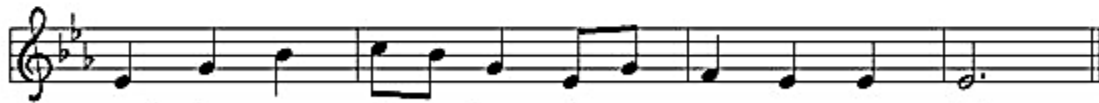
1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

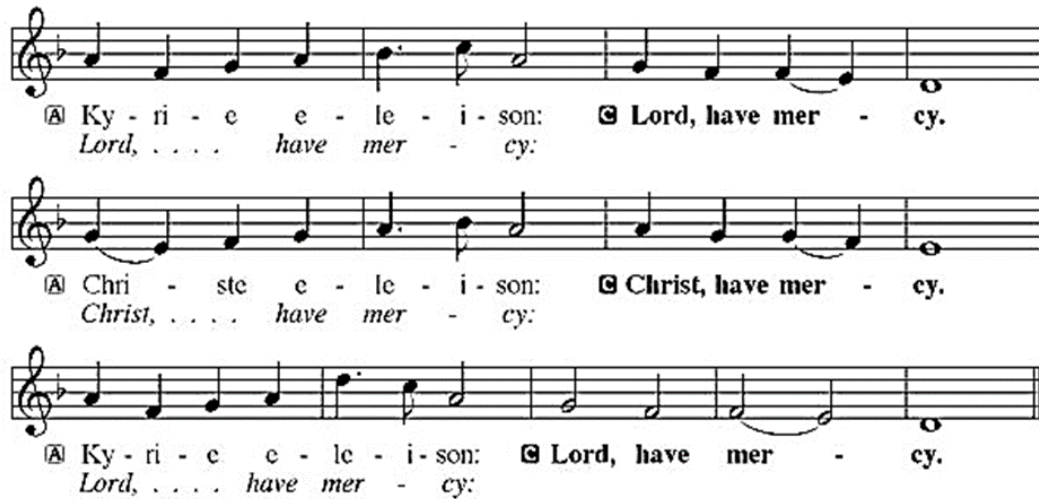
Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931  
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

## 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.

## KYRIE



Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:

Ⓐ Chri - ste e - le - i - son:    ☩ Christ, have mer - cy.  
Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:

Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:

## PRAYER OF THE DAY



**P** Let us pray.

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, 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: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

*God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.*

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup> But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup> And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup> Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." <sup>8</sup> But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" <sup>9</sup> He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup> He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

**C**      **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 27**    *We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader <sup>1</sup>The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then <sup>1</sup> shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I <sup>1</sup> be afraid?

**C** <sup>2</sup>When evildoers close in against me to de- <sup>1</sup> vour my flesh,  
they, my foes and my enemies, will stum- <sup>1</sup> ble and fall.

L <sup>3</sup>Though an army encamp against me, my heart <sup>1</sup> will not fear.  
Though war rise up against me, my trust will <sup>1</sup> not be shaken.

**C** <sup>4</sup>One thing I ask of the Lord; one <sup>1</sup> thing I seek;  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to  
gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek God <sup>1</sup> in the temple.

L <sup>5</sup>For in the day of trouble God will <sup>1</sup> give me shelter,  
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- <sup>1</sup> on a  
rock.

**C** <sup>6</sup>Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies <sup>1</sup> who surround me.  
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing;  
I will sing and make music <sup>1</sup> to the Lord.

L <sup>7</sup>Hear my voice, O Lord, <sup>1</sup> when I call;  
have mercy on me and <sup>1</sup> answer me.

**C** <sup>8</sup>My heart speaks your message— <sup>1</sup> “Seek my face.”  
Your face, O Lord, <sup>1</sup> I will seek.

L <sup>9</sup>Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- <sup>1</sup> vant in anger.  
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God  
of <sup>1</sup> my salvation.

**C** <sup>10</sup>Though my father and my moth- <sup>1</sup> er forsake me,  
the Lord will <sup>1</sup> take me in.

L       <sup>11</sup> Teach me your <sup>1</sup> way, O Lord;  
          lead me on a level path, because of <sup>1</sup> my oppressors.

C       <sup>12</sup> **Subject me not to the will <sup>1</sup> of my foes,**  
          **for they rise up against me, false witnesses <sup>1</sup> breathing violence.**

L       <sup>13</sup> This I believe—that I will see the goodness <sup>1</sup> of the Lord  
          in the land <sup>1</sup> of the living!

C       <sup>14</sup> **Wait for the Lord <sup>1</sup> and be strong.**  
          **Take heart and wait <sup>1</sup> for the Lord!**

*Spoken after the psalm is sung:*

**Amen.**

## **SECOND READING:   Philippians 3:17—4:1**

*Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.*

<sup>17</sup> Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>4:1</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

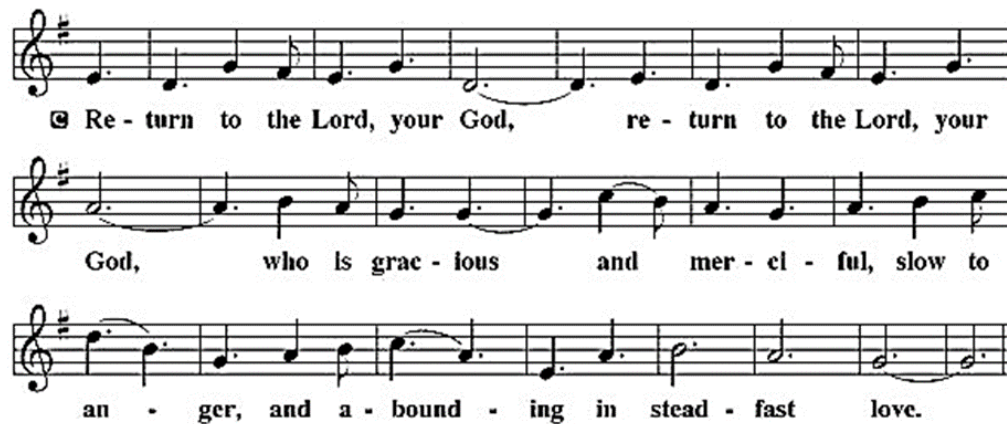
R       The Word of the Lord.

C       **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35

*Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.*

P The holy gospel according to Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

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

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup> He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.’ <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’” <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

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     613     *Thy Holy Wings*

1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me,  
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast  
3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.

and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.  
where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.  
Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.

Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,  
Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,  
Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,

and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.  
for I am but a new - horn and need thy ten - der care.  
and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite  
Music: BRJED DENA VINGAR, Swedish folk tune; arr. hymnal version  
Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, Schola Publishing Co., lic. agent, [www.scholapub.com](http://www.scholapub.com).  
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

## INSTALLATION OF LEADERS IN THE CONGREGATION

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

- P The following people have been elected to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these siblings will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

*Susan Hehn, Worship & Music; Emily Stover, Education & Discipleship*

*The presiding minister addresses those being installed.*

- P *A reading from First Corinthians:*

There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

*The presiding minister continues.*

- P You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation. You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

- P You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

*The presiding minister addresses those being installed.*

- P On behalf of your siblings in Christ, I ask you:

Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

*Response:* I will, and I ask God to help me.

*The assembly stands. Those being installed face the assembly. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

**P** People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual Ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

**C** **We will, and we ask God to help us.**

*Those being installed face the presiding minister, who addresses them.*

**P** I now declare you installed as Council members of this congregation. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

**C** **Amen.**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**A** Let us confess our faith.

**C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Each petition ends: God, in your mercy,*

***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 +

## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

**ANTHEM** "Guide My Feet" - trad. African American tune

1,6 Guide my feet while I run this race, yes, my Lord!

Guide my feet while I run this race, yes, my Lord!

Guide my feet while I run this race,

for I don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

2 Hold my hand...


3 Stand by me...

4 I'm your child...

5 Search my heart...

## OFFERING HYMN

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



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were  
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we  
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The presiding minister continues to give thanks.*

P      In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread,  
and gave thanks; broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples,  
saying: Take and eat;  
this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

C      **Amen.**

## **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      All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

*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 and grape juice from pouring cups; take a communion glass from the tray as you approach the rail. Leave the empty glass on the lower level of the rail. Wheat-free wafers are available- — simply tell the pastor you prefer them.*

## COMMUNION HYMNS

468     *Around You, O Lord Jesus*

597     *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

*The assembly stands.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A     Let us pray.

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C     Amen.

+ SENDING +

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

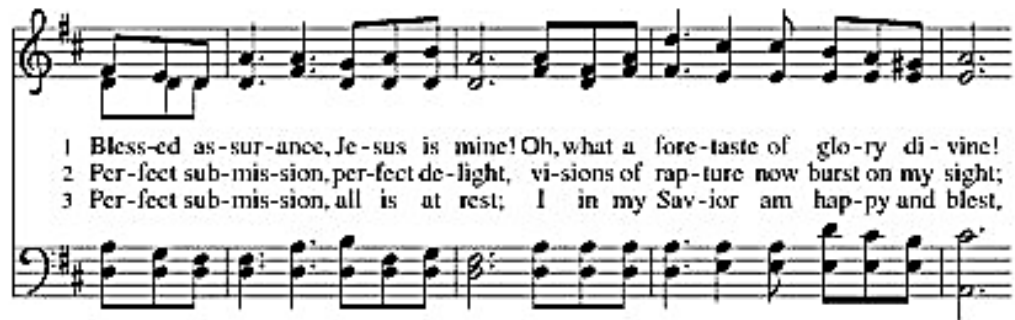
P     God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✝ bless you now and forever.

C     Amen.

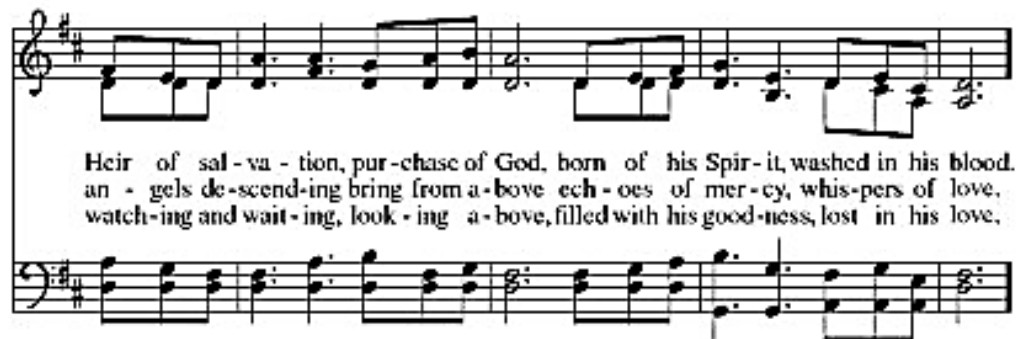
*The assembly is seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The assembly stands.*

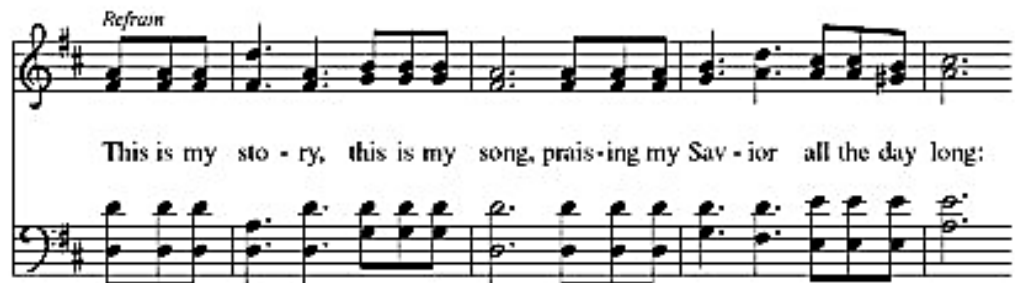


1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!  
 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;  
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal - va - tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood,  
 an - gels de-scend-ing bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love,  
 watch-ing and wait-ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love,

*Refrain*



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long;



this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

## 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. Care for others as God cares for you.

**C Thanks be to God!**

+ + +

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### Calendar for March 16 - 23

March	16	Sun.	9 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10 am	Worship, Second in Lent
			11:30 am	Council meeting
	19	Wed.	7 pm	Choir practice
March	23	Sun.	9 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10 am	Worship, Third in Lent
			11:30 am	New member reception in Hingst Hall

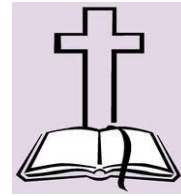
**Next Sunday's Readings, Third Sunday in Lent:**

[Isaiah 55:1-9](#)

[Psalms 63:1-8](#)

[1 Corinthians 10:1-13](#)

[Luke 13:1-9](#)



**SERVING EVERY SUNDAY**

Pastor Tom, presiding and preaching

Katharine Gossman, piano

Karl Barton, flute

Denise Bookwalter, announcements

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

**SERVING TODAY AND ONE WEEK FROM TODAY**

<b>Serving</b>	<b>March 16</b>	<b>March 23</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Audrey Post	Jennifer Dritt
<b>Cup Minister</b>	Colleen Holdcraft	Susan Warren
<b>Cantor</b>	Rudy Hehn	
<b>Lector</b>	Stephanie Leitch	Karen Olson
<b>Acolyte</b>	Ceilia Greeley or Graham Reece or Bastian Stover	
<b>Tech Team</b>	Colleen Holdcraft Jonas Holdcraft	Colleen Holdcraft Jonas Holdcraft
<b>Ushers</b>	Jan Harrison Patrick Kennell	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Beth Alexander Billie Reardon	Rita Ford Anita Sawh
<b>Counters</b>	Margaret Bowers Patricia Handschy	Billie Reardon Lorraine Sundberg

## PRAYER REQUESTS

***New concerns:*** Margarete Deckert (mother of Caroline Collins), ongoing prayers for strength as she is recovering from illness; Donna Dickson Miller (friend of Audrey Post), facing health challenges; Gladys Kane for continued healing.

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

***In treatment for cancer:*** Ann Hingst; Ruth Hartung; Scott Simmons (son of Sharon Simmons). Gordon Fleischer; Stephanie Barber; Jim Saxman (uncle of Rob Schiffer); Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Craig Timm (friend of Cheryl & Steve); Gil Johnson (friend of Judi Duffy); Amanda George (daughter-in-law of Rob Schiffer); David McManus (friend of Audrey Post); Shannon Miller (friend of Barb ODonnell); Becky Graves (friend of Ridy Hofer); Timothy Stewart (son of Pepper Stewart).

***Health and protection:*** For all affected by the coronavirus – especially those experiencing mental-health difficulties due to isolation, those struggling to recover from the disease, those on the front lines fighting, researching and treating the disease (doctors, nurses, medical personnel, EMTs), the millions of unemployed people, etc.; for the unaccompanied children entering the U.S., including those “unaccounted for.”

***For prisoners:*** All those on Death Row.

***Other concerns:*** For Karen Olson; Kevin Robinson (son of Erik Robinson), in need of encouragement; Isaac (son of Terri Schmitt), for physical and emotional healing; Steve Michael (cousin of Rob Schiffer), in rehab after a serious accident.

***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; Grace Lutheran Church; Bishop Pedro Suarez; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA Advocacy offices and ministry; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pensacola.

***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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FLOWER CHART FOR 2025:** 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 2025 Flower Chart located in 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\*](https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters). Want to read the latest newsletters? Go to [\*https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters\*](https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters). Want to browse a collection of St. Stephen songs? They're at [\*https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters\*](https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters).