

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



FEBRUARY 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

---

**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

*Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the “blessed are” and the “woe to” are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.*

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

*The assembly stands.*

**+ HOLY BAPTISM +**

**OF**

**ZYPHREN AURELIUS HNATIUK-LARSON**

*The candidate for baptism, sponsors and parents gather with the ministers around the baptismal font. The congregation remains seated. The presiding minister addresses the assembly:*

P      God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

*The candidate is presented.*

**Parents :**      **We present Zyphren for baptism.**

P      Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Zyphren baptized into Christ?

**Parents:**      **We do.**

P      As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with him among God's faithful people,  
bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,  
teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,  
place in his hands the holy scriptures,  
and nurture him in faith and prayer,  
so that your child may learn to trust God,  
proclaim Christ through word and deed,  
care for others and the world God made,  
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

**Parents:        We do.**

P        Do you promise to nurture Zyphren in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

**Response:    We do.**

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly:*

P        People of God, do you promise to support Zyphren and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

**C        We do.**

*The assembly stands.*

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

*The presiding minister addresses the candidate for baptism as well as the parents and sponsors . The assembly may join in the responses.*

P        I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**Response: I renounce them.**

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**Response: I renounce them.**

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**Response: I renounce them.**

P Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**Response: 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.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**Response: 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.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **BAPTISM**

P I baptize you, Zyphren, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

*The presiding minister baptizes the child in the name of the Triune God. The congregation responds:*

**C Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation, the spirit of mercy.**

*The presiding minister continues:*

P Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your son a new birth, cleanse him from sin, and raise him to eternal life.

*Laying of both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays.*

P      Sustain Zyphren with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**C      Amen.**

*The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized, saying:*

P      Zyphren, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**C      Amen.**

## **WELCOME**

*A candle is lighted from the paschal candle and given to the family as a representative of the congregation says:*

P      Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

*The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly.*

P      Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**C      We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:  
join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and  
redeeming word to all the world. Amen.**



1 Wash, O God, our sons and daugh-ters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.  
 2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.  
 3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.  
 Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of bless-ing, liv-ing bread.  
 To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light.  
 God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,  
 We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.



Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light,  
 one with Christ in liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.  
 By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

Text © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. The Copyright Company, Nashville, TN.

All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used by permission.

## 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.

# HYMN OF PRAISE



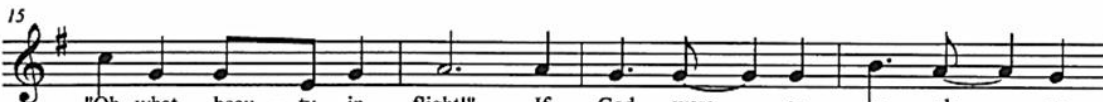
If God were an ea - gle, he'd  
If God were the wind, she'd run  
If God were a moun - tain, a  
God's more than a moun - tain, an



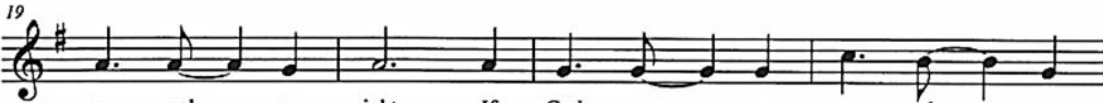
swoop through the trees. He'd flex all his fea - thers to  
rings 'round the clouds. She'd swirl 'round the world just ca -  
tow - er of stone, it would reach to the hea - vens, al -  
ea - gle, the wind. God stretch - es be - yond where our



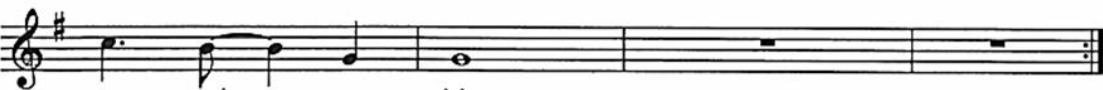
catch the least breeze. And peo - ple would shout,  
ress - ing the crowds. And peo - ple would sigh,  
might - ty, a lone. And peo - ple would cry,  
hymns of praise end. Al - might - y and yet



"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.

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

## CHILDREN'S TIME



### FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17:5-10

*These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.*

<sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. <sup>6</sup>They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

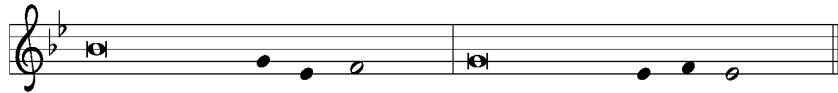
<sup>7</sup>Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. <sup>8</sup>They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

<sup>9</sup>The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? <sup>10</sup>I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

**C**      **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:**      **Psalm 1**      *We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader <sup>1</sup> Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel <sup>|</sup> of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats <sup>|</sup> of the scornful!

**C**      <sup>2</sup> Their delight is in the law <sup>|</sup> of the Lord,  
and they meditate on God's teaching <sup>|</sup> day and night.

L      <sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with  
leaves that <sup>|</sup> do not wither;  
everything they <sup>|</sup> do shall prosper.

**C**      <sup>4</sup> It is not so <sup>|</sup> with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind <sup>|</sup> blows away.

L      <sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when <sup>|</sup> judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council <sup>|</sup> of the righteous.

**C**      <sup>6</sup> For the Lord knows the way <sup>|</sup> of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall <sup>|</sup> be destroyed.

*Spoken after the psalm is sung:*

**Amen.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20**

*For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.*

<sup>12</sup>Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup>If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; <sup>14</sup>and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. <sup>15</sup>We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. <sup>17</sup>If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup>Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup>If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

R       The Word of the Lord.

C       **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

**GOSPEL:     Luke 6:17-26**

*After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.*

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

C       **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>17</sup>[Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>18</sup>They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup>And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

<sup>20</sup>Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. <sup>21</sup>“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. <sup>22</sup>“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup>Rejoice

in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. <sup>24</sup>“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. <sup>25</sup>“Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. “Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. <sup>26</sup>“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

**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**      **725**      *When the Poor Ones*



1 *Cuan-do, el po-bre na-da tie-ne y, aún re-par-te,*  
 1 When the poor ones, who have noth-ing, still are giv-ing;  
 2 When com-pas-sion gives the suf-f'ring con-so-la-tion;  
 3 When our spir-its, like a chal-ice, brim with glad-ness;  
 4 When the good-ness poured from heav-en fills our dwell-ings;

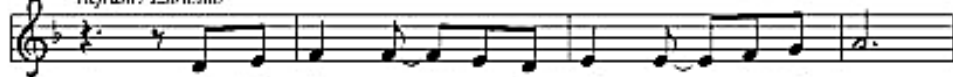


*cuan-do al-guien pa-sa sed y a-gua nos da,*  
 when the thirst-y pass the cup, wa-ter to share;  
 when ex-pect-ing brings to birth hope that was lost;  
 when our voic-es, full and clear, sing out the truth;  
 when the na-tions work to change war in-to peace;



*cuan-do, el dé-bil a su her-ma-no for-ta-le-ce:*  
 when the wound-ed of-fer oth-ers strength and heal-ing;  
 when we choose love, not the ha-tred all a-round us;  
 when our long-ings, free from en-vy, seek the hum-ble;  
 when the strang-er is ac-cept-ed as our neigh-bor:

*Refrain / Estribillo*



*Va Dios mis-mo en nues-tro mis-mo ca-mi-nar;*  
 We see God, here by our side, walk-ing our way;



*va Dios mis-mo en nues-tro mis-mo ca-mi-nar,*  
 we see God, here by our side, walk-ing our way.

2 *Cuando alguno sufre y logra su consuelo,* 3 *Cuando crece la alegría y nos inunda,*  
*cuando espera y no se cansa de esperar,* *cuando dicen nuestros labios la verdad,*  
*cuando amamos, aunque el odio nos rodee:* *cuando amamos el sentir de los sencillos:*  
 Estribillo Estribillo

4 *Cuando abunda el bien y llena los hogares,*  
*cuando alguien donde hay guerra pone paz,*  
*cuando "hermano" te llamamos al extraño:*  
 Estribillo

Text: José Antonio Olívar, b. 1939; tr. Martin A. Selts, b. 1951

Music: EL CAMINO, Miguel Mancano, b. 1934

Text and music © 1971, 1998 J.A. Olívar, Miguel Mancano, and San Pablo International—SSP admin. OCP Publications,  
 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Each petition ends: God of grace,*

***Congregational response: hear 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 +**

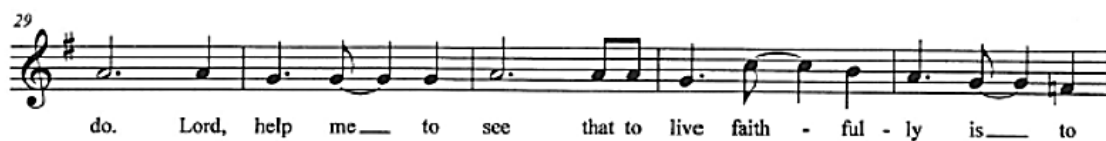
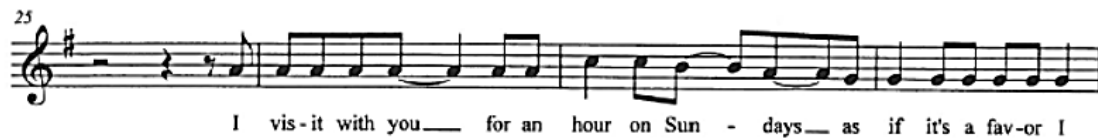
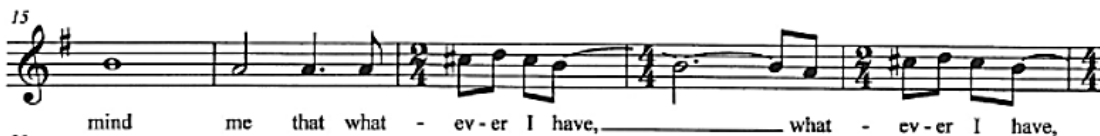
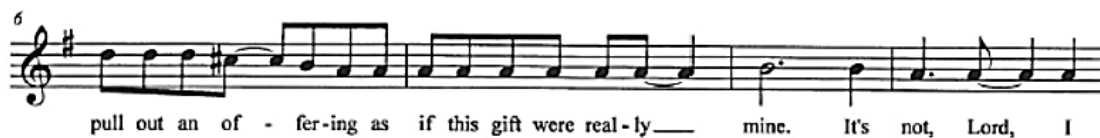
## **OFFERING**

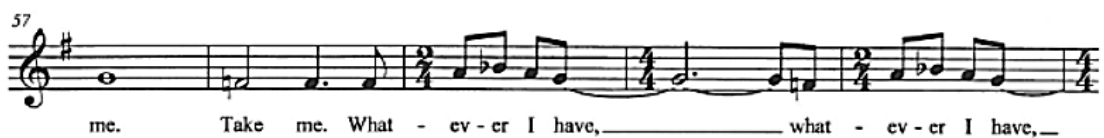
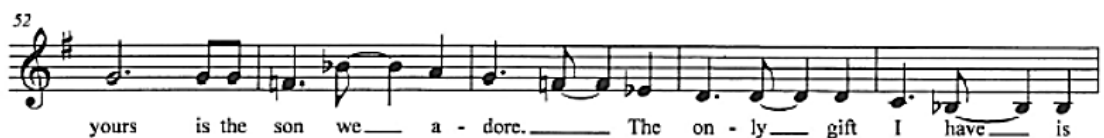
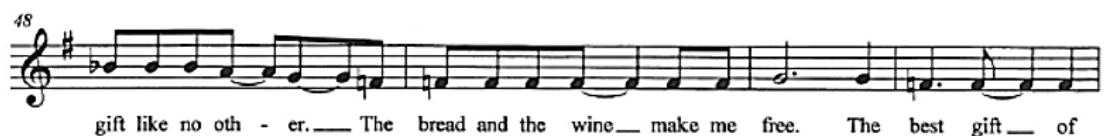
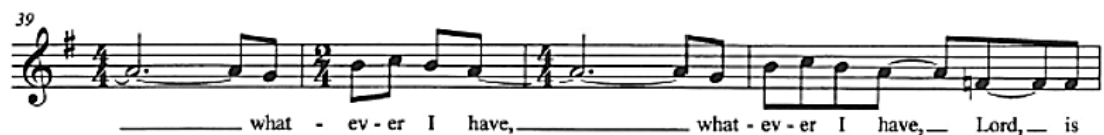
*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

## **ANTHEM**

## **OFFERING HYMN**

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





# GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: All:

## 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 The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

*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 one glass from the tray as you approach the rail. Leave the empty glass on the 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

6  
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, -

10  
- 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

14  
loving sign - from you, God, and your Son. - 1, 2, 3.  
Feed my  
Hear me  
Keep this

21  
4.  
- Through bread and wine, - the lov - ing sign - from you, God, and your Son.

25  
- A - - - men. -

## COMMUNION HYMNS

453 *Baptized and Set Free*

482 *I Come with Joy*

*The assembly stands.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

C Amen.

+ SENDING +

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

P The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

C Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The assembly stands.*

**SENDING HYMN** *Arise!*

A - rise, a - rise, em -

brace the day! The world a - waits, what will you say to

let the peo - ple know you're read - y to live by the power of this feast and to

prac - tice the peace of our Lord? A - rise! - - - A -

rise, a - rise, you're not a - lone. The song you sing will fol - low you home and

hum in your heart. So if you be - gin to for - get whose you are, fix your

eye on a star and sing: Lord! A - rise! A - rise!

A - rise!

## 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!

+++



**Nathan Basford**  
dedicates today's altar flowers in  
Loving memory of Don Dowd.

**Calendar for February 16 - 23**

Feb.	16	Sun.	9 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10 am	Worship, Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
	23	Sun.	9 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10 am	Worship, Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

**Next Sunday's Readings, Seventh Sunday after Epiphany:**

[Genesis 45:3-11, 15](#)

[Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40](#)

[1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50](#)

[Luke 6:27-38](#)



## 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

Serving	February 16	February 23
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Jennifer Dritt	Beth Alexander
<b>Cup Minister</b>	Audrey Post	Colleen Holdcraft
<b>Cantor</b>	Pr. Tom	Pr. Tom
<b>Lector</b>	Karen Olson	Karen Olson
<b>Acolyte</b>	Celia Greeley or Graham Reece or Bastian Stover	
<b>Tech Team</b>	Colleen Holdcraft Jonas Holdcraft	Audrey Post Cindy Suhrweir
<b>Ushers</b>	Bob Eshleman Lawana Lamb-Daniels	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Rita Ford Susan Warren	Beth Alexander
<b>Counters</b>	Margaret Bowers Patricia Handschy	Billie Reardon Susan Warren

## PRAYER REQUESTS

***New concerns: Family*** and friends of Janet Faris (mother of Jake Hatung) mourning her passing; the family and friends of Fred Deckert (father of Caroline Collins), mourning his passing; 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:*** 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 Afghanistan 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).