

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

MINISTRY OF RECONCILING SUNDAY



JANUARY 26, 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

This year's theme allows us to celebrate how far we all have come in difficult times while also reminding us we need to keep moving toward the goal of true inclusion. It focuses our attention on how community bonds and relationships sustain the individual members of the community, building resilience in institutions and individuals. When we work together for justice, communities are stronger; when we work together, people are stronger.

PRELUDE

The assembly stands.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

P We gather in the name of God ✝ Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C) We gather on the traditional homelands of the Apalachee, Miccosukee, Myskoke and Seminole peoples.

P The roads that brought us here today were a place where indigenous people walked and lived on this sacred land, and still do today.

C We gather to honor the Creator, and all creation - human, animal, plant, water, wind, earth, and sky - that belong to God.



COMMUNAL LAMENT

P In response to the ways that people have been excluded and condemned for whom they love and their gender identities or expressions, let us call out to the God who knows the depths of our sorrows and shares the grief in our hearts. After each petition, you are invited to respond saying:

C Come near to us. Show us the way.

- P Let us pray:
O God, when racism, intolerance, and queerphobia, homophobia, transphobia, and biphobia feel inescapable and it is hard to imagine justice and a love that welcomes all of your children to our community, you seem hidden and far away. Come closer and dwell among us, encouraging us as we build resilient and just communities.
- C Come near to us. Show us the way.**
- P O God, we have witnessed the harm and suffering of many beloved children, especially those whose sexual or romantic orientation, gender identity, or gender expression do not follow the patterns of patriarchy. Challenge us to disrupt this way of treating people who need our love and support.
- C Come near to us. Show us the way.**
- P O God, we have witnessed the harm and suffering of many people, especially those whose race, ethnicity, or immigration status cause us to ignore needs as we tolerate racism, xenophobia, and the lack of equity in our society that keep many of your beloved children from full belonging.
- C Come near to us. Show us the way.**
- P Help us to remember that you see us: our troubles and grief, the broken relationships that undermine community, our weakness and lack of courage in confronting evil. You hold our pain. We can leave it all to you. You are our helper.
- C Come near to us. Show us the way.**
- P Help us to remember that you listen to our desires and calm our troubled hearts. We can cry out to you. You will not abandon us.
- C Come near to us. Show us the way.**
- P God, rise up and comfort us so we no longer have to be afraid. Lead us to trust in the hope and promise of a resilient community, with justice for the oppressed, afflicted, and excluded.
- C Amen!**

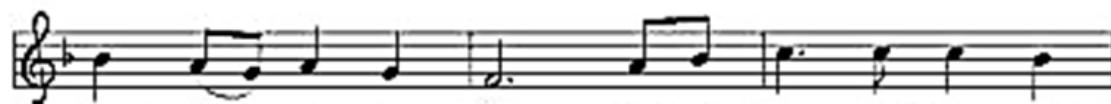
GATHERING HYMN



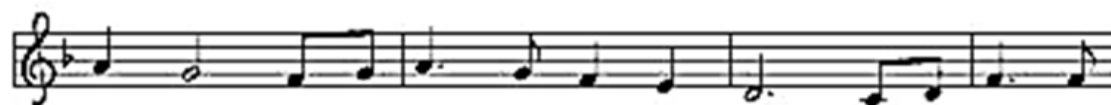
1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strung-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Refrain
 Christ shall end di - vi - sions;
 claim the faith of Je - sus;
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger;
 claim from floor to raf - ter.



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.


HYMN OF PRAISE

3



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

7



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

11



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

15

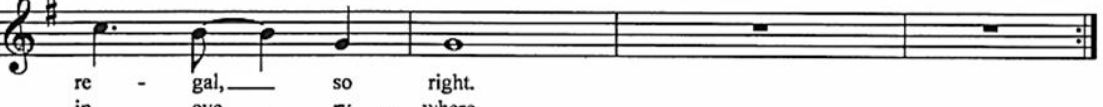


"Oh, what beau - ty in flight!" If God were an ea - gle, so
 "Oh, what gen - tle - ness there!" If God were the wind, whis - pering
 "Oh, what strength we can feel!" If God were a moun - tain, a
 del - i - cate and light, God came in the form of a

19



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.

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY



P Let us pray.

Holy God, your Word teaches us, calls us, and shapes us, that we will become the wisdom of God and the body of Christ for others. On this Reconciling in Christ Sunday may your word turn us toward what is good and holy and just, that all your beloveds of all sexual and romantic orientations, identities, and expressions will know we are seen, known, and loved by you. May the example of Jesus continue to create words and action of courage in the work and ministry of antiracism.

C **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S TIME



FIRST READING: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

When the seventh month came and the people of Israel were settled in their towns, all the people gathered together in the area in front of the Water Gate. They asked Ezra the scribe to bring out the Instruction scroll from Moses, according to which the Lord had instructed Israel.

So on the first day of the seventh month, Ezra the priest brought the Instruction before the assembly. This assembly was made up of anyone who could understand what they heard. Facing the area in front of the Water Gate, he read it aloud, from early morning until the middle of the day. He read it in the presence of those who could understand, and everyone

listened attentively to the Instruction scroll. Standing above all of the people, Ezra the scribe opened the scroll in the sight of all of the people. And as he opened it, all of the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all of the people answered, “Amen! Amen!” while raising their hands. Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

They read aloud from the scroll, the Instruction from God, explaining and interpreting it so the people could understand what they heard.

Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all of the people, “This day is holy to the Lord your God. Don’t mourn or weep.” They said this because all the people wept when they heard the words of the Instruction.

“Go, eat rich food, and drink something sweet,” he said to them, “and send portions of this to any who have nothing ready! This day is holy to our Lord. Don’t be sad, because the joy from the Lord is your strength!”

R Blessed are they who seek wisdom.

C **Who treasure her ways and follow her paths.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many. We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free, and we all were given one Spirit to drink.

Certainly, the body isn’t one part but many. If the foot says, “I’m not part of the body because I’m not a hand,” does that mean it’s not part of the body? If the ear says, “I’m not part of the body because I’m not an eye,” does that mean it’s not part of the body?

If the whole body were an eye, what would happen to the hearing? And if the whole body were an ear, what would happen to the sense of smell? But as it is, God has placed each one of the parts in the body just like he wanted. If all were one and the same body part, what would happen to the body?

But as it is, there are many parts but one body. So the eye can't say to the hand, "I don't need you," or in turn, the head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you." Instead, the parts of the body that people think are the weakest are the most necessary. The parts of the body that we think are less honorable are the ones we honor the most. The private parts of our body that aren't presentable are the ones that are given the most dignity. The parts of our body that are presentable don't need this. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the part with less honor so that there won't be division in the body and so the parts might have mutual concern for each other. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part gets the glory, all the parts celebrate with it.

You are the body of Christ and parts of each other. In the church, God has appointed first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, the ability to help others, leadership skills, different kinds of tongues. All aren't apostles, are they? All aren't prophets, are they? All aren't teachers, are they? All don't perform miracles, do they? All don't have gifts of healing, do they? All don't speak in different tongues, do they? All don't interpret, do they? Use your ambition to try to get greater gifts.

R Blessed are they who seek wisdom.

C **Who treasure her ways and follow her paths.**

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL: Luke 4:14-21

P The Word made flesh dwells among us.

C **Full of grace and truth.**

Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news about him spread throughout the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been raised. On the Sabbath he went to the synagogue as he normally did and stood up to read. The synagogue assistant gave him the scroll from the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

The Spirit is upon me,
because God has anointed me.

God has sent me to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the prisoners
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to liberate the oppressed,
and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Jesus rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the synagogue assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the synagogue was fixed on him. He began to explain to them, "Today, this scripture has been fulfilled just as you heard it."

P This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

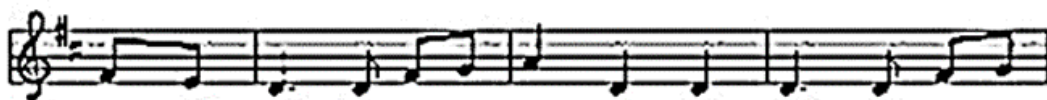
C Praise to you, Word of life!

The assembly is seated.

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

The assembly stands.

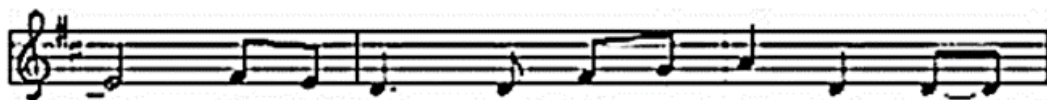
HYMN OF THE DAY **ACS 1038** *God, We Gather As Your People*



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



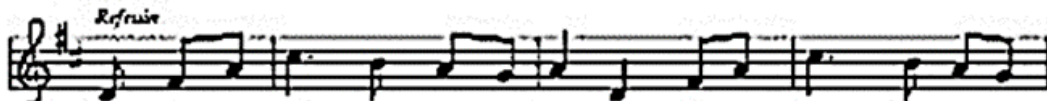
bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love,
wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we
that they nev - er have a rea - son to
May the mex - ican now be han - ished that your
As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



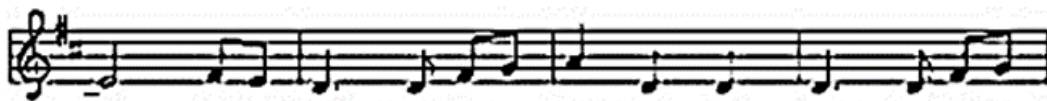
trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.



Refrain
Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

Text: David Lehman, b. 1961

Music: WELCOME BE OUR SONG, David Lehman

Text and music: © 2007 Welcome Song Movement, written: Augsburg Fortress

PRAYERS of THE COMMUNITY

A Trusting in the liberating and reconciling love of God, let us pray for all people and all creation.

A brief silence.

A Holy One, you are the strength of your church. Inspire the proclamation of our by the power of the Spirit so that all the baptized are bold to share your expansive and affirming good news with all. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A The heavens declare your glory, and the sky proclaims your handiwork. Where creation groans because of human misuse, waste, and neglect, bring healing and renewal. Open us to heed creation's lament so that all creatures can thrive and sing your praise. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Your statutes are just, and your commandments are clear. Direct leaders of nations, cities, and towns to pursue justice and equity for our neighbors who are hurting, vulnerable, and held captive to unjust systems. Strengthen us in our resolve to build your beloved community on earth as it is in heaven. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A You call us together as one body in Christ, and you create each member with unique gifts and identities. Renew our commitment to celebrate the diversity among us as people of all gender identities and expressions, sexual and romantic orientations, and racial and ethnic identities. Empower this assembly to recognize and uplift the voices and skills of those who are overlooked in the mission of your church. Shape us into an adaptive, resilient community that does not relent in proclaiming your good news and caring for one another. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Your teaching revives the weary soul. Inspire faith formation ministries that foster in us a sense of wonder and curiosity. Make us attentive to your word, and fashion us into a people who never stop asking questions and who never stop learning more about your word and your world. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A With the body of Christ around us, we rejoice for the witness of the body of Christ who has gone before us. We give thanks for the saints of this community, for leaders of the early church, and for all your holy ones whose lives bore witness to your ever-expansive love and whose example inspires us to do the same. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A We entrust these our prayers, spoken and silent, and our sighs too deep for words, to your abundant mercy, through Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

PEACE

A On the first day of the week the risen Jesus came among the disciples and said, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." (*John 20:19, 21*) The peace of Christ be with you always!

C And also with you!

A Let us greet one another with a sign of this spirit-filled peace, respecting the boundaries and honoring the consent of our neighbors.

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 *"A Place at the Table"* -Murray/True

For ev'ryone born, a place at the table,
for ev'ryone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for ev'ryone born, a star overhead.

(Refrain)

And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy!

For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong. (Refrain)

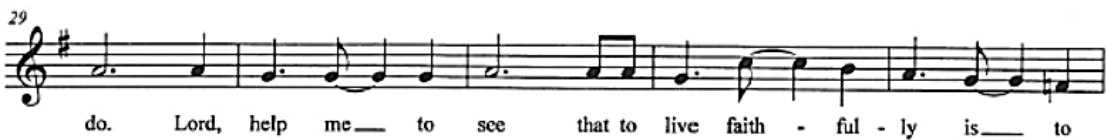
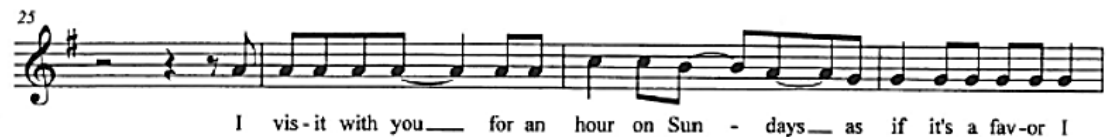
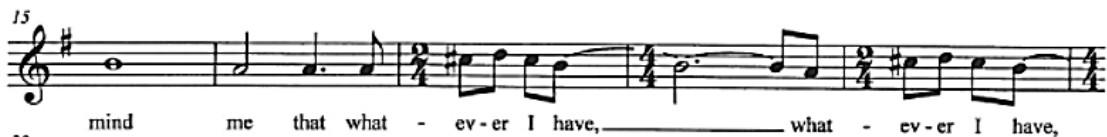
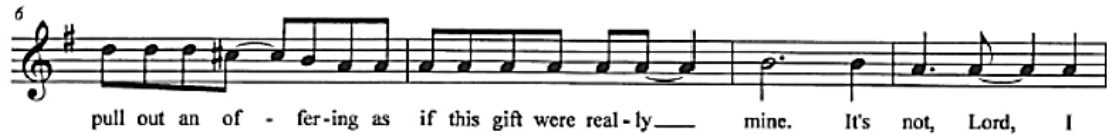
For ev'ryone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for ev'ryone born, the right to be free. (Refrain)

For all those who love, a place at the table,
To wed whom they choose while dear ones applaud,
The freedom to be the gender within them,
For all those who love are children of God.* (Refrain)

**Special thanks to Dave Subrveir for writing the lyrics to the last verse.*

OFFERING HYMN


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



34




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

39 

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 

LITURGY FOR THE TABLE

P God is here!

C The Spirit is with us!

P Lift up your hearts!

C We lift them to our God!

P Let us give thanks to the Holy One and Holy Three!

C It is right to give our thanks and praise!

P It is indeed our duty and our joy, that at all times and in all places we give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful Creator, for you sent your child to be the light and life for the world. Through that child you showed us how to love and be loved, how to enact justice, and how to work for peace. And so, with the all God's children, with all living things on this world, with earth and sea and stars, we praise your name.

C Holy, holy, holy, God of power, God of might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

P All thanks and praise are yours, O God, for in Christ you became incarnate in a human body. By your flesh we are freed from sin, death, and all that holds us captive. You have been revealed to us as one who breathes, and you breathe into us new life. Therefore, we breathe your loving Spirit:

Moment of silence to breathe prayers of praise and longing.

P With all of creation, we cry out:

C Breathe on us, that we may live! Ezekiel 37:9

P On the night Jesus was sharing one final meal with his followers before being betrayed and arrested, he picked up some bread from the table, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to all those at the table with him, telling them: 'Take and eat this bread. It is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me. Then, after they had finished eating supper together, he picked up a cup of wine, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, telling them: 'This cup of wine is the sign of a new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this to remember me. Groaning in expectation with all of creation, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P Breath of God, in this bread and cup you bring new life to this resilient community.

C **Breathe on us, that we may live!**

P May your Spirit intercede for us with sighs too deep for words, so that we might be made one body in Christ.

C **Breathe on us, that we may live!**

P Revive our faith, infuse us with your peace, and reveal to us your justice, so that we might witness to the resurrection in all that we say and in all that we do.

C **Breathe on us, that we may live!**

P All thanks and praise to you, O God, Holy One and Holy Three.

C **AMEN!**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C Heavenly God, giver of life, holy is your name, your realm 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 you reign in power and glory now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Wisdom has prepared the food, poured the wine, and set her table. She calls and we respond:

C Come, all are welcome to eat and drink. (*Proverbs 9: 2, 4-5*)

The assembly is seated.

LAMB OF GOD

P Grace upon Grace, mercy upon mercy, peace upon peace, given for you.

C **The word made flesh dwells among us, full of grace and truth.**

P Grace upon Grace, mercy upon mercy, peace upon peace, given for you.

C **Behold our Savior who frees us from the sin of the world.**

P Grace upon Grace, mercy upon mercy, peace upon peace, given for you.

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 the common cup (wine) and a pouring cup (wine or grape juice). If you prefer to receive the wine or juice in an individual glass, take one 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
— Through bread and wine, — the lov - ing sign — from you, God, and your Son. 4.

25
— A - - - men. —



1 Love has brought us here to - geth - er; love of fam - 'ly,
2 Love is gen - tle, love is pa - tient, soft in words and
3 Love does not re - joice at e - vil; love re - joic - es



love of friends; love, our vow till death should part us; love, God's
kind in deeds. Love is strong and nev - er pom - pous; love puts
in the right. Keen in giv - ing and for - giv - ing, spread - ing



gift, that nev - er ends. From our birth, through-out our life - time,
first the oth - er's needs. Not quick-tem - pered or re - sent - ful,
love is love's de - light. When two peo - ple pledge their u - nion,



love's in - sis - tence calls our name. Floods of wa - ters
prone to take of - fense or brood, love ex - cels in
all who wit - ness are re - newed, feast - ing at love's



can - not drown it or put out its danc - ing flame.
grace and mer - cy, nev - er jcal - ous, nev - er rude.
earth - ly ban - quet, tast - ing heav'n's be - at - i - tude.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

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COMMUNION HYMN

1. Im - par - tial, com - pass - ion - ate God of all lives,
 2. Un - ho - ly, un - just - i - fied fear we in - cite,
 3. Cre - a - tor of beau - ty, we stand not in pride,
 4. Our hope is your free - dom for both great and small,
 5. All hon - or - we give you, O help us to see,

in Christ you have shown us your love ac - tual - ized,
 when we shun our neigh - bors yet cling to our rights.
 we do not as - sume you will stay on our side.
 to strive for per - fec - tion and know all means all.
 your chil - dren are wor - thy to claim vic - to - ry.

in - car - nate and weak in the arms of the poor,
 Your chil - dren still wan - der the streets left in pain,
 For yours is the sa - cred, un - tar - nished by sin,
 We chal - lenge and the quest - ion each law with - out grace,
 And so let our ac - tions flow out of our praise,

de - stroy - ing all sys - tems that keep closed the door.
 we pass laws a - gainst them to prove our dis - dain.
 a re - fuge for out - casts that all may come in.
 af - firm - ing the im - age of Christ on each face.
 to seek trans - for - ma - tion, your Kin - dom to raise.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

God of grace and mercy, in this holy meal you have fed us with wisdom, forgiveness, and grace, and we are full. By your Spirit send us out to become what we have received—new life in Christ—for the world.

C Amen.

+ SENDING +

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

P Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing make you afraid. All things are passing. God alone never changes. Patience gains all things. If you have God you will want for nothing. God alone suffices. [*Teresa of Avila*] ✝ May the blessing of God, Holy One and Holy Three, be with us today and every day, building us into a resilient community that practices justice and radical inclusion.

C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

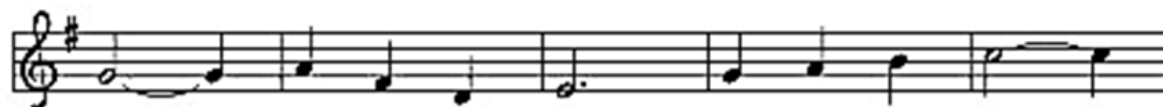
The assembly stands.

SENDING HYMN

715 *Christ, Be Our Light*



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



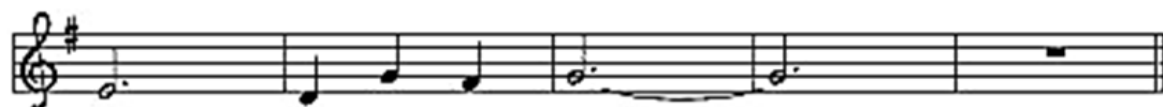
your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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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 to practice resilient justice.

C Thanks be to God!

+ + +

Sundays and Seasons v.20220805.1416
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Sources & Acknowledgements -
Expansive Language Liturgy: Sighs too
Deep for Words, Evangelical Lutheran
Worship, All Creation Sings, This Far
by Faith, NW Synod of Wisconsin,
Rev. A.J. Houseman,
Rev. Karen Behling

Arise! The St. Stephen Service

Music by Tom Buchanan Lyrics by Ron Hartung



Today's altar flowers are dedicated to the
to the glory of God.

Calendar for January 26 – February 2

Jan.	26	Sun.	9 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10 am	Worship, Ministry of Reconciling Sunday
			11:30 am	RIC Speaker/Potluck
	29	Wed.	7 pm	Choir practice
Feb.	2	Sun.	9 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10 am	Worship, Ministry of Reconciling Sunday
			11:30 am	Congregational meeting

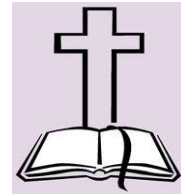
Next Sunday's Readings, Fourth Sunday after Epiphany:

[Jeremiah 1:4-10](#)

[Psalms 71:1-6](#)

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

[Luke 4:21-30](#)



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	January 26	February 2
Assisting Minister	Beth Alexander	Colleen Holdcraft
Cup Minister	Rob Schiffer	Audrey Post
Cantor		
Lector	Chris Reece	Erik Robinson
Acolyte	Ceilia Greeley or Graham Reece or Bastian Stover	
Tech Team	Sandy Lamb-Daniels Audrey Post	Caroline Collins Sylvia Smith
Ushers	Colin Hackley Rob Schiffer	Bob Eshleman Lawana Lamb-Daniels
Altar Guild	Rita Ford Susan Warren	Linda Eshleman Barbara Sullivan
Counters	Margaret Bowers Lorraine Sundberg	Kirsten Ebbesen Rob Schiffer

PRAYER REQUESTS

New concerns: Margarete Deckert (mother of Caroline Collins), recovering from illness; Donna Dickson Miller (friend of Audrey Post), facing health challenges; Wayne McCully (friend of Audrey Post), undergoing dialysis for kidney failure; 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 O'Donnell); 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

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Please mark your calendar for February 2. After church we will hold our Congregation meeting to approve our 2025 financial budget, vote for new Council members, and discuss future ministry opportunities. The meeting will begin in the fellowship hall shortly after worship ends.

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).