

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



FEBRUARY 23, 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

*Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.*

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

Leader: All:

May the pence of the Lord em - brace us. May the

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

10 All: lost and brok - en. Your bril - liance il - lu - mi - nates our flaws.

16 Leader: All: You know how our prayers ev - er fade. Yet al - ways you

22 op - en your arms to us.

*The assembly stands.*



+ GATHERING +

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P Send us your silence, Lord, that we may reflect on the ways we have kept you at arms length.

*Silence for reflection.*

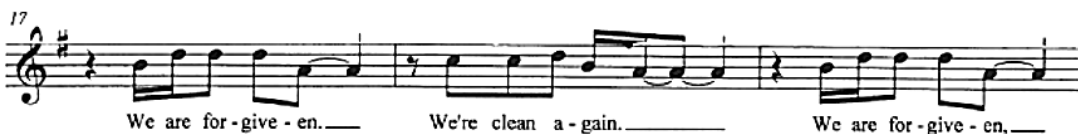
P Please accept our confession of sin, Lord, and bathe us in your forgiveness.

**C Forgive us, Dear Lord. We fail to thank you for your gifts to us. We neglect those who are in need, those who could teach us of your love.**

**And we have such a dim view of ourselves compared with your vision of us. You have given us wings and urged us to fly. But we keep our feet on the ground and our backs turned to you. Forgive us, mighty God.**

P Through the gift we can never hope to deserve, the gift of Jesus Christ, God melts away our sin. In the warmth of God's loving gaze - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - we are forgiven.

**C We are forgiven!**





- 1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and  
 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and  
 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the  
 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



- sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor  
 grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,  
 throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in  
 grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



- bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:  
 clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -  
 care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:  
 fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



- lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

- 5 And you, most gentle sister death,  
 waiting to hush our final breath:  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,  
 fair is the night that leads us home.  
 Alleluia.

- 6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,  
 and worship God with humble heart:  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,  
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One:  
 Alleluia.

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; tr. composite  
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623  
 Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

## 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

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,  
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

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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY



P Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

## CHILDREN'S TIME

*Noisy offering*



+ WORD +

## FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

*Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.*

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

<sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and



ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay.

<sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’” <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

**C**      **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40**

*We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader <sup>1</sup> Do not be provoked by <sup>1</sup> evildoers;  
do not be jealous of those <sup>1</sup> who do wrong.

**C**      <sup>2</sup> **For they shall soon wither <sup>1</sup> like the grass,**  
**and like the green grass <sup>1</sup> fade away.**

L      <sup>3</sup> Put your trust in the Lord <sup>1</sup> and do good;  
dwell in the land and <sup>1</sup> find safe pasture.

**C**      <sup>4</sup> **Take delight <sup>1</sup> in the Lord,**  
**who shall give you your <sup>1</sup> heart’s desire.**

L      <sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust <sup>1</sup> in the Lord,  
and see what <sup>1</sup> God will do.

**C**      <sup>6</sup> **The Lord will make your vindication as clear <sup>1</sup> as the light**  
**and the justice of your case like the <sup>1</sup> noonday sun.**

L       <sup>7</sup> Be still before the Lord and wait <sup>1</sup> patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds  
in <sup>1</sup> evil schemes.

**C       <sup>8</sup> Refrain from anger, leave <sup>1</sup> rage alone;  
do not be provoked; it leads on- <sup>1</sup> ly to evil.**

L       <sup>9</sup> For evildoers shall <sup>1</sup> be cut off,  
but those who hope in the Lord shall pos- <sup>1</sup> sess the land.

**C       <sup>10</sup> In a little while the wicked shall <sup>1</sup> be no more;  
even if you search out their place, they will <sup>1</sup> not be there.**

L       <sup>11</sup> But the lowly shall pos- <sup>1</sup> sess the land;  
they will delight in abun- <sup>1</sup> dance of peace.

**C       <sup>39</sup> But the deliverance of the righteous comes from <sup>1</sup> you, O Lord;  
you are their stronghold in <sup>1</sup> time of trouble.**

L       <sup>40</sup> You, O Lord, will help them and <sup>1</sup> rescue them;  
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in  
you <sup>1</sup> they seek refuge.

*Spoken after the psalm is sung:*

**Amen.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50**

*In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.*

<sup>35</sup> But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup> Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

<sup>42</sup> So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.

<sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

<sup>50</sup> What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

R        The Word of the Lord.

**C        Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

**GOSPEL:     Luke 6:27-38**

*Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.*

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

**C        Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>27</sup> “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup> “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup> “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

**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.*



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,  
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;  
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.  
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.  
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.  
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.  
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,  
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,  
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,  
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.  
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.  
 Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.  
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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## **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 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 +

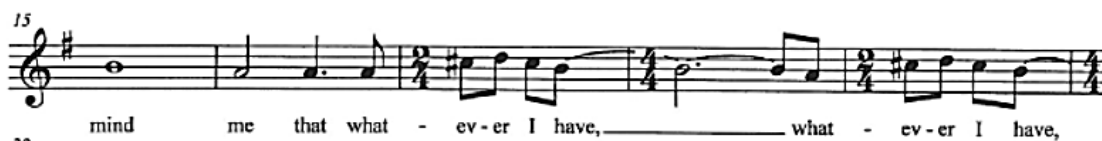
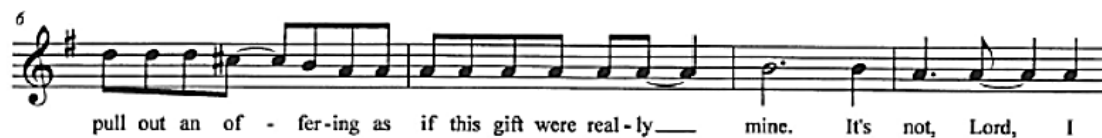
## OFFERING

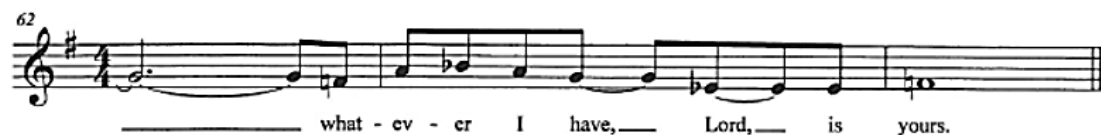
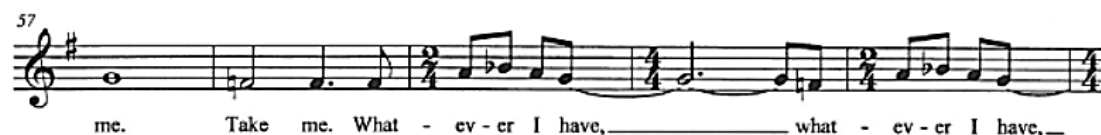
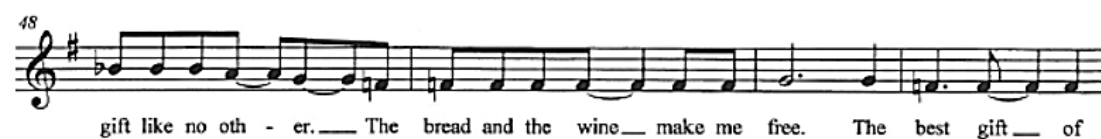
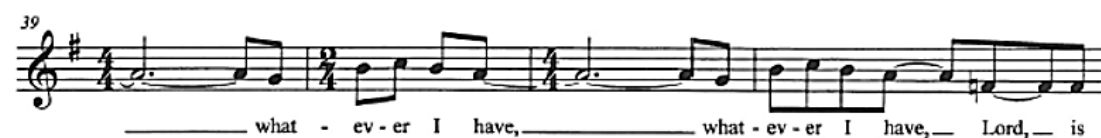
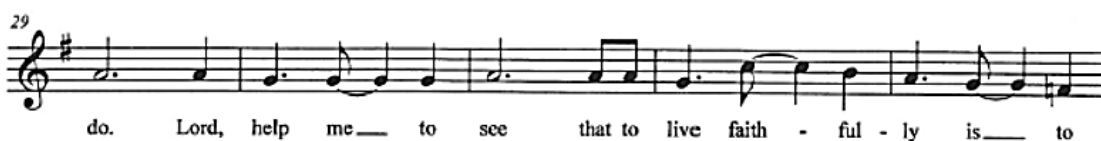
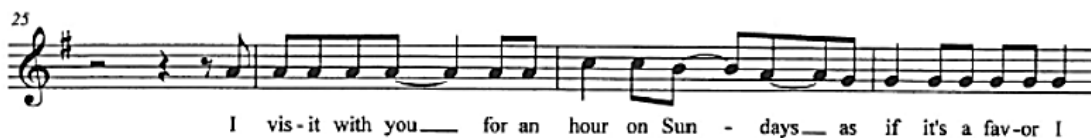
*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

## ANTHEM

## OFFERING HYMN

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







# GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: All:

May the peace of the Lord embrace us. May the

9 Leader:

love of the Lord light our way. We lift our song

14 All: Leader:

high! We praise the God who gave us life. Hear, Lord,

18 faster All:

as we sing! Sing our praise to God on high.

27

Sing out! Sing out for joy! Sing so loud we'll drown out war.

31

Sing of peace for ever more. Sing our praise to God. A-men.

35

Sing our praise to God. Sing our praise to God. A-men.

39

Sing our praise to God. A - men. A - men. A - men. A -

44

men. A - men. A - men. A - men! men!

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

25  
A - - - men.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

605 *Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive*

711 *O Day of Peace*

*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**

**726**

*Light Dawns on a Weary World*



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to  
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find  
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea-tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a  
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a  
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom-ised day of jus - tice comes.  
wea - ry world: the prom-ised feast of plen - ty comes.  
wea - ry world: the prom-ised green of E - den comes.



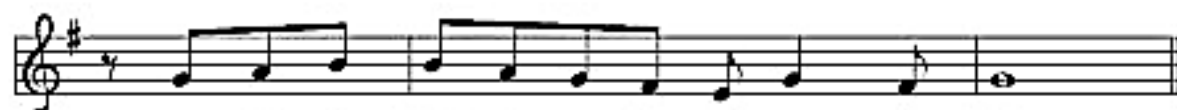
*Refrain*  
The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun-tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won-der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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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. Live in hope.
- C Thanks be to God!**

+ + +

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

*Sundays and Seasons v.20220805.1416  
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**Judi Duffy dedicates this week's altar flowers to the  
glory of God  
and "to thank Him for giving me another birthday."**

### Calendar for February 23 – March 02

Feb.	23	Sun.	9 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10 am	Worship, Fourth Seventh after Epiphany
			11:30 am	Outreach Committee meeting, Pastor Emory Hingst Memorial Fellowship Hall
	26	Wed.	7 pm	Choir practice
March	2	Sun.	9 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10 am	Worship, Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday
			11:15 am	Catered lunch, Pastor Emory Hingst Memorial Fellowship Hall (donations are welcome)
			12:30 pm	Mardi Gras Talent Show, sanctuary

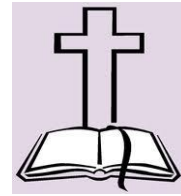
**Next Sunday's Readings, Seventh Sunday after Epiphany:**

[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 23	March 2
Assisting Minister	Beth Alexander	Colleen Holdcraft
Cup Minister	Colleen Holdcraft	Audrey Post
Cantor	Pr. Tom	
Lector	Karen Olson	Judi Duffy
Acolyte	Ceilia Greeley or Graham Reece or Bastian Stover	
Tech Team	Audrey Post Cindy Suhweir	Mark Greeley Sandy Lamb-Daniels
Ushers	Bob Eshleman Colin Hackley	Bob Eshleman
Altar Guild	Beth Alexander	
Counters	Billie Reardon Susan Warren	Margaret Bowers Rob Schiffer

## PRAYER REQUESTS

***New concerns:*** Family of Roch Edward (brother of Lynn Gunderson), as they mourn his passing; Family and friends of Janet Faris (mother of Jake Hartung) 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).