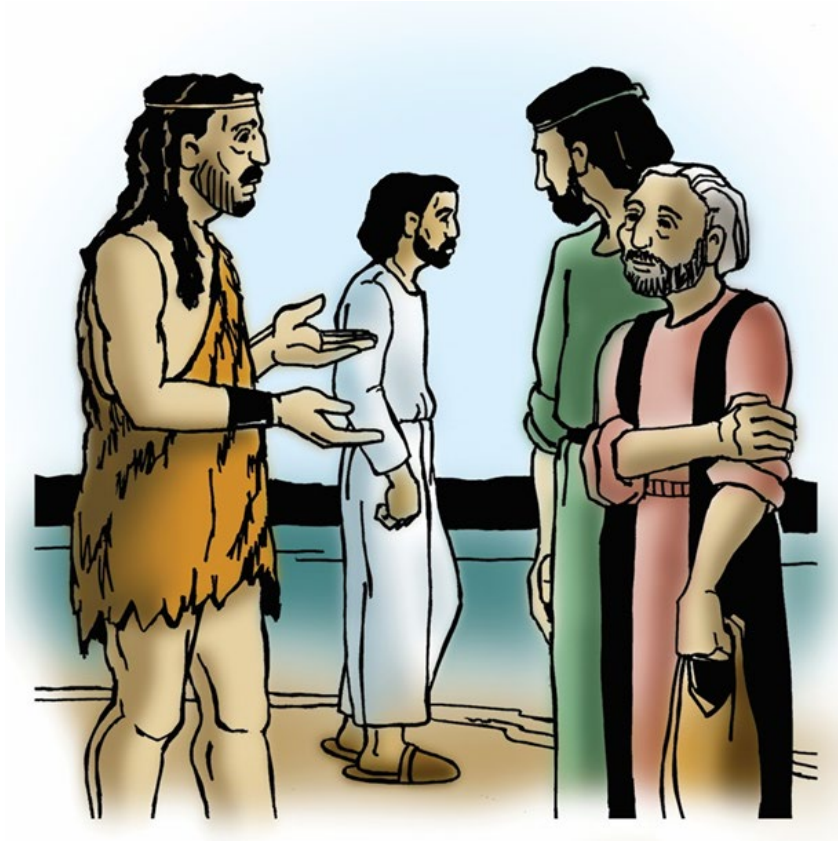


ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



JANUARY 18, 2026

10 A.M.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

(850) 385-2728, Office
sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com, Email <http://www.ststephenlutherantally.com>
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Rev. Tom Holdcraft, Pastor
Katharine Gossman, Music Director Rita Ford, Office Manager
All Members, Ministers

Welcome, Everyone!

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

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

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

Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

The assembly stands.

Leader: All:

May the peace of the Lord embrace us. May the

5 Leader:

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

10 All:

lost and broken. Your brilliance illuminates our flaws.

16 Leader: All:

— You know how our prayers ever fade. Yet always you

22

open your arms to us.



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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

C **Amen.**

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

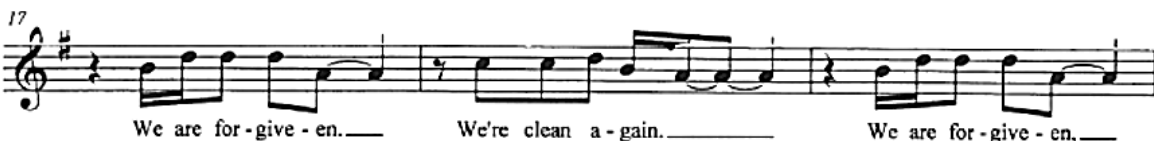
Silence for reflection.

P Mighty God, lover of justice,

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

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

C **Amen.**





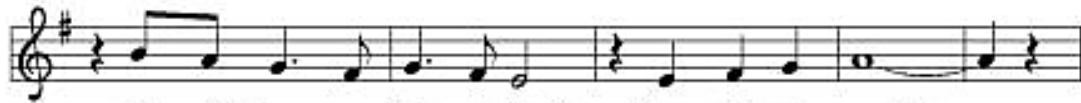
1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Refrain
 Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte

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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.

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S TIME



FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:1-7

Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes her honored mission. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel. The servant's ultimate assignment is to bring news of God's victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.

¹ Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born; while I was in my mother's womb he named me. ² He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. ³ And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord and my reward with my God."⁵ And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—⁶ he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."⁷ Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: **Psalm 40:1-11** *We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader ¹ I waited patiently up- ¹ on the Lord,
who stooped to me and ¹ heard my cry.

C ² **The Lord lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the ¹ miry clay,
and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my ¹ footing sure.**

L ³ The Lord put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise ¹ to our God;
many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust ¹ in the Lord.

C ⁴ **Happy are they who trust ¹ in the Lord!
They do not turn to enemies or to those who ¹ follow lies.**

L ⁵ Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God! In your plans for us,
none can be com- ¹ pared with you!
Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more
than ¹ I can count.

C ⁶ **Sacrifice and offering you do ¹ not desire;
you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you
have ¹ not required.**

L ⁷ And so I said, “Here I ¹ am; I come.
In the scroll of the book it is writ- ¹ ten of me:

C ⁸ **‘I love to do your will, ¹ O my God;
your law is ¹ deep within me.’”**

L ⁹ I proclaimed righteousness in the ¹ great assembly;
I have not restrained my lips, O ¹ Lord, you know.

C ¹⁰ **I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your
faithfulness and ¹ your deliverance;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the ¹ great
assembly.**

L ¹¹ You are the Lord; do not withhold your compas- ¹ sion from me;
may your steadfast love and your truth continually ¹ keep me safe.

Spoken after the psalm is sung:
Amen.

SECOND READING**1 Corinthians 1:1-9**

Though God's church in Corinth is a fractious congregation beset with many conflicts, Paul opens this letter by spotlighting the multiple ways God has enriched and sustained its life as part of the divine call into the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

R The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**ELW 169**

GOSPEL: John 1:29-42

John the Baptist's witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as his disciples begin to share with others what they have found.

P The holy gospel according to John, the first chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹ [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”³⁰ This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.”³² And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.”³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?”³⁹ He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed).⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

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.

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the light of God.

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

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: Merciful God,

Congregational response: receive our prayer.

PEACE

A The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

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



+ MEAL +

OFFERING

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

Stephen Saint

@Stephen-Saint



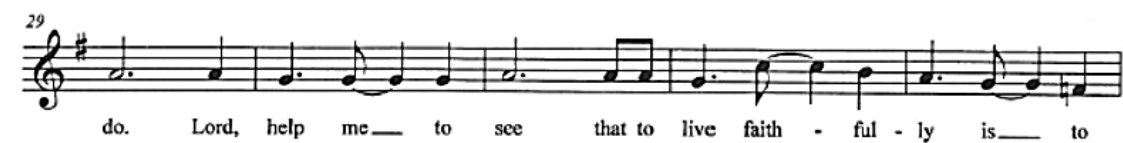
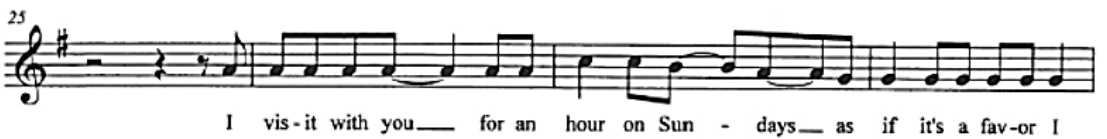
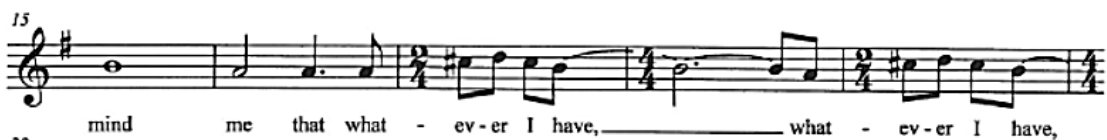
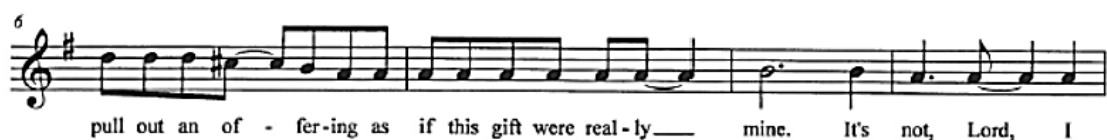
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To **venmo**
Venmo for a
donation to St.
Stephen. Code
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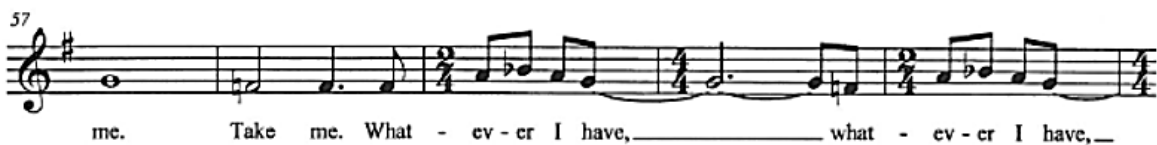
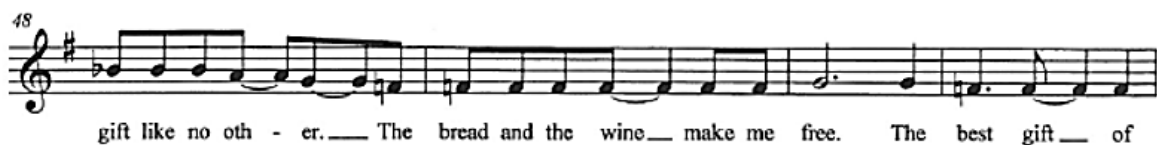
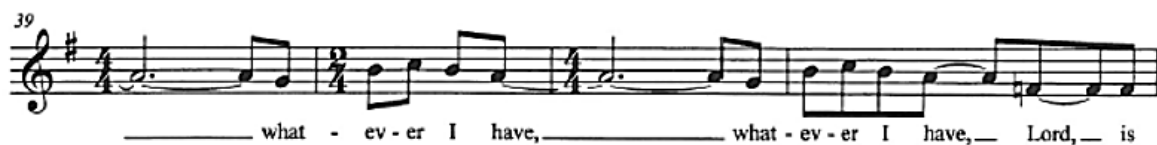
ANTHEM "I Dream a World" Langston Hughes/Raabe

I dream a world where we
No other one will scorn,
Where love will bless the earth
And peace its paths adorn
I dream a world where all
Will know sweet freedom's way,
Where greed no longer saps the soul
Nor avarice blights our day.
A world I dream where black or white,
Whatever race you be,
Will share the bounties of the earth
And everyone is free,
Where wretchedness will hang its head
And joy, like a pearl,
Attends the needs of humankind-
Of such I dream, my world!

We stand and sing as the collection and the gifts are brought forward

OFFERING HYMN





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 - ev - er - 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!

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION HYMN

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

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

773 *Precious Lord*

733 *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

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

C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

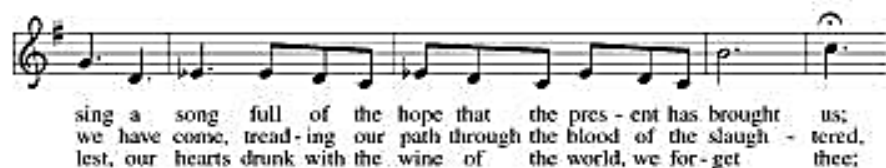
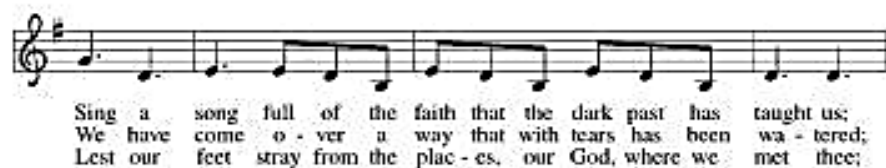
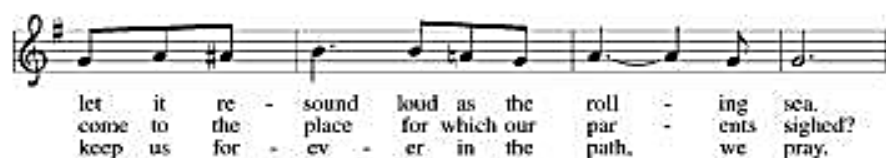
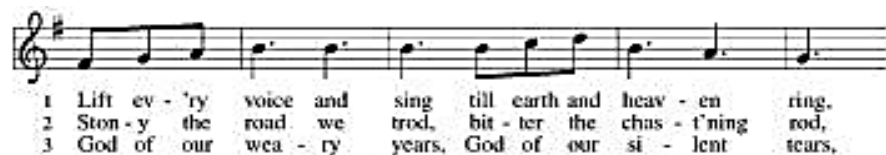
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands.

+ SENDING +

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





Text: James W. Johnson, 1871-1938

Music: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING, J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873-1954

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. Do justice. Love mercy.

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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Today's altar flowers are dedicated in memory of
Wanda Lynn Post and
to the Glory of God

Calendar for January 18 – January 25

Jan 18	Sun.	9:00 am	Bible study
		9:30 am	Choir rehearsal
		10:00 am	Worship, Second Sunday after Epiphany
			Congregation Meeting – after worship
Jan 21	Wed.	7:00 pm	Choir rehearsal
Jan 22	Thurs	10:00 am	Bible study
Jan 25	Sun.	9:00 am	Bible study
		9:30 am	Choir rehearsal
		10:00 am	Worship, RIC Sunday

Next Sunday's Readings, RIC Sunday

[Isaiah 9:1-4](#)

[Psalms 27:1, 4-9](#)

[1 John 3:1-2](#)

[Matthew 4:12-23](#)



SERVING EVERY SUNDAY

Pastor Tom, presiding and preaching

Katharine Gossman, piano

Karl Barton, flute

Denise Bookwalter, announcements

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

SERVING TODAY AND ONE WEEK FROM TODAY

Serving	January 18	January 25
Assisting Minister	Rob Schiffer	Jen Dritt
Cup Minister	Colleen Holdcraft	Rita Ford
Cantor	Susan Hehn	Karl Barton
Lector	Erik Robinson	Jennifer Buchanan
Acolyte		
Tech Team	Colin Hackley and Sandy Lamb-Daniels	Audrey Post Loraine Sunberg
Ushers	Bob Eshleman Patrick Kennell	Bob Eshleman Patrick Kennell
Altar Guild	Susan Warren Rita Ford	
Counters	Janet Barber Susan Warren	Loraine Sundberg Marilyn Larson

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

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

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

For prisoners: All those on Death Row.

Other concerns: For Marc Rozman (friend of Cheryl Stuart), our shared sympathy on his death.; For Audrey Post and family following the death of Wanda; For Hingst/Mongomery family and friends following the death of Ann; Kevin Robinson (son of Erik Robinson), in need of encouragement; Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Allana Lochan-Tekaram (sister of Anita Sawh and Rita Ford), for hormone imbalance; Walt Steinvorth (friend of Rob Schiffer), suffering from pericarditis and vestibular neuritis and learning to cope with dizziness and severe equilibrium problems; For Karen Olson.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWER CHART FOR 2026: Do you have an anniversary, birthday or special memory you would like to honor? Celebrate the occasion by sponsoring the flowers for our service by signing up for the 2026 Flower Chart located 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/sermons>. Want to read the latest newsletters? Go to <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters>. Want to browse a collection of St. Stephen songs? They're at <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/songs-of-st-stephen>.

CHURCH COUNCIL	
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