

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Second Sunday after Epiphany



SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024

10 A.M.

## INTRODUCTION

*All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called "the house of God, and . . . the gate of heaven" (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.*

## PRELUDE

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.

*The assembly stands.*



+ GATHERING +

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation (C) Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Most merciful God,

**C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**


P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of word and sacrament in the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**


*The assembly is seated.*



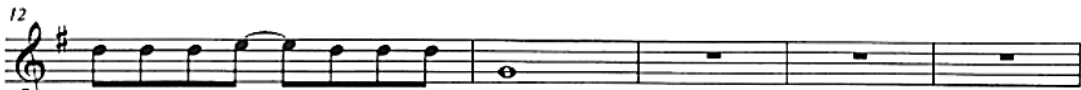
1 We are for-giv - en.\_\_\_\_ We're clean a - gain.\_\_\_\_



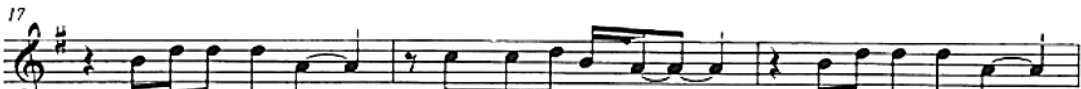
5 Gone is the dark night of sin;\_\_\_\_ in comes the light.



9 We are re - born\_\_\_\_ through no power of our own.\_\_\_\_ We are for-giv - en\_\_\_\_



12 and we are giv - en a new start.



17 We are for-give - en.\_\_\_\_ We're clean a - gain.\_\_\_\_ We are for-give - en,\_\_\_\_



20 and we are giv - en a new start. A - men.\_\_\_\_ A - men. A - men.\_\_\_\_



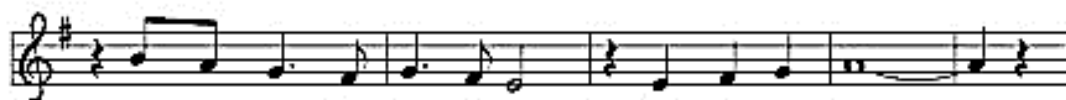
1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.  
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



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?"



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.

## GREETING

B 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,  
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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY



B Let us pray.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

## CHILDREN'S TIME



+ WORD +

### FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

*At a time when visions are rare and unexpected, the LORD comes to Samuel and calls him to speak the divine word. Though just a boy, Samuel responds to God obediently, as Eli the priest has taught him to respond. This marks the beginning of Samuel's prophetic ministry.*

<sup>1</sup>Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

<sup>2</sup>At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup>the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup>Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" <sup>5</sup>and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup>The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." <sup>7</sup>Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup>The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup>Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup>Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” [<sup>11</sup>Then the LORD said to Samuel, “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. <sup>12</sup>On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. <sup>13</sup>For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. <sup>14</sup>Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.”

<sup>15</sup>Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. <sup>16</sup>But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” He said, “Here I am.” <sup>17</sup>Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.” <sup>18</sup>So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.”

<sup>19</sup>As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. <sup>20</sup>And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.]

Reader           The word of the Lord.

**C                Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 139:1-6; 13-18**

*We sing the psalm in response to the first reading.*



Leader <sup>1</sup>LORD, YOU HAVE | SEARCHED ME OUT;  
O LORD, you | have known me.

**C        <sup>2</sup>You know my sitting down and my | rising up;  
          you discern my thoughts | from afar.**

L        <sup>3</sup>You trace my journeys and my | resting-places  
          and are acquainted with | all my ways.



**C** <sup>4</sup>Indeed, there is not a word | on my lips,  
but you, **O LORD**, know it | altogether.

**L** <sup>5</sup>You encompass me, behind | and before,  
and lay your | hand upon me.

**C** <sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonder- | ful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot at- | tain to it.

**L** <sup>13</sup>For you yourself created my | inmost parts;  
you knit me together in my | mother's womb.

**C** <sup>14</sup>I will thank you because I am mar- | velously made;  
your works are wonderful, and I | know it well.

**L** <sup>15</sup>My body was not hid- | den from you,  
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths | of the earth.

**C** <sup>16</sup>Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were  
written | in your book;  
my days were fashioned before they | came to be.

**L** <sup>17</sup>How deep I find your | thoughts, O God!  
How great is the | sum of them!

**C** <sup>18</sup>If I were to count them, they would be more in number | than the sand;  
to count them all, my life span would need to | be like yours.

*Spoken after the psalm is sung:*

**Amen.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20**

*Paul helps the Corinthians understand that God has claimed the entirety of their lives through the death of Christ. Hence Christian relationships and conduct, including areas of human sexuality, are to reflect the reality that we belong to Christ and that the Holy Spirit lives within us.*

<sup>12</sup>“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. <sup>13</sup>“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. <sup>14</sup>And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. <sup>15</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” <sup>17</sup>But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. <sup>18</sup>Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. <sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup>For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

**R** The Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### John 1:43-51

*In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to "Come and see."*

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

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

<sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” <sup>44</sup>Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” <sup>46</sup>Nathanael said to him, “Can anything

good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”<sup>47</sup> When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!”<sup>48</sup> Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.”<sup>49</sup> Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”<sup>50</sup> Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.”<sup>51</sup> And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

*The assembly is seated.*

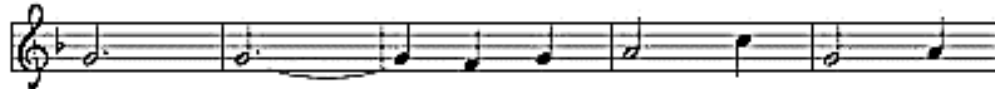
**SERMON** *We encounter the living word of God in the preaching.*

*The assembly stands.*

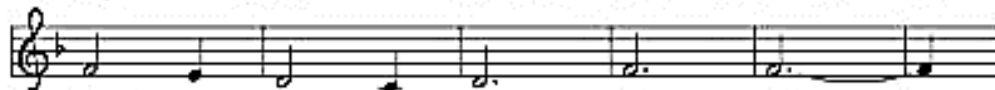
**HYMN OF THE DAY**      **798**      *Will You Come and Follow Me*



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call  
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call  
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call  
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call  
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't  
 your name? Will you care for cruel and  
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners  
 your name? Will you quell the lear in -  
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



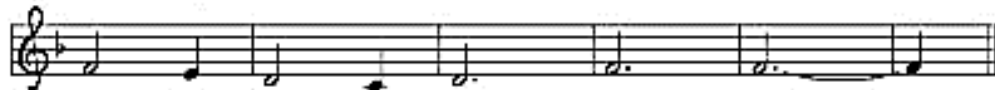
know and nev - er be the same?  
 kind and nev - er be the same?  
 free and nev - er be the same?  
 side and nev - er be the same?  
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as  
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the  
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be  
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer  
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I  
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and  
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"  
 pray'r in you and you in me?"  
 mean in you and you in me?"  
 sound in you and you in me?"  
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

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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: receive our prayer.*

## **PEACE**

**A** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

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

*The assembly is seated.*



**+ MEAL +**

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

**ANTHEM** *"Build Us a Table" True/Tate*

Walls mark our bound'ries and keep us apart;  
walls keep the world from our eyes and our heart.  
Tables are round, making room for one more,  
welcoming friends we had not known before.

(Refrain)

So build us a table and tear down the wall!  
Christ is our host. There is room for us all!  
Build us a table and tear down the wall!  
Christ is our host. There is room for us all!

Walls make us sure who is in and who's out;  
walls keep us safe from all question and doubt,  
but at a table in open exchange  
new ties are formed as our lives rearrange. (Refrain)

Once we were strangers, divided, alone.  
hate and distrust built a wall stone by stone.  
Now at a table the bread that we share  
joins us to Christ in a circle of care. (Refrain)

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

## OFFERING HYMN

I reach in my pock - et\_\_\_ to

pull out an of - fer-ing as if this gift were real-ly\_\_\_ mine. It's not, Lord, I

know, but I cling to\_\_\_ it so\_\_\_ un - til my\_\_\_ soul's voice can\_\_\_ re -

mind me that what - ev - er I have,\_\_\_ what - ev - er I have,

\_\_\_ what - ev - er I have,\_\_\_ Lord,\_\_\_ is yours.

I vis - it with you\_\_\_ for an hour on Sun - days\_\_\_ as if it's a fav - or I

do. Lord, help me\_\_\_ to see that to live faith - ful - ly is\_\_\_ to

34  
turn my days o - ver to you be cause what - ev - er I have,

39  
what - ev - er I have, what - ev - er I have, Lord, is

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  
what - ev - er I have, Lord, is yours.



# 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 - 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** Come and taste the joy of God!

*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 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  
1, 2, 3.  
loving sign from you, God, and your Son. 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, Take My Hand*  
737 *He Comes to Us as One Unknown*  
472 *Eat This Bread*

*The assembly stands.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

Sisters and brothers, once more the strength of the Lord courses through us. May it fortify us in the week to come, in our families, in our jobs, in our thoughts, in our words, in our deeds. May we never lose the glow we gain from sharing this holy meal.

C **May its taste never leave us.**

## + SENDING +

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

P God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✠ bless you and remain with you always.

C **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The assembly stands.*

**SENDING HYMN**

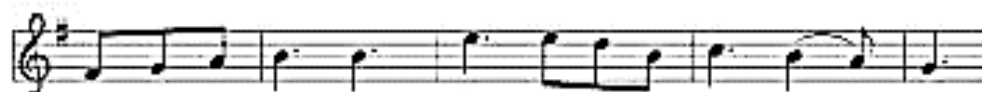
**841** *Lift Every Voice and Sing*



1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,  
2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,  
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty,  
felt in the days when hope un - born had died;  
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,  
yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet  
thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,



let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea,  
come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?  
keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray,



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;  
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;



sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;  
we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,  
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;



fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,  
out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last  
shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,



let us march on till vic - to - ry is won,  
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast,  
true to our God, true to our na - tive land,

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. You are God’s beloved.  
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  
to the glory of God.**

**Calendar for January 14 - 21**

Jan. 14 Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
	9:30 am	Choir practice
	10:00 am	Worship, Second Sunday after Epiphany
17 Wed.	7:00 pm	Choir practice
21 Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
	9:30 am	Choir practice
	10:00 am	Worship, Third Sunday after Epiphany
	11:30 am	Congregational meeting

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

[Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11](#)

[Psalm 126](#)

[1 Thessalonians 5:16-24](#)

[John 1:6-8, 19-28](#)



**SERVING EVERY SUNDAY**

Pastor Tom, presiding and preaching

Katharine Gossman, piano

Karl Barton, flute

Denise Bookwalter, announcements

Choir: Karl Barton, Melissa Barton, Mark Canning, Judi Duffy, Kirsten Ebbesen, Rita Ford, Martin Guttenplan, Vicki Guttenplan, Ron Hartung, Rudy Hehn, Susan Hehn, Colleen Holdcraft, Pastor Tom Holdcraft, Sandy Ness, Dave Suhrweir, Cassandra White

**SERVING TODAY AND ONE WEEK FROM TODAY**

Serving	January 14	January 21
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Beth Alexander	Colleen Holdcraft
<b>Cup Minister</b>	Kirsten Ebbesen	Rob Schiffer
<b>Cantor</b>	Cassandra White	Rudy Hehn
<b>Lector</b>	Colleen Holdcraft	Jen Reece
<b>Acolyte</b>	Cup Minister - or Colton Allen or Graham Reece	
<b>Tech Team</b>	Mark Greeley Cindy Suhrweir	
<b>Ushers</b>		
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Beth Alexander Rita Ford	Billie Reardon
<b>Counters</b>	Kirsten Ebbesen Rob Schiffer	Audrey Post Billie Reardon

## PRAYER REQUESTS

***New concerns:*** Prayers to the family of Jennifer Dritt as they mourn the loss of James Oliver Dritt (Jen's father); Mark and Kimmy Davis (brother and sister-in-law of Sandy Davis), mourning the death of their son, Jon; Bob Eshleman, recovering from heart surgery; Gladys Kane for continued healing.

***For the sick:*** Val Sullivan; Margarete Decker (mother of Caroline Collins); Sallie Robinson (wife of Erik Robinson); Don Dowd; Isabelle Taylor (granddaughter of Bill & Connie Taylor), being treated for rheumatoid arthritis and Primary Immunodeficiency; Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Dan Graney (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White).

***In treatment for cancer:*** Phil Williams; Gordon Fleischer; Stephanie Barber; Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Bruce Blubbaum (cousin of Sharon Simmons); Craig Timm (friend of Cheryl & Steve); Laura Ketchum-Jahn, (friend of Cheryl & Steve); Aubrey Thonvold (Reconciling Works Exec. Dir.); Judy Renwick (friend of Judi Duffy); Gil Johnson (friend of Judi Duffy).

***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; for rest and rejuvenation for Presiding Bishop Eaton as she takes a leave of absence for several months; Interim Presiding Bishop Michael Burk, providing leadership in Bp. Eaton's absence; 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** will be next Sunday, Jan. 21, following worship. We will vote on the 2024 budget and elect new Council members.

**2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available in the narthex.

**FLOWER CHART FOR 2024:** 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 2024 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>. 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/newsletters>.