

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Third Sunday after Epiphany



SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024

10 A.M.

INTRODUCTION

As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

PRELUDE

Leader: All:
May the pence of the Lord embrace us. May the

5 Leader:
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-cr 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, Holy God, that we may reflect on the ways we have turned away from you.

Silence for reflection.

P Accept our confession of sin, and bathe us in your forgiveness.

C Forgive us, gracious God. 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 takes away our sin. In the warmth of God's loving gaze--Father, ✝ Son and Holy Spirit--we are forgiven.


C We are forgiven!

The assembly is seated.



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.____

Refrain
Leader All

Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,
Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,

ne - no lu wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma, ma,
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

Leader All

Ye - su a - li - se - ma, Mka - lu - bi - ri.
1 Je - sus gave his man - date: share the good news
2 Let none be for - got - ten through - out the world,
3 Help us to be faith - ful, stand - ing stead - fast,

Leader All Refrain

Ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la wo - ko - vu.
that he came to save us and set us free.
In the tri - une name of God go and bap - tize.
walk - ing in your pre - cepts, led by your Word.

Text: Tanzanian traditional; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922
Music: NENO LAKE MUNGU, Tanzanian tune; arr. Austin C. Lovelace, b. 1919
Text © 1968 Lutheran Theological College, Makumbi, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Arr. © 1968 Austin C. Lovelace, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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.

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S TIME



+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should God have mercy?"

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

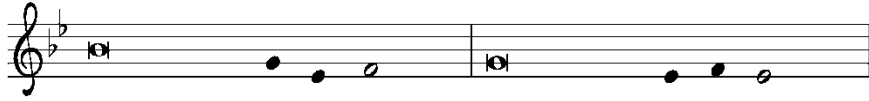
¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Reader The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 62:5-12

We sing the psalm in response to the first reading.



Leader ⁵For God alone I | wait in silence;
truly, my hope | is in God.

C ⁶God alone is my rock and | my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall nev- | er be shaken.

L ⁷In God is my deliverance | and my honor;
God is my strong rock | and my refuge.

C ⁸Put your trust in God al- | ways, O people,
pour out your hearts before the one who | is our refuge.

L ⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate can- | not be
trusted.
Placed on the scales together they weigh even less | than a breath.

C ¹⁰Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no | empty pride;
though wealth increase, set not your | heart upon it.

L ¹¹God has spoken once, twice | have I heard it,
that power be- | longs to God.

C ¹²Steadfast love belongs to | you, O Lord,
for you repay all according | to their deeds.

Spoken after the psalm is sung:

Amen.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

R The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW 169



Mark 1:14-20

Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as “the gospel” or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

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

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

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a

net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

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 **306** *Come, Beloved of the Maker*



1 Come, be - lov - ed of the Mak - er, come, be -
2 See the Morn - ing - star now beck - on to those
3 Fol - low to the birth of new - ness; fol - low
4 There we too will burn and bright - en, God's re -
5 Christ, bright im - age of the Mak - er, God, whose



hold the First - born One; see re - vealed cre - a - tion's
bound to doubt and night; "Fol - low me," Christ calls in
to the life of peace; fol - low to the hill of
splen - dent work be - gun; glo - ry will as - cend and
glo - ry none may pass, Spir - it, sun of love and



splen - dor crowned in glo - ry like the sun.
wel - come, "come from dark - ness in - to light."
an - guish; fol - low to the gar - den bliss.
height - en, crown - ing us with glo - rious sun.
splen - dor, bear us in - to light at last.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
Music: JILL, David Cherwien, b. 1957
Text © 2001 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Music © 2002 Augsburg Fortress.

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 *"Song of God Among Us" -Haugen*

Lest the Word be far from us, God prepared his coming.
One who longed to share our fate made with us his dwelling.
In the midst of you is One you do not know.

Who is ev'rywhere at hand, who is wholly human,
one who goes unrecognized silent, never spoken,
In the midst of you is One you do not know.

God from God and light from light, hope of earth's sad crying,
face to face with humankind, speaks of love and dying.

Then let patience be your guide, walk in ways of justice;
show each other at all time ev'ry kind of goodness.
In the midst of you is One you do not know.

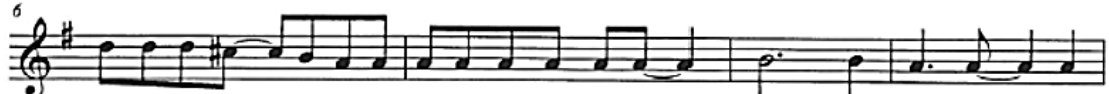
Now be carefree, full of joy: God alone, who calls us,
touches all who live on earth, makes a home among us.

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

OFFERING HYMN




I reach in my pock - et___ to



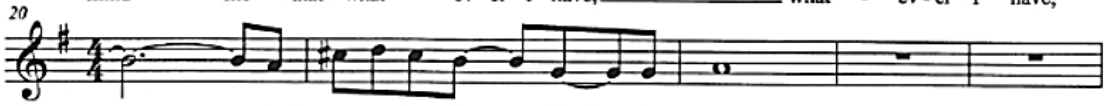
pull out an of - fer-ing as if this gift were real-ly___ mine. It's not, Lord, I




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
 loving sign from you, God, and your Son. Feed my
 Hear me
 Keep this

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

25
 — A - - - men.

- COMMUNION HYMNS 587 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*
 661 *I Love to Tell the Story*
 307 *Light Shone in Darkness*

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.*

7

Leader:

May the peace of the Lord em -

7

All:

brace us. May the love of the Lord light our way.

12

Leader: All: Leader:

Show oth-ers that light! God's grace shines for ev-ery - one. May we

18

All:

care for each oth-er. May we share with our world.

The assembly is seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands.

SENDING HYMN *Arise!*

A - rise, a - rise, — em -
brace the day! — The — world a - waits, what will you say — to
let the peo - ple know you're read - y to live — by the power of this — feast and to
prac - tice the peace of our Lord? A - rise! - - - - A -
rise, a - rise, — you're not a - lone. — The song you — sing will fol - low you home — and
hum in your heart. — So if you be - gin — to for - get whose you are, — fix your
eye on a star and sing: Lord! — A - rise! — A - rise! —
— A - rise!

DISMISSAL

- A We believe out loud that God’s mission for us is:
C **to be an active community that welcomes all people to nurture and share their faith and gifts with everyone, according to God’s call.**
- A Go in peace. You are God’s beloved.
C **Thanks be to God.**

+ + +

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

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**Gladys Kane’s family dedicates today’s altar flowers
to the glory of God in celebration
of Gladys’ 90th birthday!**

Calendar for January 21 - 28

Jan. 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
24 Wed.	7:00 pm	Choir practice
28 Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
	9:30 am	Choir practice
	10:00 am	Worship, Ministry of Reconciling
	11:30 am	RIC Speaker/Potluck

Next Sunday's Readings, Reconciling In Christ Sunday:

[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 21	January 28
Assisting Minister	Colleen Holdcraft	Jennifer Dritt
Cup Minister	Rob Schiffer	Audrey Post
Cantor	Rudy Hehn	Susan Hehn
Lector	Jen Reece	Jonas Holdcraft
Acolyte	Cup Minister - or Colton Allen or Graham Reece	
Tech Team		
Ushers		
Altar Guild	Audrey Post Billie Reardon	Rita Ford Susan Warren
Counters	Audrey Post Billie Reardon	Janet Barber Susan Warren

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

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>.