

**ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2022**

**10 A.M.**

## INTRODUCTION

God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of 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 All:

You know how our prayers ever fade. Yet always you

22

open your arms to us.



+ 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!**

**GATHERING HYMN**      **886**      *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing (vs. 1, 3, 5 & 6)*

1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,  
 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,  
 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,  
 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;

the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!  
 to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.  
 sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.  
 the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

5 Look unto him, your Savior own,  
 O fallen human race!  
 Look and be saved through faith alone,  
 be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love  
 be now and ever giv'n  
 by saints below and saints above,  
 the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.  
 Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## 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



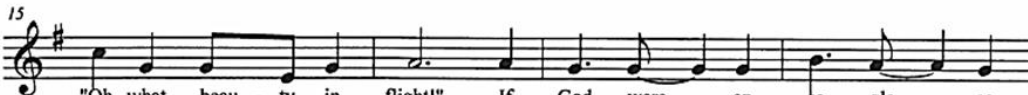
If God were an ea - gle, he'd  
 If God were the wind, she'd run  
 If God were a moun - tain, a  
 God's more than a moun - tain, an



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



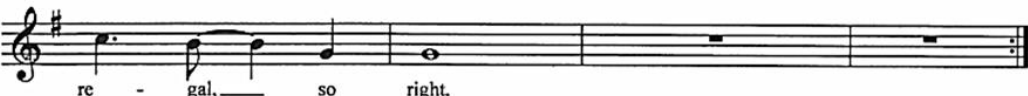
catch the least breeze. And peo - ple would shout,  
 res - ing the crowds. And peo - ple would sigh,  
 might - ty, a - lone. And peo - ple would cry,  
 hymns of praise end. Al - might - y and yet



"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



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.

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON



+ WORD +

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

*The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that “the joy of the LORD is your strength.”*

<sup>1</sup>All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. <sup>2</sup>Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup>He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. <sup>4</sup>And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. <sup>5</sup>Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. <sup>6</sup>So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

<sup>9</sup>And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

Reader        The word of the Lord.

**C                Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 19**                *We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader <sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,  
and the sky proclaims its | maker’s handiwork.

**C        <sup>2</sup>One day tells its tale | to another,  
and one night imparts knowledge | to another.**

L        <sup>3</sup>Although they have no | words or language,  
and their voices | are not heard,

**C        <sup>4</sup>their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends | of  
the world,  
where God has pitched a tent | for the sun.**

L        <sup>5</sup>It comes forth like a bridegroom out | of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to | run its course.

**C        <sup>6</sup>It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the  
end of | it again;  
nothing is hidden from its | burning heat.**

L        <sup>7</sup>The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re- | vives the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom | to the simple.

**C** <sup>8</sup>**The statutes of the LORD are just and re- | jice the heart;**  
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light | to the eyes.

L <sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean and en- | dures forever;  
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous | altogether.

**C** <sup>10</sup>**More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine gold,**  
sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb.

L <sup>11</sup>By them also is your ser- | vant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is | great reward.

**C** <sup>12</sup>**Who can detect one's | own offenses?**  
Cleanse me from my | secret faults.

L <sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get  
dominion | over me;  
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a | great offense.

**C** <sup>14</sup>**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable |**  
**in your sight,**  
**O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer.**

*Spoken after the psalm is sung:*

**C** **Amen.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a**

*The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.*

<sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup>Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a



part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup>But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup>If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup>The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup>and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup>whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup>that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

<sup>27</sup>Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup>And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup>Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup>Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup>But strive for the greater gifts.

Reader           The word of the Lord.

**C               Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL:     Luke 4:14-21**

*Near the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.*

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

**C           Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>14</sup>Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup>He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

<sup>16</sup>When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup>and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:  
<sup>18</sup>“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

<sup>20</sup>And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup>Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

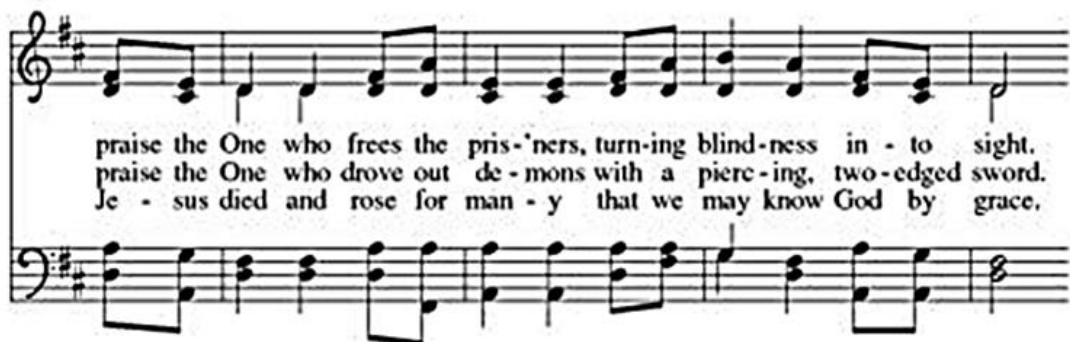
**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      **843**      *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness (vs. 1 & 2)*



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;  
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;  
 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.  
 praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.  
 Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,  
 Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;  
 Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.  
 from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
 Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955  
 Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813  
 Text © 1987 Hope Publishers Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## **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**

**P** Lord, we do not know how to pray as we should. But, St. Paul wrote, the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. Rinse away grudges that build up through the week and through the years. Help us to see your face in each other's faces. And listen now as, through your Holy Spirit, we offer our prayers to you.

*Each petition ends: God of grace,*

*Congregational response: bear our prayer.*

## **PEACE**

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

**C** And also with you.

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

## OFFERING

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

## 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.

## 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.

**+ SENDING +**

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

**P** May the Lord who placed this fragile planet in the sky grant us the wisdom to preserve it and the love to make it shine. May Almighty God--Father, +Son, Holy Spirit--soothe our hearts and heal us with the peace we truly need.

**C** **Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SENDING HYMN**      **710**      *Let Streams of Living Justice*

1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;  
 2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,  
 3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;

give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.  
 for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.  
 your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.

The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,  
 Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;  
 Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,

the moun - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.  
 on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.  
 our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.

Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;  
 O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;  
 In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;

a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance; pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.  
 dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.  
 your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934  
 Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934  
 Text © 1989 William Whitla.

- 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.
- P Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.
- C Thanks be to God.

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**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED  
TO THE GLORY OF GOD.**

**Calendar for January 23 - 30**

Jan.	23	Sun.	10:00 am	Worship, Third Sunday after Epiphany
			11:30 am	Congregational meeting
	26	Wed.	noon	Bible study (online)
	30	Sun.	10:00 am	Worship, Ministry of Reconciliation Sunday

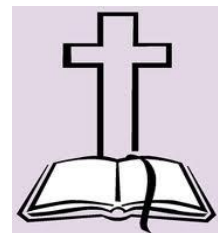
**Next Sunday's Readings, Ministry of Reconciliation Sunday:**

**Jeremiah 1:4-10**

**Psalm 71:1-6**

**1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

**Luke 4:21-30**



## SERVING TABLE

Serving	January 23	January 30
<b>Presiding</b>	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom
<b>Preaching</b>	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Kirsten Ebbesen	Colleen Holdcraft
<b>Cup Minister</b>		
<b>Lector</b>	Jennifer Buchanan	Mark Bertolami
<b>Cantors</b>	Rudy Hehn Susan Hehn	Kirsten Ebbesen Martin Guttenplan
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Beth Alexander Erin Kenney	Caroline Collins Andrea Notley
<b>Counters</b>	Margaret Bowers Patricia Handschy	Bob Eshleman Linda Eshleman
<b>Announcements</b>	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom

## PRAYER REQUESTS

*New concerns:* Becky Button (cousin of Audrey Post), in critical condition after a car accident; Gladys Kane, recovering from surgery; Isaac (son of Terri Schmitt) for healing (both physical and emotional).

*For the sick:* Val Sullivan; Margarete Decker (mother of Caroline Collins); 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:* Stephanie Barber; Cathie Nitti (niece of Sharon Simmons); Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; Maggie Soff (friend of Sandy Sampson); James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Isabell Cintron (friend of Sharon Simmons); Sarah Lucas (friend of Cassandra White); Bruce Blubaum (cousin of Sharon Simmons); Chris Dickman (synod council member), child of Pr. Katrina Foster (friend of Cheryl).

***For health and protection:*** For all affected by coronavirus: those experiencing mental health difficulties due to isolation; those with the disease struggling to recover; 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 US, including those “unaccounted for”.

***For prisoners:*** Femi and Eddie; all those on death row.

***Other concerns:*** Karen Olson; Blanche White (Melissa Barton).

***Church concerns:*** St. Stephen’s Congregational 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; Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA Advocacy offices and ministry; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pensacola.

***World concerns:*** For all recovering in the Florida Panhandle from Hurricane Michael, including Messiah Lutheran Church; the people of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands continuing to recover from hurricanes; migrants fleeing violence in Central America; all those migrants and asylum seekers imprisoned by the US government; the people of Venezuela (birthplace of Bp. Suarez) and Hong Kong; for the Supreme Court as it considers cases involving the LGBTQ community.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2022:** Offering envelopes for next year are available for pick-up in the Fellowship hall.

**FLOWER CHART FOR 2022:** Do you have an anniversary, birthday or special memory you would like to honor? Celebrate the occasion by sponsoring the flowers for our service and signing up for the 2022 Flower Chart located in the narthex. The cost is \$35, and you can place that in the offering plate.

**RSVP FOR NEXT WEEK:** Remember to use the Sign-up Genius to reserve your spot for worship service (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c45a4a62ea7fbc16-sunday>). The deadline is noon on the Friday before worship. The calendar has dates available throughout the summer.