# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

# FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 04, 2024 10 A.M.

### INTRODUCTION

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

# **PRELUDE**

love





come

light our

Lord.





The assembly stands.



### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

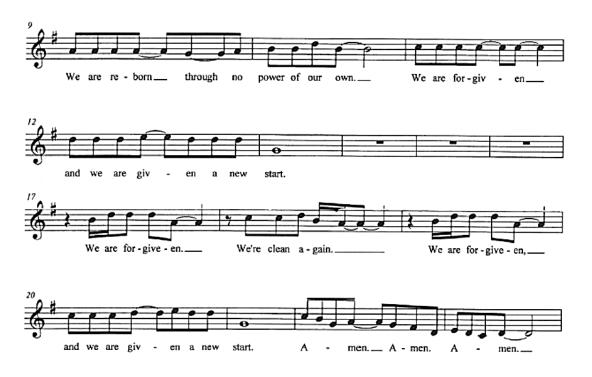
P Send us your silence, Holy God, that we may reflect on the ways we have turned away from you.

Silence for reflection.

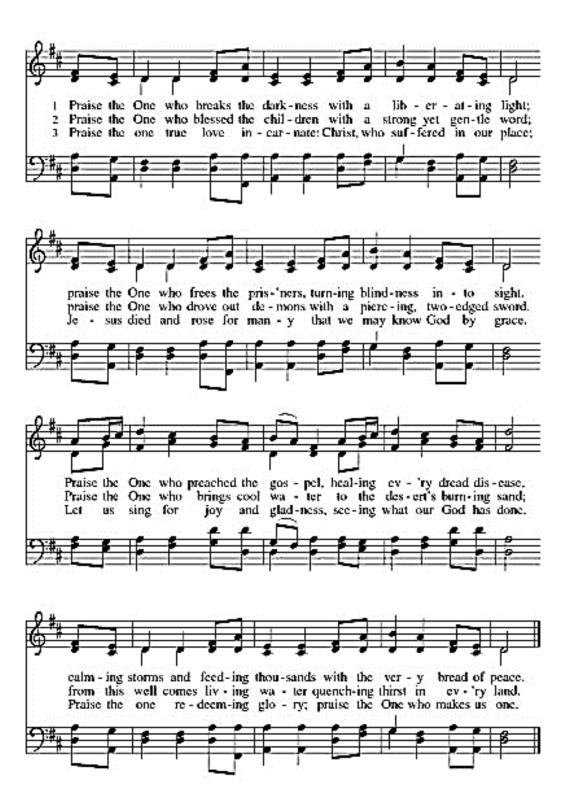
- P Accept our confession of sin, and bathe us in your forgiveness.
- C Forgive us, gracious God. We fail to thank you for your gifts to us. We neglect those who are in need, those who could teach us of your love. And we have such a dim view of ourselves compared with your vision of us. You have given 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** 843 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



Text: Rusty Edwards, h. 1955 Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyoth, Repusatory of Sorred Mone, Part II, 1813 Text O 1987 Rope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, II, 60188, All rights reserved. Used by permission.

# **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**



### PRAYER OF THE DAY



B Let us pray.

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

### **CHILDREN'S SERMON**



# FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:21-31

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

<sup>21</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? <sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; <sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

<sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

<sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

<sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? <sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. <sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Reader The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

**PSALM:** Psalm 147:1-11, 20c We sing the psalm responsively.



Leader 'Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

- C 2The LORD re- | builds Jerusalem, and gathers the ex- | iles of Israel.
- L <sup>3</sup>The LORD heals the | brokenhearted and binds | up their wounds.
- C 4The LORD counts the number | of the stars and calls them all | by their names.
- L <sup>5</sup>Great is our LORD and might- 1 y in power; there is no limit 1 to God's wisdom.
- C The LORD lifts | up the lowly, but casts the wicked | to the ground.
- L 'Sing to the LORD | with thanksgiving; make music upon the harp | to our God,

- C swho covers the heav-+ens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow up-+ on the mountains.
- L 

  God provides food | for the cattle

  and for the young ravens | when they cry.
- C <sup>10</sup>God is not impressed by the might | of a horse, and has no pleasure in the speed | of a runner,
- L "but finds pleasure in those who | fear the LORD, in those who await God's steadfast love. <sup>20c1</sup> Hallelujah! Spoken after the psalm is sung:

Amen.

#### SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

<sup>16</sup>If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! <sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

<sup>19</sup>For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

- R The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

#### **ELW 169**



#### GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

- P The holy gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.
- <sup>29</sup>As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.
- <sup>32</sup>That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.
- <sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup>He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.
- P The gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

The assembly stands.

# **HYMN OF THE DAY** 617 We Come to You for Healing, Lord



Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923
Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824
Text O 2002 GIA Publications, Ioc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.glamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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

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.



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

# **ANTHEM** "I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes" -Berk

I will lift up mine eyes unto the mountains,
From whence shall my help come? My help cometh from the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth.

(repeat)

Amen.

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

# **OFFERING HYMN**











The assembly stands.

# THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

- P Dear Giver of peace,
- C Everything we have, everything we are, we offer to your service. As you forgave us earlier, so accept us now, and renew us in the name of the Divine Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

# **GREAT THANKSGIVING**





### **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.
- 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**



# **COMMUNION HYMNS** 684 Creating God, Your Fingers Trace

610 O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come

859 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

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.









# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The assembly stands.

# **SENDING HYMN** Arise!



### 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. Your 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 Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.



Susan & Mark Warren dedicate today's altar flowers in gratitude for granddaughter Leonora's baptism and grandson Jack's fifth birthday.

Calendar for February 4 - 11					
Feb.	04	Sun.	9:00 am 9:30 am 10:00 am	Book study Choir practice Worship, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	
	06	Wed.	7:00 pm	Choir practice	
	11	Sun.	9:00 am 9:30 am 10:00 am 11:30 am	Book study Choir practice Worship, Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday Mardi Gras Talent Show	

# Next Sunday's Readings, Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday:

2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9



# **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	February 4	February 11			
Assisting Minister	Rob Schiffer	Kirsten Ebbesen			
Cup Minister	Colleen Holdcraft	Beth Alexander			
Cantor	Susan Hehn				
Lector	Mark Greeley	Chris Reece			
Acolyte	Cup Minister - or Colton Allen or Graham Reece				
Tech Team					
Ushers					
Altar Guild	Beth Alexander				
Counters	Kirsten Ebbesen	Margaret Bowers			
	Rob Schiffer	Patricia Handschy			

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

**New concerns:** Family and friends of Val Sullivan, as we mourn her passing; Prayers to the family of Jennifer Dritt as they mourn the loss of James Oliver Dritt (Jen's father); Bob Eshleman, recovering from heart surgery; Gladys Kane for continued healing; Amanda George (daughter-in-law of Rob Schiffer), diagnosed with breast cancer; Laura McDuffie (sister of Rob Schiffer), diagnosed with primary immunodeficiency and Sjogren's syndrome.

For the sick: 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 Blubaum (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*.