

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD SUNDAY



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2022

10 A.M.

INTRODUCTION

Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus reflect that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James, and John. We pray that it will be true of all of us who see God's glory in the word and in the supper and who are being "transformed into the same image" by God's Spirit.

PRELUDE

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

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

10 All: lost and broken. Your brilliance illuminates our flaws.

16 Leader: You know how our prayers ever fade. All: Yet always you

22 op - en your arms to us.



+GATHERING+

CONFESSION & 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!




1 We are for-giv - en.____ We're clean a - gain._____

5



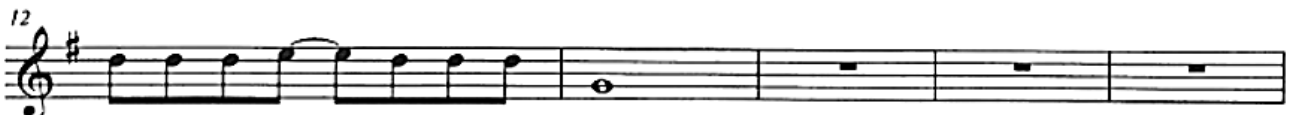
Gone is the dark night of sin;_____ in comes the light.

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 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in night;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt.
Music: ST. DENIS, Webb traditional, arr. John Roberts, 1807-1876

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



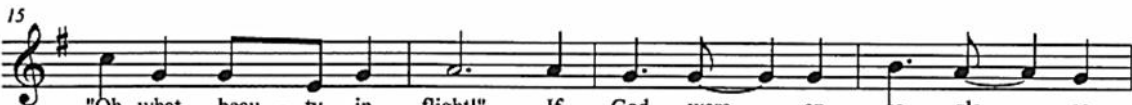
If God were an ea - gle, he'd
 If God were the wind, she'd run
 If God were a moun - tain, a
 God's more than a moun - tain, an



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



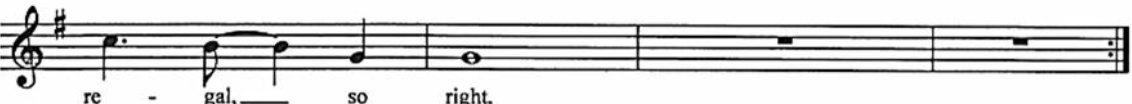
catch the least breeze. And peo - ple would shout,
 res - ing the crowds. And peo - ple would sigh,
 might - ty, a - lone. And peo - ple would cry,
 hymns of praise end. Al - might - y and yet



"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.

Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON



+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Exodus 34:29-35

Moses' face shone with the reflected glory of God after he received the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. The sight caused the Israelites to be afraid, so Moses wore a veil to mask the radiance of God's glory, taking it off when he spoke directly with God.

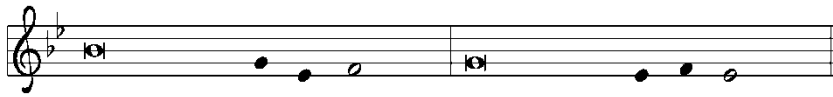
²⁹Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. ³⁰When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. ³²Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. ³³When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; ³⁴but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

Reader The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 99

We sing the psalm responsively.



Leader The LORD is king; let the people tremble.

The LORD is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.

C The LORD, great in Zion,
is high above all peoples.

L Let them confess God's name, which is great and awesome;
God is the Holy One.

C O mighty king, lover of justice, you have established equity;
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

L Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and fall down before God's footstool;
God is the Holy One.

C Moses and Aaron among your priests, and Samuel among those who call
upon your name, O LORD,
they called upon you, and you answered them,

L you spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;
they kept your testimonies and the decree that you gave them.

C O LORD our God, you answered them indeed;
you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil
deeds.

L Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and worship upon God's holy hill;
for the LORD our God is the Holy One.

Spoken after the psalm is sung:

C Amen.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 3:12--4:2

In his debates with the Corinthians, Paul contrasts the glory of Moses with the glory of Christ. The Israelites could not see Moses' face because of the veil. But in Christ we see the unveiled glory of God and are transformed into Christ's likeness.

¹²Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. ¹⁴But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. ¹⁵Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

⁴¹Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ²We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

Reader The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

The conversation about Jesus' suffering and death is enclosed in a dazzling foreshadowing of the resurrection. God affirms Jesus' identity, the disciples are stunned speechless, and Jesus resumes his mission with a demonstration of his power over evil.

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁸Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

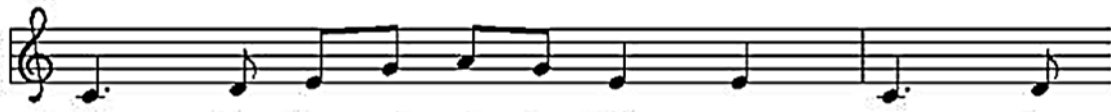
³²Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. ³⁴While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” ³⁶When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

[³⁷On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. ³⁸Just then a man from the crowd shouted, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. ³⁹Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. ⁴⁰I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” ⁴¹Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.” ⁴²While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. ^{43a}And all were astounded at the greatness of God.]

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

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



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.

NICENE CREED

A God has made us God's people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends: God of grace,

Congregational response: hear 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

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

10 know, but I cling to___ it so___ un - til my___ soul's voice can___ re -

15 mind me that what - ev - er I have,___ what - ev - er I have,

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

25 I vis - it with you___ for an hour on Sun - days___ as if it's a fav - or I


29 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



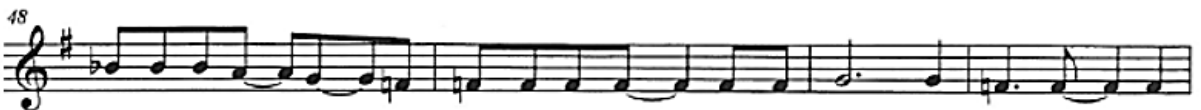
what - ev - er I have, what - ev - er I have, Lord, is

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

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,
he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the 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 to God's table. There is a place for you and enough for all.

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 838 *Beautiful Savior*

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
 rbed in the flow'rs of spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion.

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ.

C **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 866 *We Are Marching in the Light (vs. 1, we are praying..., we are singing...)*

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

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

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

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

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

Si - ya - ham - ba _____ oo _____
 We are march - ing _____ oo _____

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

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



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



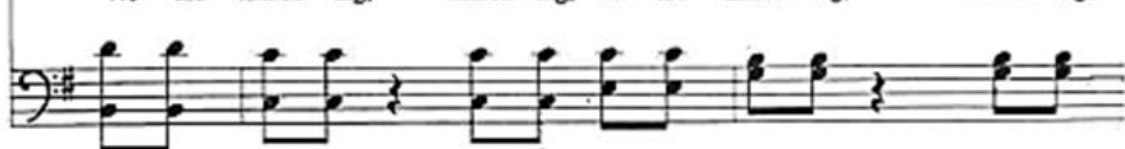
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba
We are march - ing

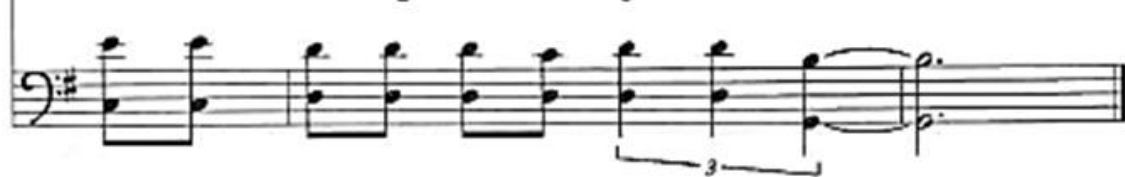
oo
oo



Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, hain - ba,
We are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing, march - ing,



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



Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...
We are praying ...
We are singing ...

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

+ + +

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*Arise! The St. Stephen Service
Music by Tom BuchananLyrics by Ron Hartung
Of St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Tallahassee, FL*



**BOB AND LINDA ESHLEMAN DEDICATES
TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS TO THE GLORY OF
GOD FOR THE MANY BLESSINGS BESTOWED
UPON US IN OUR 54 YEARS TOGETHER.**

Calendar for February 27—March 6

Feb. 27	Sun.	10:00 am	Worship with communion, Transfiguration of Our Lord
March 2	Wed.	6:00 pm	Ash Wednesday service with communion
March 6	Sun.	10:00 am	Worship, First Sunday in Lent

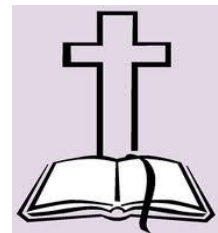
Next Sunday's Readings, First Sunday in Lent:

[Deuteronomy 26:1-11](#)

[Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16](#)

[Romans 10:8b-13](#)

[Luke 4:1-13](#)



SERVING TABLE

Serving	February 27	March 6
Presiding	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom
Preaching	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom
Assisting Minister	Colleen Holdcraft	Rob Schiffer
Cup Minister	David Butler	N/A
Lector	Jonas Holdcraft	Jen Reece
Cantors	Rita Ford Jen Reece	
Altar Guild	Caroline Collins Andrea Notley	Judi Duffy Linda Eshleman
Counters	Margaret Bowers Patricia Handschy	Kirsten Ebbesen Rob Schiffer
Announcements	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom

PRAYER REQUESTS

New concerns: Gordon Fleischer, diagnosed with throat cancer; Jon; Becky Button (cousin of Audrey Post), in critical condition after a car accident; 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

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.