

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT



SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024

10 A.M.

INTRODUCTION

God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.

PRELUDE

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 Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

C **Amen.**

P Held in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection.

P Holy God,

C **we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

P Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through + Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

1. As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth.
 2. As grain that is sown - terred your word has been sown
 3. As rays of the sun shall your word light the world.

as dew from the heav - en re - fresh - ing the land,
 on rocks and on road - ways, in good earth and sand,
 a - wak - ing and warm - ing and heal - ing our land.

Then soft - en our soil that the good seed may grow
 Make fer - tile our soil that the good seed may grow
 Then draw in our hearts that the good seed may grow

and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand
 and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand
 and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand

We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word
 We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word
 We praise you, our God, for the light of your word

we thank you, good gar-d'ner, for your ben - efit and
 we thank you, good gar-d'ner, for your ben - efit and
 we thank you, good gar-d'ner, for your ben - efit and

We bless you, best farm - er, for hun-dred - fold yield.
 We bless you, best farm - er, for hun-dred - fold yield.
 We bless you, best farm - er, for hun-dred - fold yield.

for the - gift of grace in our once - har - ven soil
 for the - gift of grace in our once - har - ven soil
 for the - gift of grace in our once - har - ven soil

From "The Golden Rule Song Book", 1918
 Music by J. W. Walker, B. J. Long, and J. S. Johnson, 1918, 1920, and 1921
 Lyrics by J. W. Walker, B. J. Long, and J. S. Johnson, 1918, 1920, and 1921
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 www.hymnary.org

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.

KYRIE



Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: ☒ Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



Ⓐ Chri - ste e - le - i - son: ☒ Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: ☒ Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S TIME



+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

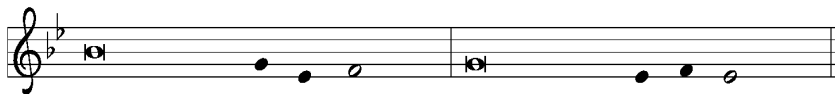
³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Reader The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-12

We sing the psalm responsively.



Leader ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
 in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

**C ²Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
 and cleanse me | from my sin.**

L ³For I know | my offenses,
 and my sin is ev- | er before me.

C ⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;

so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.

L ⁵Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my | mother's womb.

C ⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**

L ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

C ⁸**Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**

L ⁹Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out | all my wickedness.

C ¹⁰**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**

L ¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

C ¹²**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**

Spoken after the psalm is sung:

Amen.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5-10

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; ⁶as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

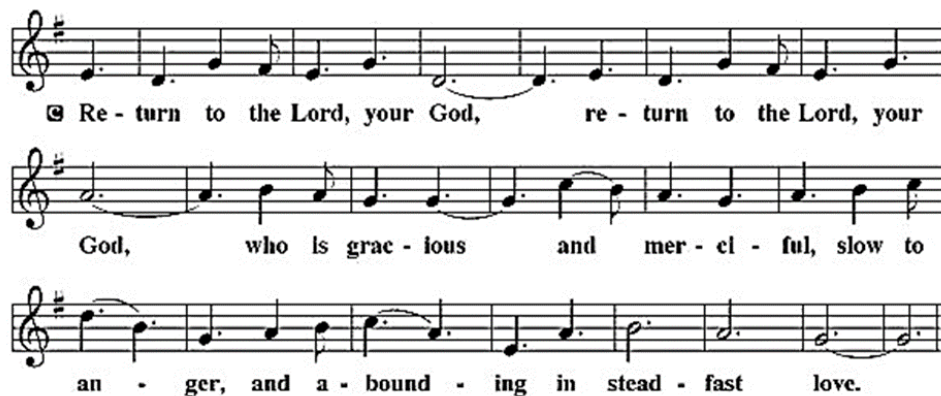
⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Reader The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



☩ Re - turn to the Lord, your God, re - turn to the Lord, your
God, who is grac - ious and mer - ci - ful, slow to
an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: John 12:20-33

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

P The holy gospel according to John, the twelfth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in

this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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 **330** *Seed That in Earth Is Dying (upload is not available)*

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: Hear us, O God.

Congregational response: Your mercy is great.

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 “*Guide My Feet*” - trad. African-American spiritual

Guide my feet while I run this race
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

Hold my hand...
Stand by me...
I'm Your child...
Search my heart...
Guide my feet...

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

OFFERING HYMN

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The presiding minister continues to give thanks.

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.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

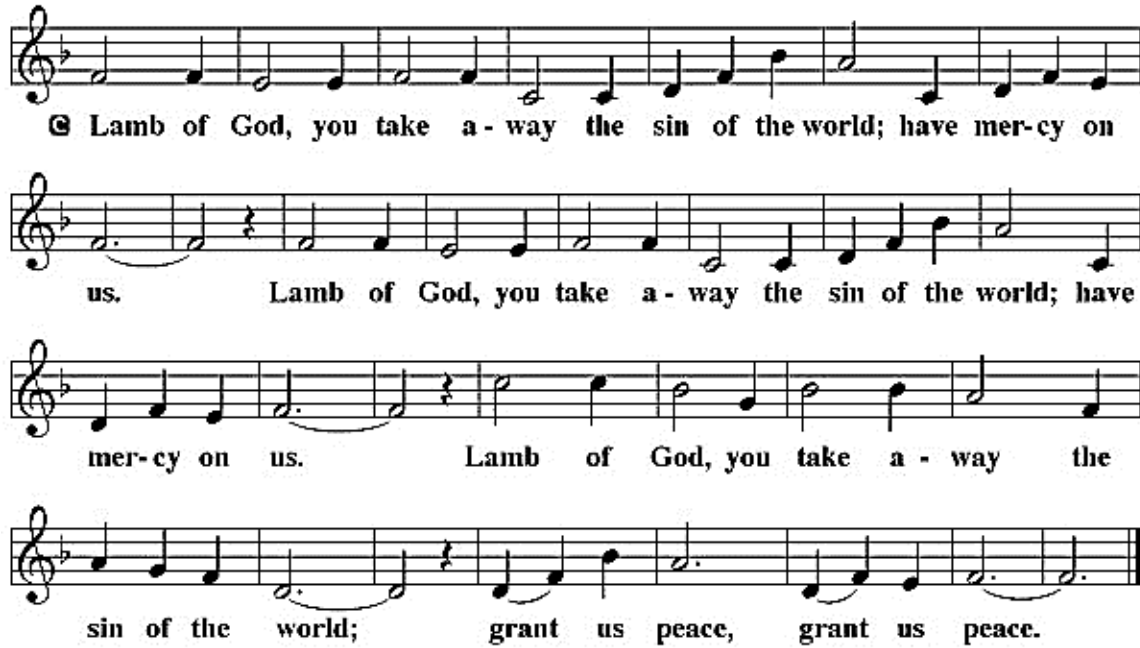
C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

The assembly is seated.

LAMB OF GOD



♩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

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 minister offers 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 HYMNS | 328 | <i>Restore in Us, O God</i> |
| | 465 | <i>As the Grains of Wheat</i> |
| | 339 | <i>Christ, the Life of All the Living</i> |

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C Amen.

+ SENDING +

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

P Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✝ give you peace.

C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands.

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
 3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,

let us each, your love pos - sess - ing, tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace.
 May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
 let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.

Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
 Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
 May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.
 Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

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. Share your bread.
- C Thanks be to God.

Calendar for March 17 - 24

| | | | |
|----------|------|----------|--|
| March 17 | Sun. | 9:00 am | Book study |
| | | 9:30 am | Choir practice |
| | | 10:00 am | Worship, Fifth Sunday in Lent |
| 20 | Wed. | 7:00 pm | Choir practice |
| 24 | Sun. | 9:00 am | Book study |
| | | 9:30 am | Choir practice |
| | | 10:00 am | Worship, Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday |

Next Sunday's Readings, Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday:

[Isaiah 50:4-9a](#)

[Psalms 31:9-16](#)

[Philippians 2:5-11](#)

[Mark 14:1--15:47](#)



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 | March 17 | March 24 |
| Assisting Minister | Beth Alexander | Rob Schiffer |
| Cup Minister | Susan Warren | Kirsten Ebbesen |
| Cantor | Mark Canning | |
| Lector | Elliot Reece | Jennifer Buchanan |
| Acolyte | Cup Minister - or Colton Allen or Graham Reece | |
| Tech Team | Sandy Lamb-Daniels Audrey Post | Colleen Holdcraft Jonas Holdcraft |
| Ushers | | |
| Altar Guild | Audrey Post Billie Reardon | Judi Duffy Sandy Lamb-Daniels |
| Counters | Janet Barber Susan Warren | Audrey Post Billie Reardon |

PRAYER REQUESTS

New concerns: Sue Berent (sister of Sharon Simmons) for comfort and peace at end of life; Jean Etsinger (friend of Cheryl & Steve, Sue & Phil), our shared sympathy with family and other friends on her death; Bob Eshleman, recovering from heart surgery; Gladys Kane for continued healing.

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); Laura McDuffie (sister of Rob Schiffer), diagnosed with primary immunodeficiency and Sjogren's syndrome.

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); Amanda George

(daughter-in-law of Rob Schiffer).

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>.



EASTER LILIES

We'll be using Easter lilies to adorn the chancel area for Easter Sunday. Would you like to dedicate one or more? The cost is \$10 each, and we'll have the dedication list in the Easter bulletin. Fill out the form below and place it with your check in the offering plate and be sure to designate that it is for the Easter lilies. The deadline is March 24.

Easter Lily Dedication

Name: _____

How many _____

Dedication: _____
