

**ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday**



**SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024**

**10 A.M.**

## INTRODUCTION

*This week, the center of the church's year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark's gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ's suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God's salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.*

## PRELUDE

*The assembly stands.*



+ GATHERING +

*The assembly gathers on the lawn at the side of the church so that all may enter in procession.*

Pastor                      Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Congregation              Hosanna in the highest!**

## PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL Mark 11:1-11

*Jesus enters Jerusalem*

P        The holy gospel according to Mark, the eleventh chapter

**C        Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup>and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” <sup>4</sup>They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, <sup>5</sup>some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” <sup>6</sup>They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. <sup>7</sup>Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup>Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! <sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

"Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

*We process into the church following the cross, worship leaders and choir.*

### **BLESSING OF PALMS**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty and Loving God, it is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through Christ Jesus our Savior. The Hebrews acclaimed Jesus as the Messiah and King with palm branches in their hands, carrying them forth from the place and crying out "Hosanna in the Highest" and "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." God, help us acclaim Jesus as our Messiah and King and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life.

C **Amen.**

P Let us go forth in peace.

C **In the name of Christ. Amen.**



*Refrain*

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,  
 2 The com - pu - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;  
 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;  
 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.  
 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring.

*Refrain*

now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One,  
 cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.  
 our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.  
 To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
 great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulf of Orleans, c. 750–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
 Music: VALEF WILL KICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Jeschner, 1584–1605

P Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

C **Hosanna in the highest!**



### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, 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: Isaiah 50:4-9a

*The image of the servant of God is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.*

<sup>4</sup>The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. <sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. <sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

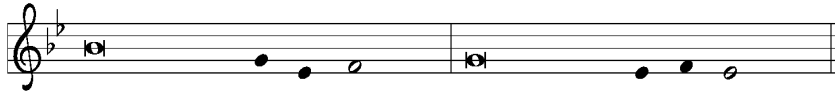
<sup>7</sup>The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; <sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. <sup>9</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Reader The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 31:9-16**

*We sing the psalm responsively.*



**Leader** <sup>9</sup>Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I | am in trouble;  
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat | and my belly.

**C** <sup>10</sup>**For my life is wasted with grief, and my | years with sighing;  
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones | are  
consumed.**

**L** <sup>11</sup>I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to | my  
acquaintances; when they see me in the street | they avoid me.

**C** <sup>12</sup>**Like the dead I am forgotten, | out of mind;  
I am as useless as a | broken pot.**

**L** <sup>13</sup>For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is | all around;  
they put their heads together against me; they plot to | take my life.

**C** <sup>14</sup>**But as for me, I have trusted in | you, O LORD.  
I have said, “You | are my God.**

**L** <sup>15</sup>My times are | in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who |  
persecute me.

**C** <sup>16</sup>**Let your face shine up- | on your servant;  
save me in your | steadfast love.”**

*Spoken after the psalm is sung:*

**C** **Amen.**

**SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11**

*Christ did not act to attain status and glory but was obedient to God even to the point of death. Following Christ's example, we do not seek personal status or glory but care for others as God cared for us in Christ's death.*

<sup>3</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>4</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>5</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>6</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

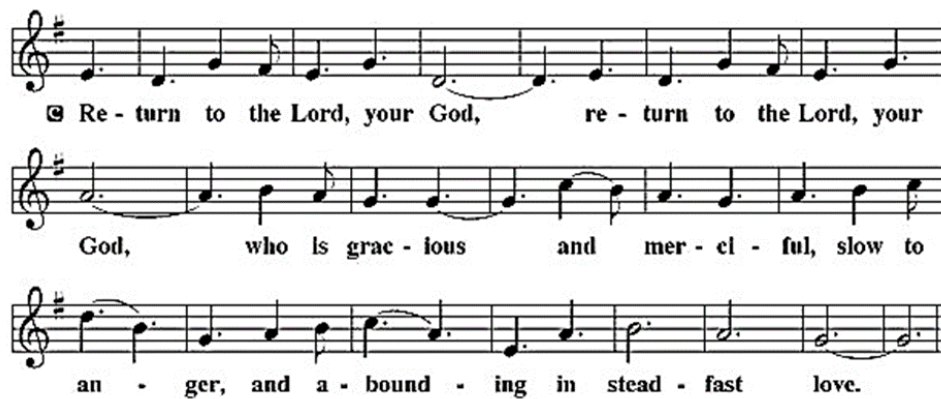
<sup>7</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>8</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>9</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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: THE PASSION OF OUR LORD ACCORDING TO MARK

*Readers:*

**Narrator** - Jen Reece; **Jesus** - Erik Robinson; **Judas** - Graham Reece; **Peter** - Chris Reece;  
**Witness** - Elliot Reece; **High Priest** - Graham Reece; **Servant** - Jennifer Buchanan;  
**Pilate** - Greta Scavone; **People** - Congregation

*The assembly stands.*

1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,  
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"  
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its lo - tiage;  
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;

whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:  
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;  
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it,  
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!

Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -  
 see there the ten - drills of our hu - man -  
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -  
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your

pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty,  
 self - hood feed on its life - blood,  
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it,  
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending,  
 this my resurrection;  
 into your hands, Lord,  
 I commit my spirit.  
 This have I searched for;  
 now I can possess it.  
 This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,  
 "Thanks to Christ whose passion  
 offers in mercy  
 healing, strength, and pardon.  
 Peoples and nations,  
 take it, take it freely!"  
 Amen! My Master!



## NICENE CREED

**P** Let us 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: 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.*



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

**ANTHEM** "Calvary" African American spiritual

(Refrain)

Calvary, Calvary, Calvary

Calvary, Calvary, Calvary,

Surely he died on Calvary.

Ev'ry time I think about Jesus,  
surely he died on Calvary. (Refrain)

Sinner, do you love my Jesus?  
surely he died on Calvary. (Refrain)

Don't you hear him say, "It is finished!"  
surely he died on Calvary. (Refrain)

Jesus furnished my salvation,  
surely he died on Calvary. (Refrain)

*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.

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

© 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 image shows a musical score for the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy". It consists of five staves of music in a single system, written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first staff begins with a common time signature (C) and the lyrics "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and". The second staff continues with "might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.". The third staff has the lyrics "Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who". The fourth staff continues with "comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the". The fifth and final staff concludes with "high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some phrases being held over from the previous staff.

*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.

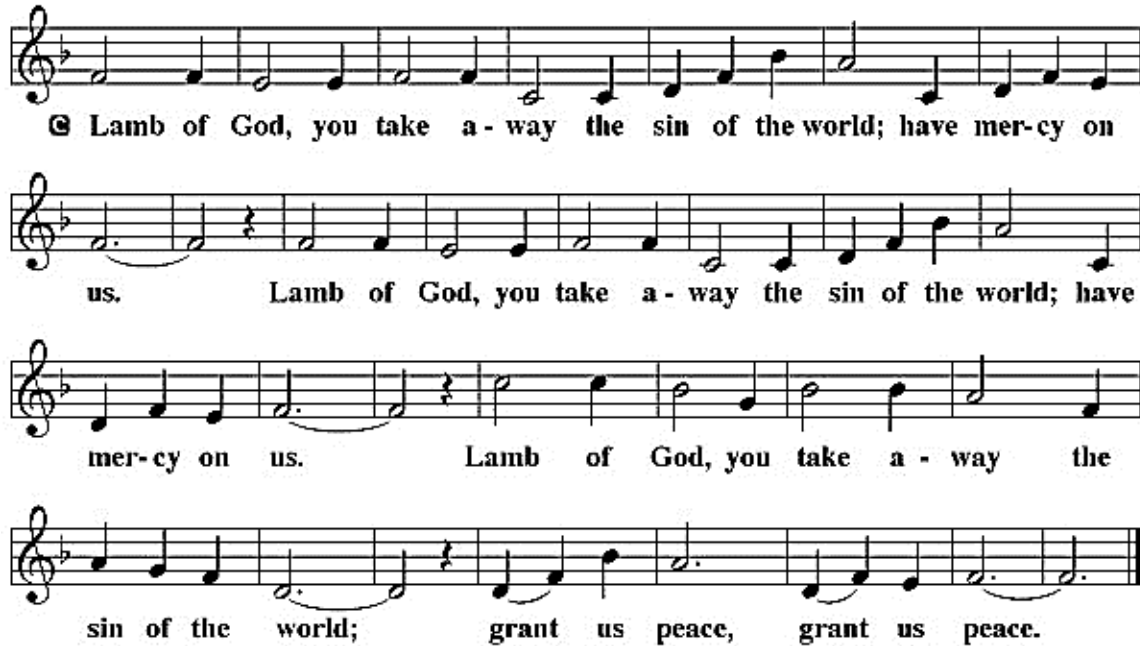
**C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are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

<b>COMMUNION HYMNS:</b>	<b>353</b>	<i>Were You There</i>
	<b>336</b>	<i>Lamb of God</i>
	<b>345</b>	<i>Jesus, I Will Ponder Now</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.*

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Stay with Me". It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and pray. Watch and pray." The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the last two lines. The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: STAY WITH ME, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.

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## 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.**

+ + +

*Sundays and Seasons v.20220805.1416*

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### Calendar for March 24 - 31

March 24	Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
		9:30 am	Choir practice
		10:00 am	Worship, Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday
27	Wed.	7:00 pm	Choir practice
28	Thu.	7:00 pm	Worship, Maundy Thursday
29	Fri.	7:00 pm	Worship, Good Friday service
31	Sun.	8:15 am	Easter Breakfast Potluck
		9:15 am	Easter Egg hunt
		10:00 am	Worship, Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Sunday

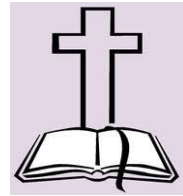
### Next Sunday's Readings, Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Sunday:

[Acts 10:34-43](#)

[Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24](#)

[1 Corinthians 15:1-11](#)

[Mark 16:1-8](#)



### 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 24	March 31
Assisting Minister	Rob Schiffer	Colleen Holdcraft
Cup Minister	Kirsten Ebbesen	Beth Alexander
Cantor	Susan Hehn	Rudy Hehn
Lector	Jennifer Buchanan	
Acolyte	Cup Minister - or Colton Allen or Graham Reece	
Tech Team	Colleen Holdcraft Jonas Holdcraft	Mark Greeley Audrey Post
Ushers		
Altar Guild	Judi Duffy Sandy Lamb-Daniels	Rita Ford Susan Warren
Counters	Audrey Post Billie Reardon	Margaret Bowers Patricia Handschy

### 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 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); 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.

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### Easter Lily Dedication

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

How many \_\_\_\_\_

Dedication: \_\_\_\_\_

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