

Our Mission Statement

St. Stephen's is a welcoming, healing community
who worship God in Christ, nurture people
growing in faith, serve others with acceptance & love,
and invite people to share the joy of the Spirit.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church E.L.C.A.

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Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs. 8:30 am—2:30 pm

Ministers: The People of St. Stephen's

Pastor: Rev. James P. Lapp

Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp

Music Directors: Suzanne Duval & Gary Roberts

Sunday School Coordinator: Leslie Lapp

Child Development Center Director: Kathy Berens

Custodian: John Hopping

St. Stephen's Worship Band

Jay Johnston, Nancy & Sam Loya

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Palm Sunday March 28, 2021

WELCOME AND A NOTE TO GUESTS

Welcome Everyone! We pray the service will be a blessing for you and that if you are here for the first time you will join us again soon. Thank you for worshipping with us — your presence is a joy to this faith community.

Welcome

Introduction to Worship outside doors of Church

The Entry Into Jerusalem **The Palm Sunday Procession**

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

C: Hosanna to the Son of David.

P: Let us pray:

Mercifully assist us, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts whereby you have given us life everlasting, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: Amen.

(Raise Palm Crosses in the air)

P: We praise and thank you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was acclaimed Son of David and King of kings by those who scattered their garments and branches of palm in his path. We ask that you bless these branches and those who bear them, and grant that we may ever hail him as our Lord and King and follow him with perfect confidence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: When they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts.

All Women: And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance and saw these things —

Hymn “Were You There?”

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Pilate: Now there was a man named Joseph from the town of Arimathea, a righteous man, one looking for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud, and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb, where no one had ever yet been laid.

Narrator: It was the Day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning.

All Women: The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments.

Narrator: On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

Offering (Please give your offering at the altar or other tables)

Prayers of the Church

Celebrate pg. 4

Closing Hymn

“Beautiful Savior”

Red #838

***Benediction and Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Share the Good News.

C: Thanks be to God.

Judas: One of the criminals who was hanged with him railed at him saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

Peter: But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence, and we justly? But this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

People: Forgive us our trespasses, deliver us from evil.
Thine is the kingdom —

Narrator: And Jesus said to him —

People: And the power

Narrator: "Truly, truly, I say to you —

People: And the glory —

Narrator: "Today you will be with me in Paradise."

People: Forever and ever. Amen!

Hymn "Were You There?" Red #353

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Narrator: It was now about the sixth hour — and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed... And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from the top to the bottom.... Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit!" And having said this, he breathed his last. And all the multitudes who had assembled to see the sight,

C: Amen

P: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

C: Hosanna in the highest!

P: Let us go forth in peace.

C: In the name of the Lord.

(Proceed to area behind seating)

"The Cry of the Whole Congregation" **by Walter Wangerin**

Narrator: When Jesus drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent ahead two of his disciples, saying, "Go into the village opposite. There you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat; untie it and bring it here. If any one asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' You shall say, 'The Lord has need of it.'" So those who were sent went away found it as he had told them....

People: And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

Peter: And they said, "The Lord has need of it." And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing the garments on the colt, they set Jesus upon it.

Narrator: And as he rode along, they spread their garments on the road. As he was now drawing near, at the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and to praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, singing:

*(Process to seating area, following crucifer,
with palm crosses raised)*

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

Red #344

Refrain:

***All glory, laud, and honor
To you, redeemer, king,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.***

**You are the king of Israel
And David's royal Son,
Now in the Lord's name coming,
Our King and blessed One.** *Refrain*

**The company of angels
Are praising you on high;
Creation and all mortals
In chorus make reply.** *Refrain*

**The multitude of pilgrims
With palms before you went.
Our praise and prayer and anthems
Before you we present.** *Refrain*

(Remain Standing)

Pharisee: And some of the Pharisees in the multitude said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples! They're calling you the Christ. Tell them to stop it!"

Narrator: He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones themselves would cry out."

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"—*continued* Red #344

Refrain:

***All glory, laud, and honor
To you, redeemer, king,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.***

**To you, before your Passion,
They sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted,
Our melody we raise.** *Refrain*

Narrator: But Jesus he delivered over to their will.

All Men: And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus.

All Women: And there followed a great multitude of women who bewailed and lamented him —

Narrator: But Jesus turning to them said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, "Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never gave suck!" For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it dries!"

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place which is called the Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left.

And Jesus, said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

All Women: Forgive us our trespasses.

All Men: And they cast lots to divide his garments.

All Women: Forgive us our trespasses.

All Men: And the people stood by, watching. But rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others: let him save himself, if he is Christ of God!"

All Women: Forgive us our trespasses.

All Men: The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him vinegar.

All Women: There was an inscription over him: "This is the King of the Jews."

All Men: Forgive us our trespasses. Forgive us, O Lord, our trespasses!

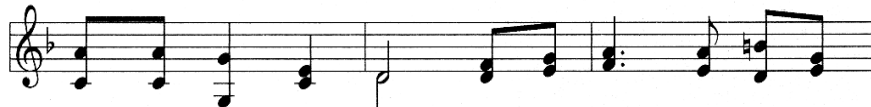
Pilate: So Pilate gave sentence that their demand should be granted. He released the man who had been jailed for murder. But Jesus he delivered up to their will.

(Please be seated)

Friday Morning — The Crucifixion



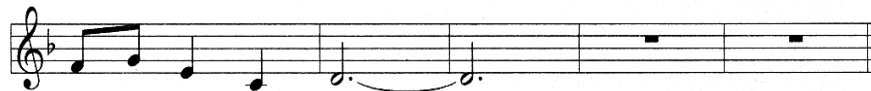
1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
bod - y of our Lord.
riv - er, you the sea.

4. God of all our fear and sorrow,
God who lives beyond our death
hold us close through each tomorrow,
love as near as every breath,
love as near as every breath.

**Their praises you accepted;
Accept the prayers we bring,
Great author of all goodness,
O good and gracious King. Refrain**

(Remain Standing)

Narrator: And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it saying, "Would that even today you knew the things that make for peace! But now they are hid from your eyes. O Jerusalem! The days shall come upon you, when your enemies will cast up a bank about you and surround you, and hem you in on every side, and dash you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave one stone upon another in you; because you did not know the time of your visitation."

(All may be seated.)

The Preparation and the Sharing of the Last Supper The Passion of Our Lord

Passing of the Peace

Narrator: Now, the feast of Unleavened Bread drew near which is called the Passover. And the Temple Priests were seeking how to put Jesus to death; for they feared the people.

Judas: Then Satan entered into Judas call Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve; he went away and conferred with the temple priests and officers how he might betray Jesus to them. And they were glad, and engaged to give him money. So he agreed and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of the multitude.

Narrator: Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it."

People: They said to him, "But where, Lord? Where will you have us prepare it, and what are we to do?"

Narrator: He said to them, “Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house which he enters, and tell the householder, ‘The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room where I am to eat the Passover with my disciples?’ And he will show you a large upper room furnished; there make ready.” And they went and found it as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover.

Pastor: And when the hour came, he sat at the table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I shall not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks he said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” And he took bread and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” And likewise the cup after supper, saying, “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”

The Holy Communion is Shared

We have changed our practice in order to reflect our concern for the most vulnerable among us. Jesus often lifted up those who were most at risk in life as ones that we all need to care for lovingly. May this way of receiving draw us nearer to God’s ways.

Please have your prepared elements ready to receive Holy Communion. There is both wine and grape juice available at the tables near where you are sitting. Commune yourself or a loved one with you with the words: “The Body of Christ given.” and “The Blood of Christ shed.”

For the wine, turn the cup upside down first and open the seal for the bread. Then turn the cup right side up and open the seal for the wine. For the grape juice, open the clear seal for the bread, and then the foil seal for the cup.

Narrator: And he answered him, “You have said so.”

Pilate: And Pilate said to the Chief Priests and the multitudes, “I find no crime in this man.”

People: But they were urgent, saying, “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout Galilee even to this place.”

Pilate: And when Pilate heard that he was Galilean, of Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod.

Narrator: Where he was vehemently accused, and treated with contempt and mocked, and arrayed in gorgeous purple, and then sent back again.

Pilate: Pilate said to the rulers of the people: “You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and after examining him, behold, I did not find him guilty of any of the charges against him. Behold, nothing deserving of death has been done by him. I will therefore chastise him and release him.

(Please Stand)

People: But they all cried out together, “Away with this man! Away! Release to us Barabbas!”

Narrator: Barabbas! — a man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and for murder —

Pilate: Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus —

People: But they shouted out, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

Pilate: “Why: What evil has he done? I’ve found no crime in him deserving of death. I’ll chastise him. I’ll release him —”

People: But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified.

Narrator: And their voices prevailed.

People: Then a maid, seeing him sit in the light, said, "This man also was with him."

Peter: But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him."

People: And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You are also one of them."

Peter: But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying!"

Narrator: And immediately, while he was speaking, the cock crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter.

Peter: And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and he wept bitterly.

Narrator: Now the men who were holding Jesus mocked him and beat him: they blindfolded him and demanded:

People: Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?"

Narrator: And they spoke many other words against him, reviling him. When the day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together and led him to their council.

People: And they said, "Are you the Son of God, then?"

Narrator: And he said to them, "You say that I am."

People: And they said, "Blasphemy! What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips. Blasphemy! Oh, Blasphemy!"

Narrator: Then the whole company of them arose, and brought him before Pontius Pilate.

People: And they began to curse him, saying, "We found this man perverting our nation, and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ the King!"

Pilate: And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Hymn

"Jesus, Remember Me"

Red #616

Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.

(Repeat 4 times)

Narrator: "But behold the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined: but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!"

People: And they began to question, "Who, Lord? Who is to betray you? Is it I? Is it I?"

Narrator: He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. Oh, it would have been better for that man if he had not been born!"

Judas: Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Is it I, Master?"

Narrator: Jesus said to him, "You have said so."

Peter: Simon Peter was indignant. "But not I" he said. And he declared, "Though they all fall away from you, I will never leave you."

Narrator: "Peter, truly I say to you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

Peter: Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will never deny you!"

People: And so said all of the disciples, over and over again.

The Agony in the Garden

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Red #742

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry,
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
Oh, what needless pain we bear –
All because we do not carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer.

Narrator: And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed. And when he came to the place he said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.”

People: Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us, deliver us.

Narrator: And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, “Father, if thou are willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless, not my will, but thine be done.”

People: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done. Thy will be done. Thy will be done....

Narrator: And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and he said to them, “Why do you sleep? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.”

People: Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, even the evil within ourselves.

Judas: While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him.

Narrator: But Jesus said to him, “Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?”

Judas: Judas said, “Hail Master.”

People: When the disciples saw what would follow, they said, “Lord, shall we strike with the sword?”

Peter: And one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

Narrator: But Jesus said, “No more of this!” And he touched his ear and healed him.

People: Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Narrator: Jesus said to those who had come out against him, “When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour and the power of darkness.”

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” (continued)

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness –
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Narrator: Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him to the high priest's house.

Peter: Peter followed at a distance; and when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them.