

First Sunday in Lent

February 26, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Welcome Visitor! We pray the service will be a blessing for you and that you will join us again soon. Thank you for worshiping with us—Your presence is a joy to this faith community. Please fill out the “Worship Slip” and place it in the offering plate as a way to help welcome you further and another way of offering yourself to God on this day! We welcome children (wiggles & all), however there is a family room adjacent to the sanctuary if you prefer.

“*” Asterisk means, “Please Stand”

The Gathering

*Confession and Forgiveness

This confession provides extended silence for listening, pondering, and self-reflection as the season of Lent calls for.

*All may make the sign of the cross,
the sign marked at our baptism on our forehead..*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of heaven and earth,
You come in close and make us yours.
Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin,
Embrace your forgiveness,
And seek the way you set before us in your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin as individuals and
as part of the human family.

(Silence is kept as we call these things to mind and heart)

P: Merciful God,

C: Forgive us.

**We confess that we have turned from you, and we
cannot break free from the power of sin.**

P: We have spoken when we should have kept quiet.

Silence

P: We were silent when we should have said something.

Silence

P: We acted when we knew better.

Silence

P: We were still when we know we should have moved.

Silence

P: For the wrong we have done,
For the good we have failed to do,
Have mercy on us,
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

P: People of God, look to Jesus † Christ
Given to heal you and set you free
Because God loved the world so much.
Take hold of life—abundant and eternal life!

C: Amen.

*Opening Hymn

“A Mighty Fortress is our God”

Red #504

**A mighty fortress is our God,
A sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor’s rod
And wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
Has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
He arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.**

**No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
Whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God’s only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.**

(hymn continued)

Though hordes of devils fill the land
 All threat'ning to devour us,
 We tremble not, unmoved we stand;
 They cannot overpow'r us.
 Let this world's tyrant rage;
 In battle we'll engage!
 His might is doomed to fail;
 God's judgment must prevail!
 One little word subdues him.

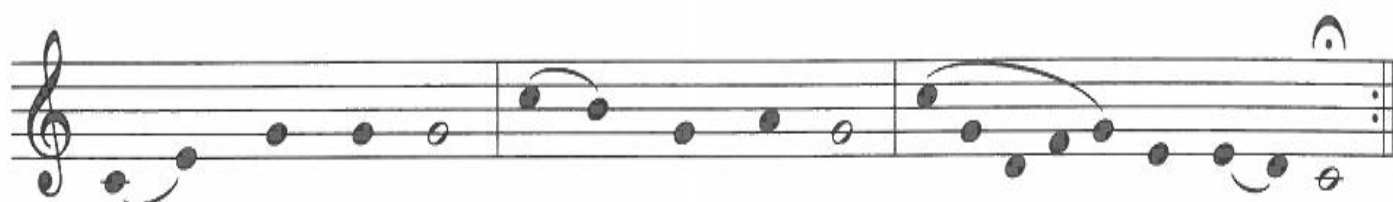
God's Word forever shall abide,
 No thanks to foes, who fear it;
 For God himself fights by our side
 With weapons of the Spirit.
 Were they to take our house,
 Goods, honor, child, or spouse,
 Though life be wrenched away,
 They cannot win the day.
 The Kingdom's ours forever!

*Greeting

P: From the One who was, who is and who is to come:
 Grace and peace be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*Kyrie—We bring the cares and burdens of our lives to God



1. Lord, have mer-cy.	Lord, have mer-cy.	Lord, have mer-cy.
2. Christ, have mer-cy.	Christ, have mer-cy.	Christ, have mer-cy.
3. Lord, have mer-cy.	Lord, have mer-cy.	Lord, have mer-cy.

Prayer of the Day

Celebrate Page 1

P: May God be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray...

The Word of God

First Reading Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Celebrate p.1

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32 (read responsively)

Celebrate p.2

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation

Cantor solo first

All sing twice afterwards

GOSPEL

Cantor, then All

Glo-ry to you, Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ.

Glo-ry to you, Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ.

*Gospel Reading

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Matthew the 4th Chapter Cel. p. 3

C: Glory to you, O God.

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev. James P. Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

"When We are Tested"

ACS #922

When we are tested and wrestle alone,
famished for bread when the world offers stone,
nourish us, God, by your word and your way,
food that sustains us by night and by day.

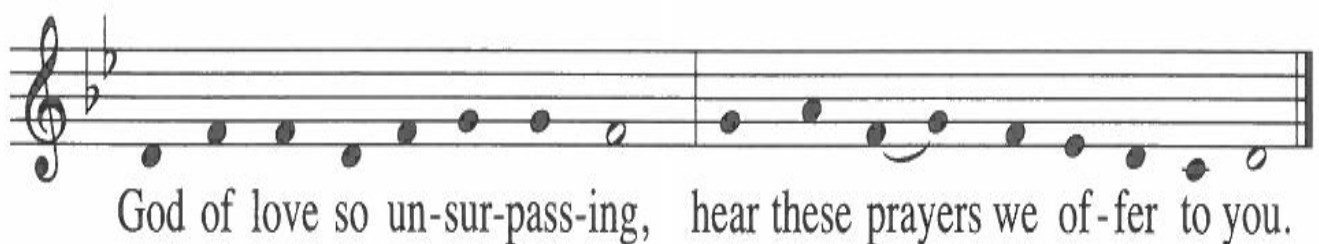
When in the desert we cry for relief,
pleading for paths marked by certain belief,
lift us to love you beyond sign and test,
trusting your presence, our only true rest.

When we are tempted to barter our souls,
trading the truth for power to control,
teach us to worship and praise only you,
seeking your will in the work that we do.

When we have struggled and searched through the night,
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,
Savior, surround us with circles of care,
angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.

* Prayers of the Church - sing after each petition

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL



The Meal

*Passing of the Peace

P: May the peace of God be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offering

*Offertory Prayer

P: Merciful God,
Receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving
And the offering of our lives,
That following in the way of the cross,
We may know the joy of the resurrection;
Through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

*Great Thanksgiving

P: May God be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to God.

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

C: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places offer 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
hosts. Heav - en and earth are full, full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san -
na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes, comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san -
na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Words of Institution

*Lord's Prayer

P: God, 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 and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

Communion Hymns

AGNUS DEI



"I Want Jesus To Walk With Me"

Red #325

**I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
All along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

**In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
When my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

**When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
When my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

*Communion Blessing

P: May this Holy Communion of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen, keep and unite us now and forever.

C: Amen

*Prayer after Communion

P: Embodied God,
At your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
Empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
And touch the world with your love.

C: Amen

Sending

*Blessing

P: May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,
And claimed us as children of the light,
Strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.
May God bless you and keep you.
May God's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.
May God look upon you with favor
And give you † peace.

C: Amen

*Closing Hymn

"Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer Red #618

**Guide me ever, great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty;
Hold me with your pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
Feed me now and evermore.**

Open now the crystal fountain
Where the healing waters flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
shield me with your mighty arm,
Shield me with your might arm.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises
I will raise for-ever-more,
I will raise for- ever-more.

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve in love.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Serving Today

Reader: Steven Hendrickson
Coffee Host: Connie Cunningham
Altar Guild: Connie Cunningham
Counters: Janet Slay & Bill Anderson

Prayer Concerns

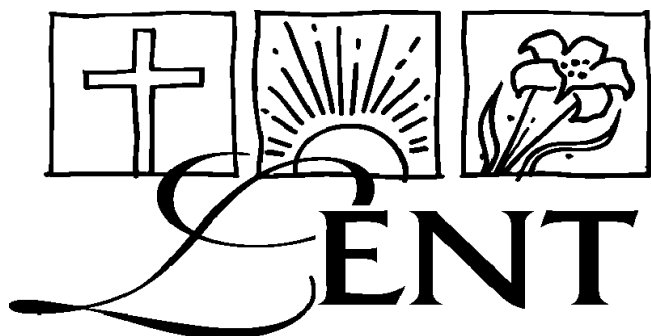
SHORT TERM: Family of Gwyn Larson, Joel Hurttgam, Judith Alvarado, Family of Kirsten Skiles, friends in Bakersfield, Gary Toops, Donna Kemper, Beau, Family of Sandie Sanders, Craig Dahl, Family of Kurt Bell, Genell Csik, Barbara Bartee, Mike Homa, Mateo, Family of Mark Cronquist, Erica Curry, Rosio, Barbara Stiles, Family of Connor Kowalski, Shiela P., Mary Smith, Paul Cunningham, Barbara Allen, Anita & Howard, Sydnei Wilbywold, Paul Paustian, Deborah Henry, Carla, Ellie, Adrian Cameron, Dawit & Family (Ethiopia), Gaye Cornell, Dorothy, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Nancy, Marisa & Isaac, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Anthony, Steve, Margot Wilson, Rose, Will, Sam, Aaron Johnson, Sal, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Parents, Healthcare workers & teachers.

LONG TERM: April McCalmont, Marty Nehring, Miller Mouw, Kyle Lapp, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Dom, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Michelle, Josh, CJ, Bobbie Erickson, Lupe, Joyce, Susan Anderson, Jan Wagner, Richard C., Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Karin, Will, Chris, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, Cabel, Miller, Noah, Esdras, Immigrant families, The Homeless, People of Ukraine, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family, men and women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.



Needed:

- Sunday readers in March
- Sunday Coffee Hosts March 12 & 19
- Soup pm hosts March 8 & 15
- Palm Sunday 4/2 dramatic readers



Every Wednesday
through March 29

Soup Supper — 6:00 pm
Worship - 7:15pm

These worship gatherings are designed to help us reflect more deeply on our walk of faith with God. The Season of Lent calls all Christians into a time of fasting, prayer and helping those in need in order to help us prepare for the miracle of the Resurrection at Easter. Invite your friends.

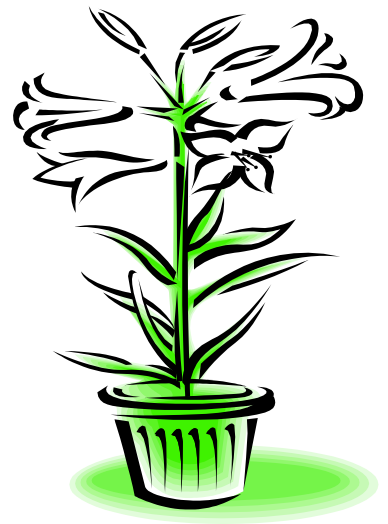
Easter Lilies

To honor loved ones & benefit church ministries

- ~ \$15 checks to St. Stephen's
- ~ Memo line "Lily"
- ~ List your dedication on the sign up sheet

You may take home your Lily after the second service on Easter.

Last chance to order 3/26



Prayer Children

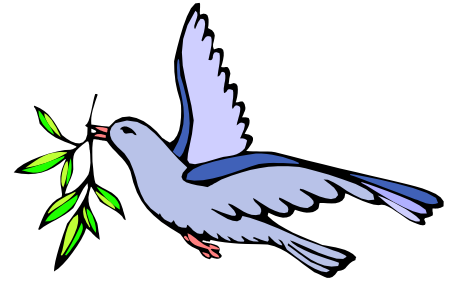
Stay tuned for information on prayer children for the new year. We received a preliminary student list, but it wasn't ready for distribution yet. However, we are getting close to having the final list. We will be contacting you by e-mail and in-person when the list is ready.

Upcoming Events:

February Benevolence Offering =
Association of Faith Communities
Rotating Shelter & Safe Spaces

TBA	Confirmation Class 6:30 pm
Feb. 28	Scouts 7:00 pm
Feb. 28	Provide Habitat Lunches 10:30 am
March 1	Lenten Wednesday Soup at 6:00 pm (hosts needed) Holden Evening Prayer at 7:15 pm
March. 2	Preschool Chapel 10:15
March 2	Bible Study 11:00 & 7:30 pm (Zoom)
March 2	Men's beginner A.A. 7:00 pm
March 3	Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 pm
March 9	MMRR Women's Circle 10:30am
March 10	Scouts game night
March 14	Knitters Guild 6:00 pm
March 16	Knitters Guild 10 am
March. 20	Embroiders Guild 7 pm
April 2	Palm Sunday Holy Week
April 3-7	Preschool Closed

Pastor's Office Hours Weds. & Thurs. 10:00 to 1:00



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 and love, invite people to share the joy of the spirit.

Reconciling in Christ

"We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status.

We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ."

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Ministers: The People of St. Stephen's
Pastor: Rev. James P. Lapp
Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp
Church Musician: Gary Roberts
Sunday School: Leslie Lapp
Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens
Custodian: John Hopping
Videographers: Jay Johnston, Kent Madsen & Barb Rice

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