



BORN OF WATER AND SPIRIT

JOHN 3:5

Second Sunday in Lent

March 5, 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”

Prelude

Contemplation by Richard Purvis
Lamb of God

Gary Roberts
Tina Gates

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

“Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth” #735

**Mothering God, you gave me birth,
in the bright morning of this world.
Creator, source of ev’ry breath, you are my rain,
My wind, m sun.**

**Mothering Christ, you took my form,
Offering me your food of light,
Grain...of life, and grape of love, your very body
For my peace.**

**Mothering spirit, nurt’ring one,
In arms of patience hold me close,
So that in faith I root and grow until I flow’r,
Until I know.**

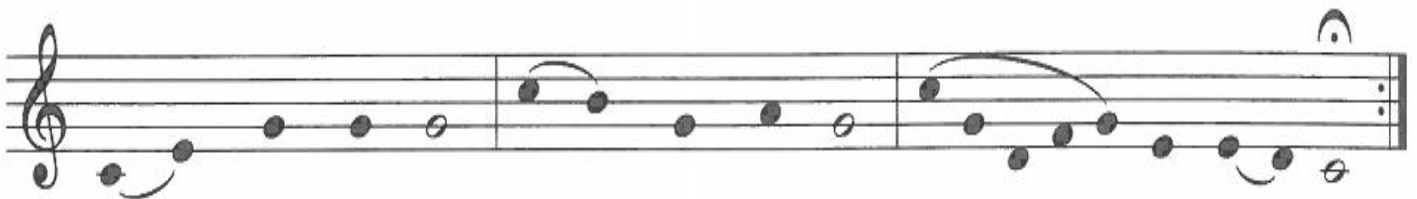
*Greeting

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

Christ, have mercy on the penitent who has been sorry, and who desires



- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 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 12:1-4

Celebrate p.1

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121

(read responsively)

Celebrate p.2

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

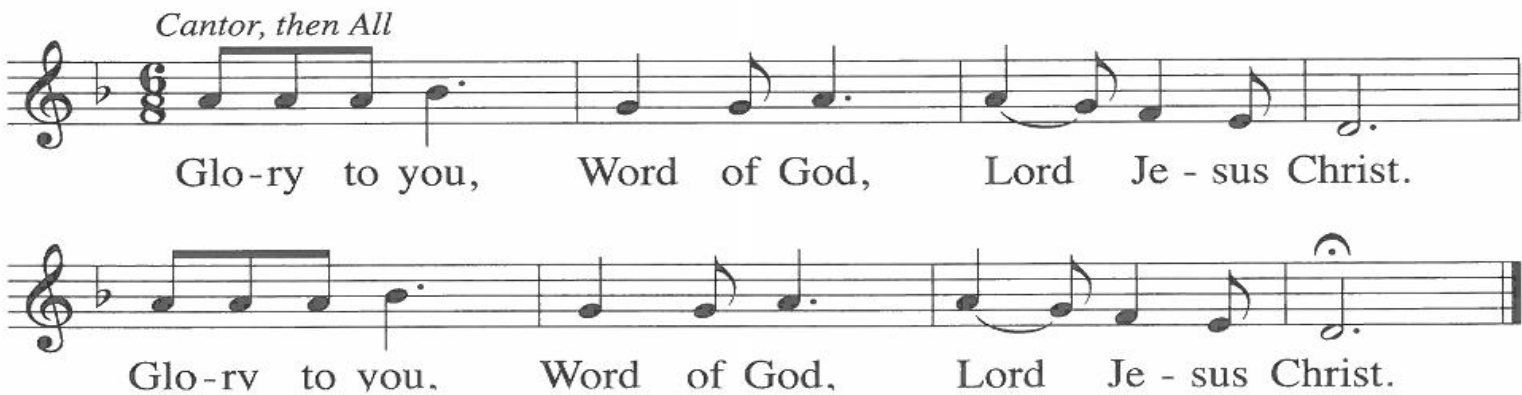
C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation

Cantor solo first
All sing twice afterwards

GOSPEL

Cantor, then All



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

*Gospel Reading

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. John the 3rd 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 “*Let My Spirit Always Sing*” ACS #916

**Let my spirit always sing, though my heart be wintering,
though the season of despair
give no sign that you are there,
God to whom my days belong let there always be a song.**

**Though my body be confined,
let your word engage my mind,
let the inner eye discern how much more there is to learn,
see the world becoming whole
through the window of the soul.**

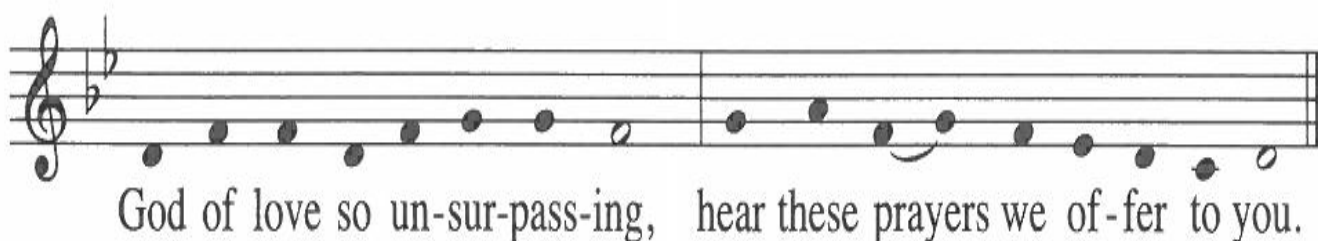
**Let your wisdom grace my years,
choose my words and chase my fears,
give me wit to welcome change, to accept, and not estrange;
let my joy be full and deep in the knowledge that I keep.**

(hymn continued)

Let my spirit always sing, to your Spirit answering,
Through the silence, through the pain
know my hope is not in vain,
like a feather on your breath
trust our love, through life and death.

* 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

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world,

have mer - cy on us. *Repeat as needed* *Last time* Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sins of the world, grant us peace.

"Loving Spirit" Red #397

**Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
You have chosen me to be
You have drawn me to your wonder,
You have set your sign on me.**

**Like a mother you enfold me,
Hold my life within your own,
Feed me with your very body,
Form me of your flesh and bone.**

**Like a father you protect me,
Teach me the discerning eye,
Hoist me up upon your shoulder,
Let me see the world from high.**

**Friend and lover, in our closeness
I am known and held and blessed:
In your promise is my comfort,
In your presence I am rest.**

**Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
You have chosen me to be
You have drawn me to your wonder,
You have set your sign on 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

"Lift High the Cross" Red #660

REFRAIN:

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name. REFRAIN**

**Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. REFRAIN**

**All newborn servants of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of him who died. REFRAIN**

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. REFRAIN**

**So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! REFRAIN**

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve in love.

C: Thanks be to God.

Serving Today

Reader: Elke Spires

Coffee Host: Rebecca Wickham

Altar Guild: Connie Cunningham

Counters: Janet Slay

Prayer Concerns

SHORT TERM: Sandi Csik, Family of Gwyn Larson, Joel Hurttgam, Judith Alvarado, Family of Kirsten Skiles, Sandy, Levi & Alexandria, Norman's Father, friends in Bakersfield, Gary Toops, Donna Kemper, Beau, 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, Tai-yo, 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.



Zoom with Pastor Jim

**check email on
Weds. for link**

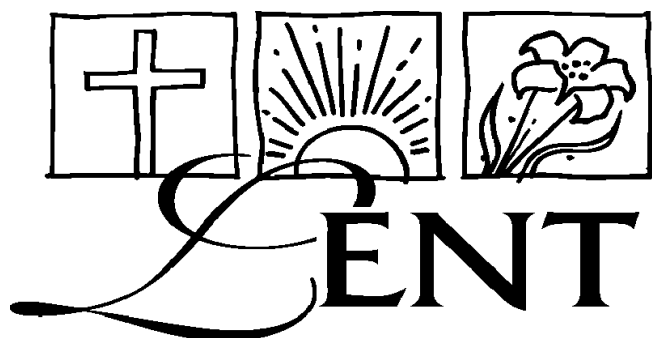
**THURSDAYS 11a -12noon
& 7:30 – 8:30 pm**

We will be looking at the upcoming scripture readings for Sunday, to enrich our worship experience and uncover some of the deeper truths of our faith. As we grow in our faith, we grow in community.



Needed:

- Sunday readers in March
- Soup 6:00 pm hosts March 8
- 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:

March Benevolence Offering =
St. Stephen's Scholarship Fund

TBA Confirmation Class 6:30 pm

March 7 AFC 11:30 am

March 7 Scouts 7:00 pm

March 8 Lenten Wednesday
Soup at 6:00 pm (**hosts needed**)
Holden Evening Prayer at 7:15 pm

March. 9 Preschool Chapel 10:15

March 9 MMRR Women's Circle 10:30am

March 9 Bible Study 11:00 & 7:30 pm (Zoom)

March 9 Men's beginner A.A. 7:00 pm

March 10 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 pm

March 10 Scouts game night

March 11 Scouts all day

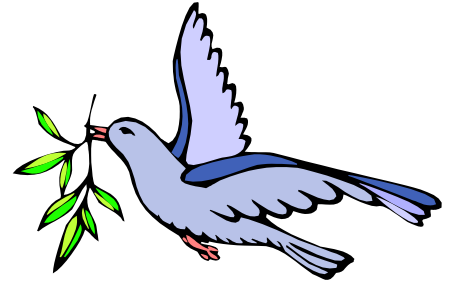
March 14 Knitters Guild 6:00 pm

March 14 Council 6:30 pm

March 28 Provide Habitat Lunches 10:30 am

March 29 NL Collate 2:00 pm

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."

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

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539