

*A spring of water  
gushing up to  
eternal  
life*

JOHN 4:14



# Third Sunday in Lent

## March 12, 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

*“As The Winter Days Grow Longer” ACS #924*

**As the winter days grow longer,  
drawing short the hours of night;  
As our eager expectation  
waits for Easter’s dawning light -  
Yearning people, here we gather,  
turning watchful eyes to you:  
God who blesses earth with spring time,  
shine within our world anew!**

**As the vines burst into blossom,  
fragrant in the morning air,  
Lifting spirits with their sweetness,  
luring hearts to thankful prayer -  
Lenten people, here we gather,  
seeking lives refreshed from sin.  
God who blesses earth with springtime,  
bloom within our hearts again!**

(hymn continued)

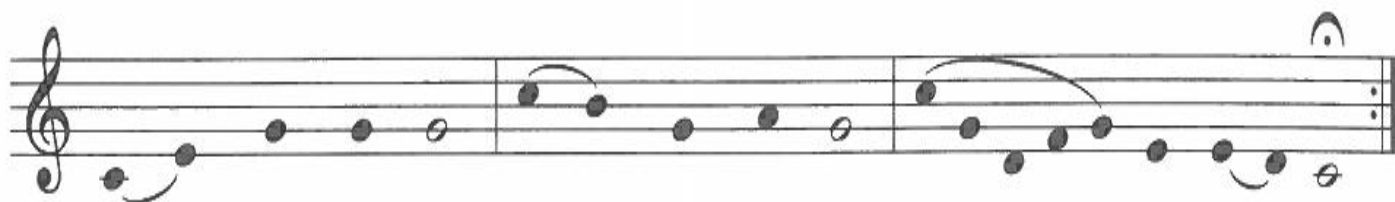
As we journey through this season,  
pilgrims through a thirsty land,  
Quench us with your living presence;  
guide us with your loving hand.  
Wand'ring people, here we gather,  
called to rest a long our way.  
God who blesses earth with springtime,  
grant us Sabbath joy this day!

\*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

Exodus 17:1-7

Celebrate p.1

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 95

(read responsively)

Celebrate p.2

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

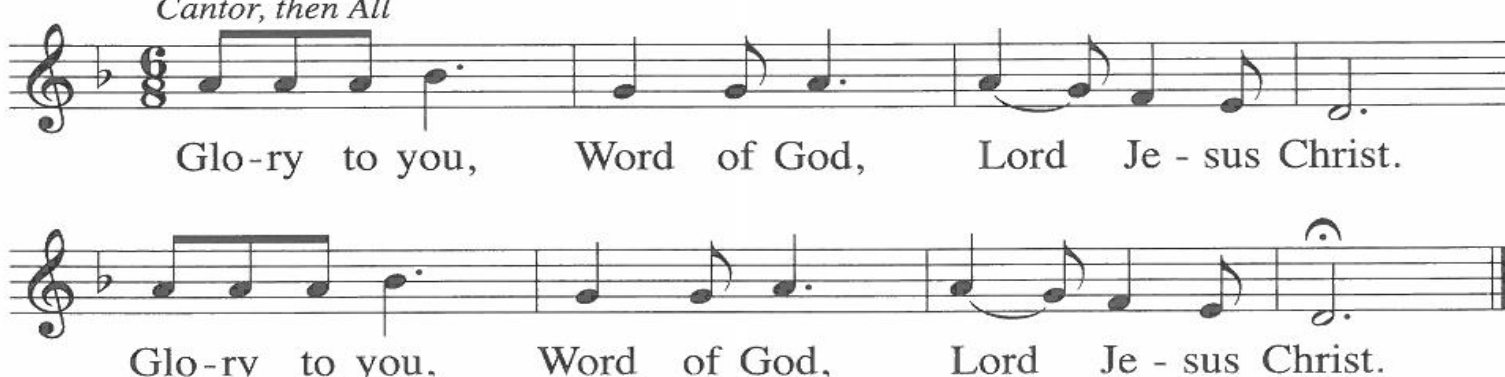
\*Gospel Acclamation

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. John 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

*"As The Deer Runs to the River" #331*

**As the deer runs to the river,  
parched and weary from the chase,  
we have come from hurt and hurry,  
thirsting for your healing grace.**

Refrain

**Jesus, source of living water,  
may we drink of you and live!**

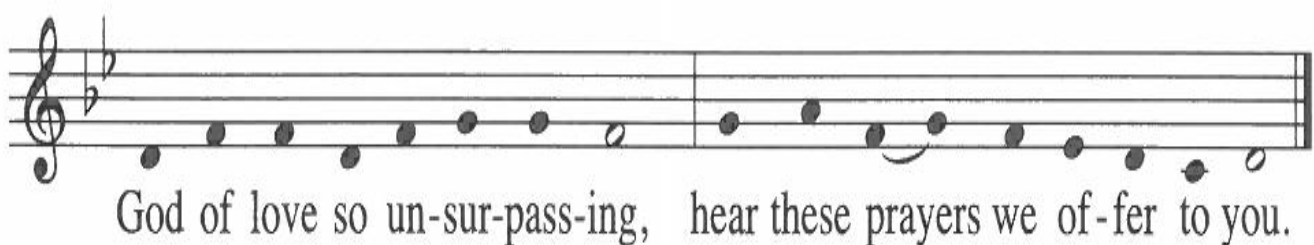
**2 When your Israel crossed the desert  
where no stream or spring was seen,  
Moses struck the rock, and water  
flowed for them, refreshing, clean.** Refrain

**3 “Come and drink,” Isaiah summoned,  
“all who for God’s mercy plead!  
God’s forgiveness, like a fountain,  
flows to satisfy your need.”** Refrain

**4 Christ, we come from desert places,  
deepest thirst unsatisfied.  
Lead us to the waters flowing  
from the cross on which you died.** Refrain

\* 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.

## *“As the Grains of Wheat”* #465

### Refrain

**As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill  
were gathered into one to become our bread;  
so may all your people from all the ends of earth  
be gathered into one in you.**

- 1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,  
May we share the presence of your love. Refrain**
- 2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come  
When all creation shares this feast with you. Refrain**

\*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      *"Now is the Time of Grace"*      #918 ACS

Refrain

**Now is the time of grace,  
Now is the day of salvation.  
Turn now, and seek God's grace,  
Now behold God's invitation.**

Verses—Leader

**1 This is the fast that God would choose;  
To loose the bonds of injustice,  
To let the captives go free,  
And to break the yoke of oppression.**

Refrain

- 2    Sharing your bread with the hungry  
         And welcoming homeless in,  
         Offering hope and offering help,  
         This is what God requires.** Refrain
- 3    Then shall your light break forth as dawn,  
         And healing shall come to you quickly'  
         Then you shall call and God shall answer,  
         God's love shall go before you.** Refrain

**\*Dismissal**

## Serving Today

## Prayer Concerns

**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.*

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**Dramatic Readers**  
**Palm Sunday April 2**

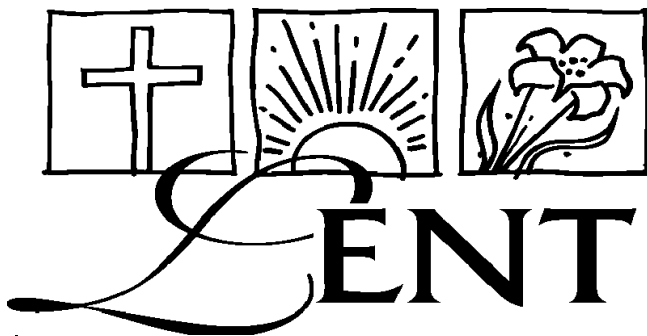


## **Women's Build**

**Each Wed / Fri / Sat in March**

We appreciate your past support,  
and look forward to a great event!  
Visit our website and follow the prompts:

[habitatmontereybay.com/copy-of-women-build](http://habitatmontereybay.com/copy-of-women-build)



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 14 Knitters Guild 6:00 pm

March 14 Council 6:30 pm

March 15 Lenten Wednesday  
Soup at 6:00 pm (hosts: Margaret & Tina)  
Holden Evening Prayer at 7:15 pm

March 16 Knitters Guild 10 am

March. 16 Preschool Chapel 10:15

March 16 Bible Study 11:00 & 7:30 pm (Zoom)

March 16 Men's beginner A.A. 7:00 pm

March 17 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 pm

March 17 Scouts 7:00 pm

March. 20 Embroiders Guild 7 pm

March 28 Provide Habitat Lunches 10:30 am

March 29 NL Collate 2:00 pm

April 2 Palm Sunday

**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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