

Lord,  
I believe

JOHN 9:38



# Fourth Sunday in Lent

## March 19, 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

*“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

(hymn continued)

**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**

**\*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**

1 Samuel 16:1-13

**Celebrate p.1**

**R:** Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 23**

(read responsively)

**Celebrate p.2**

**R:** Word of God, Word of Life.

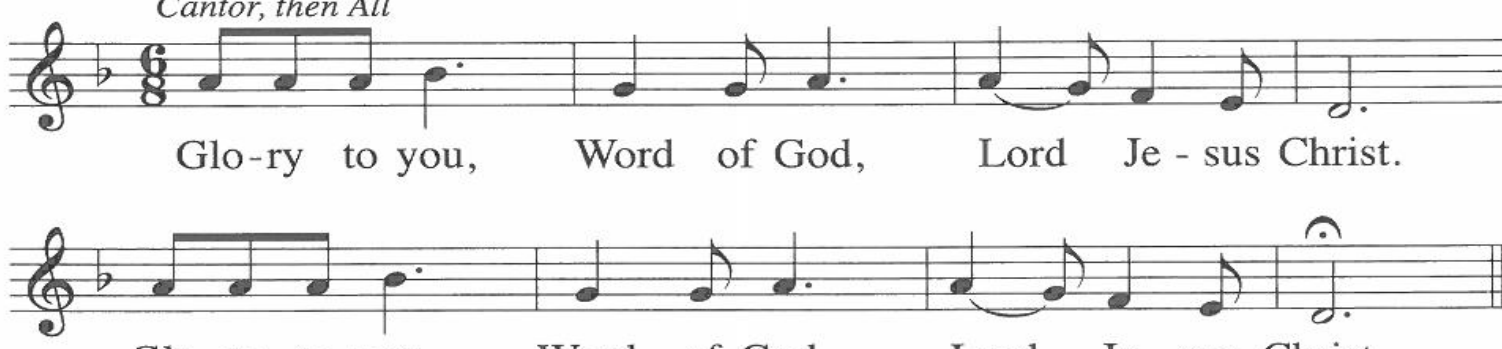
**C: Thanks be to God.**

\*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 9th 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 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!**

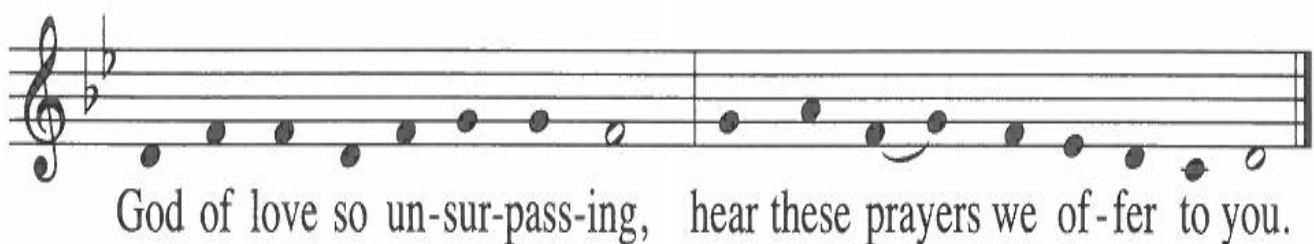
**As the vines burst into blossom,  
fragrant in the morning air,  
Lifting spirits with their sweetness,  
luring hearts to thankful prayer -  
Lenten people, here we gather,  
seeking lives refreshed from sin.  
God who blesses earth with springtime,  
bloom within our hearts again!**

(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!

\* 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

“In the Garten” (Opus 140, No.4)  
Cornelius Gurlitt 1820-1901  
Julia Tracey, Piano

Good News Singers

“Beautiful Things”  
by Michael & Lisa Gongor

\*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.

“You Are Mine”

Red #581

**“I will come to you in the silence,  
I will lift you from all your fear.  
You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice.  
Be still and know I am here.**

**“I am hope for all who are hopeless,  
I am eyes for all who long to see,  
In the shadows of the night, I will be your light.  
Come and rest in me.**

### **REFRAIN**

**Do not be afraid, I am with you.  
I have called you each by name.  
Come and follow me, I will bring you home;  
I love you and you are mine.”**

(hymn continued)

**“I am strength for all the despairing,  
Healing for the ones who dwell in shame,  
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free,  
And all will know my name.**

*REFRAIN*

**“I am the Word that leads all to freedom,  
I am the peace the world cannot give.  
I will call your name, embracing all your pain.  
Stand up, now walk and live!**

*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

*“Lead Me, Guide Me” Red #768*

REFRAIN

**Lead me, guide me, along the way;  
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord let me walk each day with thee  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me**

**I am weak and I need thy strength and pow’r  
To help me over my weakest hour  
Help me through the darkness thy face to see  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me**

**Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,  
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress  
I am putting all my trust in thee  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me**

**I am lost If you take your hand from me  
I am blind without thy light to see  
Lord just always let me thy servant be  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me**

\*Dismissal

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

**Serving Today**

Reader: Kirstin Csik-Hughes  
Coffee Host: Alex & Kirstin Csik-Hughes  
Altar Guild: Connie Cunningham  
Counters: Janet Slay

**Dramatic Readers needed**  
**Palm Sunday**

## Prayer Concerns

**SHORT TERM:** Sandi Csik, Family of Gwyn Larson, Joel Hurttgam, Judith Alvarado, Family of Kirsten Skiles, Carla Brown, Keith, 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, 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.

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**ZOOM w/ 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.*



## **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. 20 Embroiders Guild 7 pm

March 21 Scouts 7:00 pm

March 22 Lenten Wednesday  
Soup at 6:00 pm (hosts: Rebecca & Margaret)  
Holden Evening Prayer at 7:15 pm

March. 23 Preschool Chapel 10:15

March 23 Bible Study 11:00 & 7:30 pm (Zoom)

March 23 Men's beginner A.A. 7:00 pm

March 24 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 pm

March 28 Provide Habitat Lunches 10:30 am

March 29 NL Collate 2:00 pm

April 3-7 Preschool Closed

HOLY WEEK

April 2 Palm Sunday

April 6 Maundy Thursday worship 7:00 pm

April 7 Good Friday worship 7:00 pm

April 9 \* Easter \*

**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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Office Hours: Mon.—Fri. Noon—5:00 pm

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