



ENTER  
INTO JOY

MATTHEW 25:21





by the world's violence and suffering.  
We are afraid to risk what we have  
for the sake of others.  
For the harm we have caused,  
known and unknown, forgive us.  
For the unjust demands we place on others  
and your creation, forgive us.  
For the ways we turn away  
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.  
Lead us back to you and set us on the right path:  
In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Friend  
Amen.

P: Beloved in Christ,  
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.  
God's compassion is beyond compare.  
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.  
In + Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

C: Amen.

\*Opening Hymn                      *"Christ, Be Our Light"*        #715

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
Light for the world to see.

*REFRAIN*

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice.                      *REFRAIN*

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
Shared until all are fed.                      *REFRAIN*                      (continued )

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
Walls made of living stone. *REFRAIN*

Many the gifts, many the people,  
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
Signs of your kingdom come. *REFRAIN*

*\*Greeting* \*P: The grace that is Christ's gift to us, The love of God,  
and the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace be with you all.  
**C: And also with you.**

### KYRIE

*Assistant:* In peace, in peace,

Assistant: Congregation:  
Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy,  
Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have  
mer - cy.

*Assistant:* For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all... (Refrain)

*Assistant:* For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word... (Refrain)

Assistant: Congregation:  
Help, save and de - fend us, O God.  
A - - - men.

# NOW THE FEAST

## Refrain

*Congregation:*

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,  
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy  
to the God of life and love and  
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -  
er - more!

## Verse 1:

*Congregation or Congregation 1:*

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once  
slain, whose blood has freed and u -  
nit - ed us to be one great

*To refrain*

peo - ple of God.

Verse 2

*Congregation or Congregation 2:*

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and

might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ

*To refrain*

for ev - er.

Verse 3

*Congregation:*

3. For God has come to dwell with us,

to make us peo - ple of God; to make

*To refrain*

all things new.

\*Prayer of the Day

Celebrate insert pg. 1

P: Let us pray:

C: Amen

# The Word of God

## God Stories

First Reading      Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18      Celebrate pg. 1

Second Reading      1 Thess. 5:1-11      Celebrate pg. 2

\*Gospel Acclamation      ELW #175

## GOSPEL VERSE

*Congregation:*

Al - le - lu - ia,      Al - le - lu - ia.      Lord, to whom shall we  
go?      You      have      the      words      of      e - ter - nal  
life.      Al - le - lu      -      ia!

*Repeat optional*

\*Gospel Reading      Matthew 25:14-30      Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Matthew, the 25th Chapter  
C: **Glory to you. O God.**

*(The Gospel is read)*

P: The Gospel of our Lord  
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

Rev. James Lapp

\*Hymn of the Day

*“Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory” #561*

Joyous light of heav’nly glory,  
loving glow of God’s own face  
You who sing creations’ story,  
shine on every land and race.  
Now as evening falls around us,  
we shall raise our songs to you.  
God of day break, God of shadows,  
come and light our hearts a new.

In the stars that grace the darkness,  
in the blazing sun of dawn,  
In the light of peace and wisdom,  
we can hear your quiet song.  
Love that fills the night with wonder,  
love that warms the weary soul,  
love that bursts all chains asunder,  
set us free and make us whole.

You who made the heaven’s splendor,  
ev’ry dancing star of night,  
make us shine with gentle justice,  
let us each reflect your light.  
Mighty God of all creation,  
gentle Christ who lights our way,  
loving Spirit of salvation, lead us on to endless day.



\*Prayers of the Church

Celebrate insert pg. 4

\*Passing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always

C: And also with you.

Offering — We honor and worship God by returning some of the gifts with which we have been blessed.

Music

Good News Singers  
“God's work, Our Hands”  
By David Johnson

## Offering Song

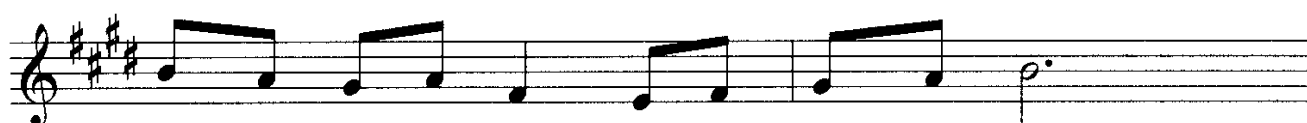
### AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT

Refrain

*Congregation:*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath - ered in - to one to be - come our bread;



so may all your peo - ple from all the ends of earth be



gath - ered in - to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst, \_\_\_\_\_
2. Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

*To refrain*



may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.



\*Words of Institution

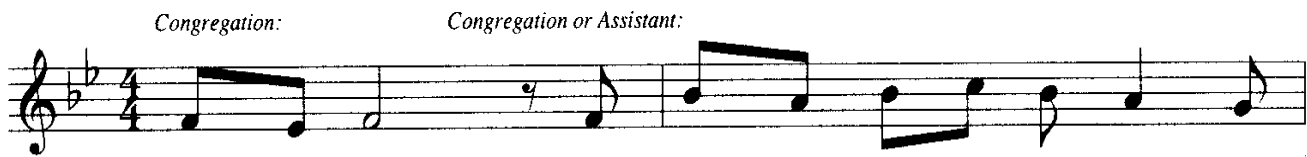
\*Lord's Prayer

**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**

The Holy Communion


Everyone is most welcome to receive this means of God's love and grace! Communion is by intinction, which means that we dip the bread into the cup. The red is wine and the white is grape juice.

# LAMB OF GOD



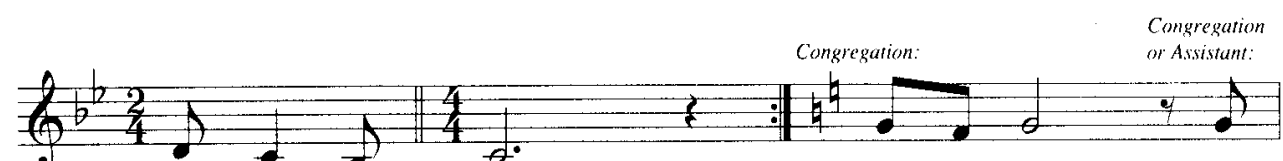
*Congregation:*      *Congregation or Assistant:*

Lamb of God,      you take a - way the sin of the  
 \* you break the chains of ha - tred and  
 you are the way of jus - tice and  
 you are the way of mer - cy and




*Congregation:*

world:  
 fear:      have mer - cy on us,      mer - cy on us,  
 peace:  
 love:



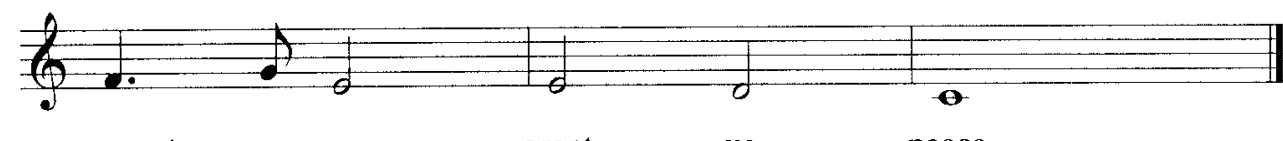
*Congregation:*      *Congregation or Assistant:*

mer - cy on us.      Lamb of God,      you



*Congregation:*

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



grant us peace,      grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

*“This Little Light of Mine”* #677

This little light of mine, I’m goin’-a let it shine;  
This little light of mine, I’m goin’-a let it shine;  
This little light of mine, I’m goin’-a let it shine;  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev’rywhere I go, I’m goin’-a let it shine;  
Ev’rywhere I go, I’m goin’-a let it shine;  
Ev’rywhere I go, I’m goin’-a let it shine;  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Jesus gave it to me, I’m goin’-a let it shine;  
Jesus gave it to me, I’m goin’-a let it shine;  
Jesus gave it to me, I’m goin’-a let it shine;  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

\*Communion Blessing

P: May this Holy Communion of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in God’s grace  
now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

P: Blessed be your name, O God  
for we have feasted on your Word,  
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.  
Strengthened by this food,  
send us to gather the world to your banquet,  
where none are left out and all are satisfied.  
In Jesus’ name we pray.

**C: Amen.**



\*Blessing

P: May the God of glory,  
+ Jesus Christ, the Lover of all humanity,  
and the Spirit who lives in you,  
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

*“Light Dawns on a Weary World” #726*

Light dawns on a wary world  
When eyes begin to see  
All people’s dignity.  
Light dawns on a weary world:  
The promised day of justice comes.

**REFRAIN**

The trees shall clap their hands;  
the dry lands, gush with springs;  
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!  
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,  
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

Love grows in a weary world  
When hungry hearts find bread  
And children’s dreams are fed.  
Love grows in a weary world;  
The promised feast of plenty comes. **REFRAIN**

Hope blooms in a weary world  
When creatures, once forlorn,  
Find wilderness reborn.  
Hope bloom in a weary world;  
The promised green of Eden comes. **REFRAIN**

\*Dismissal

P: Go in Peace. God is at work in you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music

M. Kobzert F dur( movement)

G.F. Handel

English composer, late Baroque era



*The Altar Flowers are given by  
Susan Gross  
To the Glory of God*

Serving Today

Reader: James San Miguel

Coffee Host: Shelly Barker

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager

**Prayer Concerns**

**SHORT TERM:** Middle East Peace, Jan, Diane Strong, Family of Jean Patterson, San Diego families of Nancy & Sam, Renee, Brandon, Tom Dawson, Rena Brown, James, Tina, Lurline Moore, Keith, Taiyo, Marisa, Isaac, Monte Anderson, Beth's mom, George Webber, James Boudreau, Alvarado family, Frank, Dustin, Julie, Caitlin S., Family of Lupe Rodriguez, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Father Jack Davis, Corcoran family, Keith, Frank, Susan, Mike Homer, Charlie & Tracy, Andre, Joshua & Andrea, Irma, Family of Deane Strong & M. Hudi, Sam, Jamie Sheehan, Ralph, Aria Brown, Karin Zaun, Atlas, Tony, Sandi Csik, Janica Paustian, Amy Wimmer, Gray, Hailey, Jesse, Joyce,

*James, John, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Rowe, George & Scott, Barbara Allen, Kathy, Joel Hurttgam, Sandy, Levi & Alexandra, Norman's Father, Gary Toops, Donna Kemper, Lisa & Beau, Craig Dahl, Genell Csik, Barbara Barte, Barbara Stiles, Paul Cunningham, Anita & Howard, Sydnei Wilbywold, Paul Paustian, Dawit & Family (Ethiopia), Gaye Cornell, Dorothy, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Nancy, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Anthony, Steve, Margot Wilson, Rose, Will, Aaron Johnson, Sal, Katarina, Stephanie Jager, Parents, Healthcare workers & teachers.*

**LONG TERM:** *Biergiel—Colclough family, 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, Joyce, Susan Anderson, Jan Wagner, Richard C., Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Karin, Will, Chris, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, Cabel, 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.*

MMRR ANGEL gift tree

We are partnering with the Volunteer Center, who will distribute the gifts to local families. The tags give the gender and age of the child receiving the gift.

Gift ideas are in the narthex.

Please return your unwrapped gift by **Dec. 3.**



## Music at St. Stephen's

### Join the Music Team 2024

Hey friends, there is music in the air, can't you just feel those harmonic progression and intervals, bursting all around you. We all like music, and appreciate our gifts. Why not share with our church family and join the music team? If you teach an instrument or voice, please let me know. There is always room for more celebration through music.

Hebrews 2:12

“I will declare your name to my sisters, and brothers in the assembly and will sing your praises.”



Consecration Giving Thanks ~  
TODAY  
Rawly Capone, Trumpet

Good News Singers (GNS)  
Will sing for us in November and  
during Advent. Thank you Janet,  
Margaret, Tina & Bill.

Advent Christmas Brass — December 17  
Full Brass Ensemble 10 am

Please donate to the “Musicians Fund” to enhance our worship together. Yours in Christ & Mission,  
Gary

Musical Quote:

“Music is a weapon in the war against unhappiness.”

## Upcoming Events:

November Benevolence Offering  
Santa Cruz El Salvador Sister Parish

- Nov. 21      Newsletter Deadline NOON
- Nov. 21      Boy Scouts 7:00 pm
- Nov. 22      Women's Café Group 6:00 pm
- Nov. 23      Blessed Thanksgiving
- Nov. 23      Mens beginner A.A. 7:00 pm
- Nov. 24      A.A. 7:00 pm
- Nov. 28      Provide Habitat Lunches 10:30 am
- Nov. 29      Newsletter Collating 2:00
- Nov. 30      Preschool chapel 10:15 am
- Nov. 30      Bible Study 11:00 am & 7:30 pm
- Dec. 3      Advent Begins
- Dec. 10      Christmas Pageant
- Dec. 14      MMRR Circle
- Dec. 24      Sunday morning worship 10 am  
   Christmas Eve 7:00 pm
- Dec. 25—Jan. 5      Preschool Closed

**Pastor's Office Hours Wed & 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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Web Address: [www.ststephenslutheran.org](http://www.ststephenslutheran.org)  
Office Hours: Mon.—Fri. Noon—5:00 pm

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

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539