

JESUS  
TAUGHT THEM  
AS ONE HAVING  
AUTHORITY

MARK 1:22

# Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

## January 28, 2024

### WELCOME AND A NOTE TO VISITORS

Welcome to people new to this church or faith, long time Lutherans, and Christians from every tradition. Welcome to all who have no church home, want to follow Christ, have doubts, or do not believe. Welcome to new visitors and old friends. Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation and marital status, ability and challenge. Welcome to believers and questioners and questioning believers. This is a place where you are welcome to celebrate and sorrow, rejoice and recover. This is a place where lives are made new. Welcome on this day.

Music “O Lord We Praise You”  
Setting, Benjamin Culli

### The Gathering

#### \*Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
Creator of darkness and light,  
Word of truth,  
Wind sweeping over the waters.     **C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: *God our rock and refuge,*  
C: ***We pour out our hearts before you.  
We have known you but have not always loved you.  
We have wounded one another  
And sinned against you.  
We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit  
Dwelling in each of us.  
Remember your covenant.  
Renew your creation.  
Restore us,  
That we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.***

P: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.  
God has spoken:  
The time of grace is now.  
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.  
By the authority of † Jesus Christ,  
Your sins are forgiven.  
You are God's beloved.

**C: Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn

“Jesus Shall Reign”      Red #434

Jesus shall reign where're the sun  
Does its successive journeys run;  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made,  
And praises throng to crown his head;  
His name like sweet perfume shall rise  
With ev'ry morning sacrifice.

People and realms of ev'ry tongue  
Dwell on his love with sweetest song;  
And infant voices shall proclaim  
Their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where're he reigns:  
The pris'ners leap to lose their chains,  
The weary find eternal rest,  
And all who suffer want are blest.

Let ev'ry creature rise and bring  
Honors peculiar to our King;  
Angels descend with songs again,  
And earth repeat the loud amen.



\*Greeting

\*P: Grace and peace from God our Creator,  
from God who became one of us, Jesus Christ,  
and may the promised gifts of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

Kyrie 18

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e -

le - i - son.

Music: Jacques Boylier  
© 1998, Les Éditions Talat, CEA Publications, Inc., Agnes

\*Kyrie

1. **Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.**
2. **Christe eleison. Christe eleison.**
3. **Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.**

Glory to God

WOV #607

8  
Glo - ry to God in the high - est,

and peace to God's peo -

ple on earth!

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y

God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we

give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

8  
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's

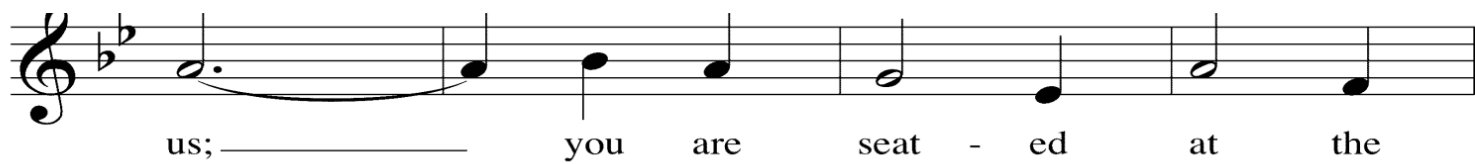
peo - ple on earth!

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the

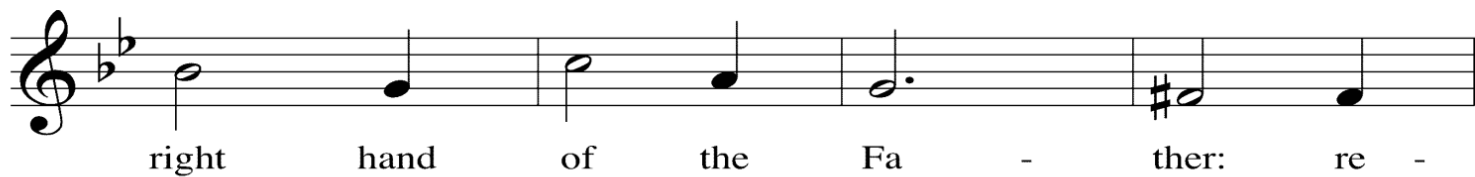
Fa - ther, Lord God,

Lamb of God, you take a - way the

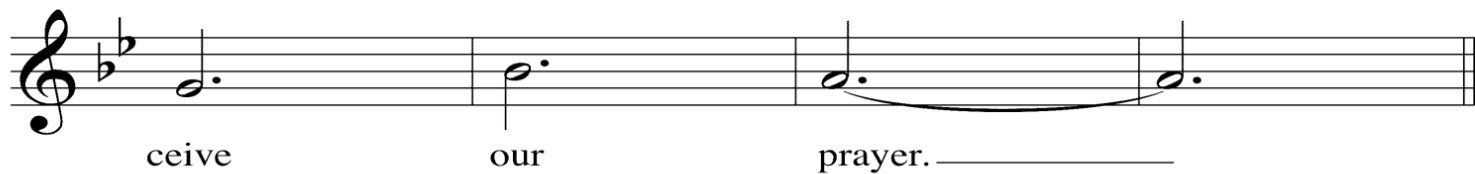
sin of the world: have mer - cy on



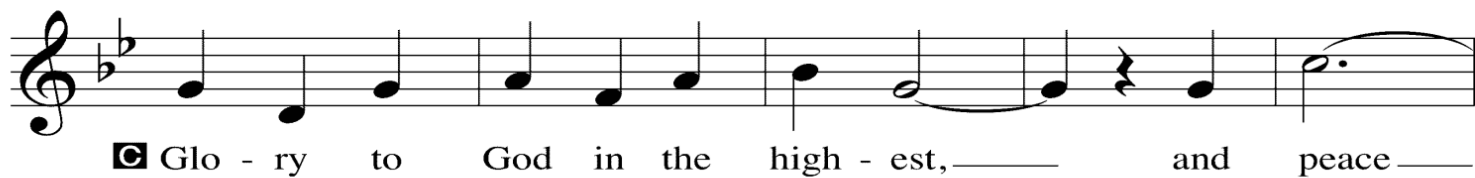
us; ————— you are seat - ed at the



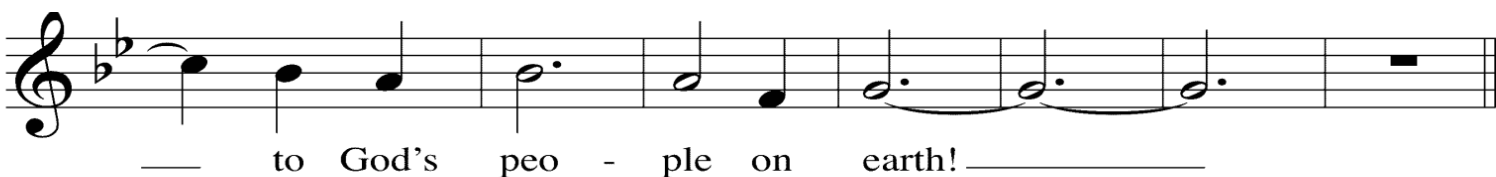
right hand of the Fa - ther: re -



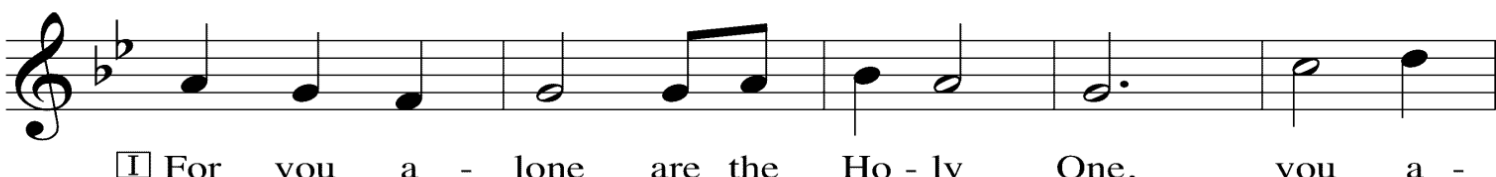
ceive our prayer. —————



**C** Glo - ry to God in the high - est, ————— and peace ———



— to God's peo - ple on earth! —————



**I** For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -



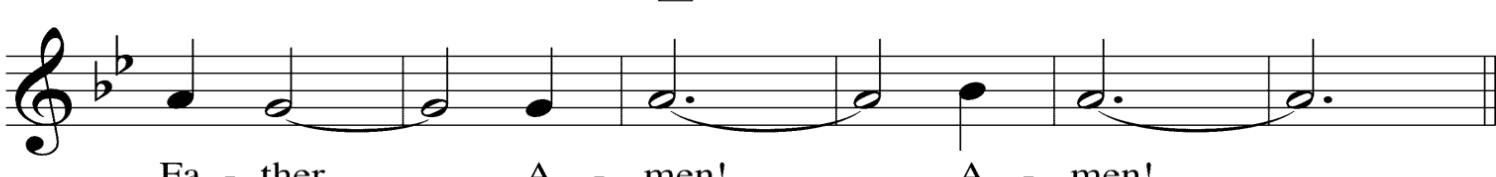
lone are the Lord, ————— **II** you a - lone are the



Most — High, Je - sus Christ, ————— with the



Ho - ly Spir - it, **I** in the glo - ry of God, the



Fa - ther. ————— A - men! ————— A - men! —————



**C** Glo - ry to God in the high - est, ————— and peace ———



— to God's peo - ple on earth! —————

\*Prayer of the Day

Celebrate insert pg. 1

P: May God be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray... **C: (following the prayer) Amen.**

## The Word of God

First Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Celebrate pg. 1

L: Word of God. Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 111

Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Celebrate pg. 3

L: Word of God. Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

\*Gospel Acclamation

### ALLELUIA



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 1st Chapter

**C: Glory to you, O God.**

\*Gospel Reading

Mark 1:21-28

Celebrate pg. 3

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

Sermon

Rev. James Lapp

\*Hymn of the Day

*“Let My Spirit Always Sing”* #1020 ACS

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.

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.

\*The Prayers of the Church

Celebrate, Page 4

\*Passing of the Peace

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

**C: And also with you.**

## **The Communion Meal**

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



Music Good News Singers  
"When a Star is Shinning" Bob Moore

\*Offering Prayer

P: Blessed are you, Holy One,  
For all good things come from you.  
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.  
Meet us at this table,  
That we receive what we seek  
And follow your Son, Jesus,  
In whose name we pray. **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 our thanks and praise.**

Eucharistic Prayer

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy  
.....and join their unending hymn:

619a

## Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might:  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.  
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na  
in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

\*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**

Invitation to Communion

P: At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.  
Come and see.

Holy Communion

*Visitors: You are welcome to come forward to receive Communion as part of this church family! Children are welcome to come and receive a special blessing if they have never communed. Communion is by intinction, we dip the bread into either the wine (red) or grape juice (white). Please follow the guidance of the ushers.*

## Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

“Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil” #721 (repeat often)

Goodness is stronger than evil;  
Love is stronger than hate;  
Light is stronger than darkness;  
Life is stronger than death;  
vict'ry is ours, vict'ry is ours,  
Through God who loves us.  
Vict'ry is ours, vict'ry is ours,  
Through God who loves us.

Prayer after Communion

P: Giver of every gift,  
Christ's life is our food, and we are Christ's body.  
Raise us to life by your power  
For the benefit of all and to your glory,  
Now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

## The Sending

### \*Blessing

P: God who names you,  
Christ who claims you,  
And the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,  
† Bless and remain with you always.

C: Amen

### \*Closing Hymn “Healer of Our Every Ill”

#612

*REFRAIN*  
Healer of our every ill  
Light of each tomorrow  
Give us peace beyond our fear  
And hope beyond our sorrow

You who know our fears and sadness  
Grace us with your peace and gladness  
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts

*REFRAIN*

In the pain and joy beholding  
How your grace is still unfolding  
Give us all your vision, God of love

*REFRAIN*

Give us strength to love each other  
Ev’ry sister, ev’ry brother  
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide

*REFRAIN*

You who know each thought and feeling  
Teach us all your way of healing  
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart

*REFRAIN*

### \*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are God’s beloved.

C: Thanks be to God.



## Music at St. Stephen's

Think about joining the  
**GOOD NEWS SINGERS**  
&  
the **EASTER CHORUS.**

If you would like to be Part of the **EASTER PROCESSIONAL**, please talk to me. Plans are being made early this year for Lent, Holy week and Easter. Please think About helping out with these events.

**TO LEARN MUSIC,  
IS TO LEARN A WHOLE NEW LANGUAGE.**

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.

Please donate to the "Musicians Fund" to enhance our worship together.

Yours in Christ & Mission, Gary





## Prayer Concerns

**SHORT TERM:** Keith, Noelle, Ensley, Jan, Jessie V., Margaret, Bill Gile, Tim Oldfield, Sierra, Beth's mom, Julie R., James, Anne Rice, Cheryl Davis, Rosie, The Webber Family, Janet, Sue, Lindsay Rosenberg, Middle East Peace, Maria, Cody Turner, Jan, Jacque N. Diane Strong, San Diego families of Nancy & Sam, Renee, Brandon, Tom Dawson, Rena Brown, James, Tina, Lurline Moore, Keith, Taiyo, Marissa, Isaac, James Boudreau, Alvarado family, Dustin, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Father Jack Davis, Corcoran family, Mike Homer, Sam, Atlas, Tony, Sandi Csik, Janica Paustian, Amy Wimmer, Gray, Hailey, Jesse, Joyce, James, John, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Allen, Kathy, Joel Hurttgam, Sandy, Levi & Alexandria, Gary Toops, Donna Kemper, Lisa & Beau, Craig Dahl, Genell Csik, Paul Cunningham, 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, 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 & women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

### **Serving Today**

Reader: Bill Schraft

Coffee Host: Thank you many!

Altar Guild: Connie Cunningham

Office helpers: Sheila Buswell & Serilyn Jager

## **Upcoming Events:**

January Benevolence Offering - Community Bridges

- TODAY**      Annual Congregational Meeting  
                    Stay following Worship  
                    There are snacks!
- Jan. 30          NL Collating 2:00 pm
- Jan. 30          Boy Scouts 7:00 pm
- Feb. 1            Mens beginner A.A. 7:00 pm
- Feb. 1            Preschool chapel 10:15 am
- Feb. 1            Bible Study 11:00 am & 7:30 pm
- Feb. 2            A.A. 7:00 pm
- Feb. 7            Women's Café Group 6:00 pm
- Feb. 14          Ash Wednesday 7:15 pm worship
- Feb. 21—March 20    Wednesday, Lenten Worship & Soupers
- March 24        Palm Sunday
- March 29        EASTER

**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."*

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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: Kent Madsen & Barb Rice

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