

Unless
a grain of
wheat falls
into the earth
and dies, it
remains just a
single grain

JOHN 12:24

5th Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024

The Gathering

Music Johannes Brahms Choral
 “My Jesus Leadeth Me”

Welcome

*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,
 Who writes the law on our hearts,
 Who draws all people together through Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

P: Held in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin
 In the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: Holy God,

C: **We confess that we are caught in snares of sin
 And cannot break free.
 We hoard resources while our neighbors
 Are hungry and cold.
 We speak in ways that silence others.
 We are silent when we should speak up.
 We keep score in our hearts.
 We let hurts grow into hatred.
 For all these things and for sins only you know,
 Forgive us, Lord.
 Amen.**

P: Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to us,
Breaks every snare of sin,
Washes away our wrongs,
And restores the promise of life through + Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

*Opening Hymn "Spirit, Open My Heart" ACS #1043

REFRAIN

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.

1. God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear to your grace
I now surrender.

REFRAIN

2. Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory.

REFRAIN

3. May I weep with those who weep;
Share the joy of friend and neighbor.
As I live from day to day,
love will be my finest labor.

REFRAIN

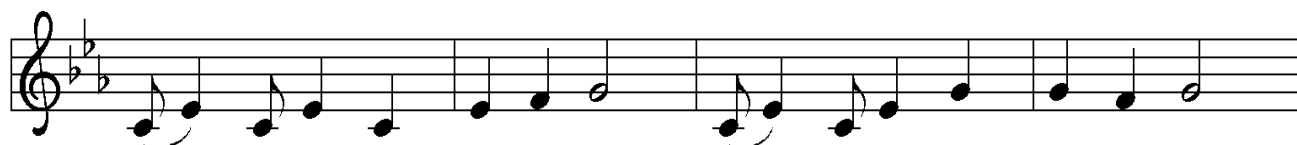
*Greeting

*P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie—We bring our burdens and cares to God ELW #151

Kyrie



1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
2 Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.
1, 3 Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
2 Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

(No Hymn of Praise during Lent)

*The Salutation

P: May God be with you.

C: And also with you.

*Prayer of the Day

Celebrate insert pg. 1

P: Let us pray...

C: Amen

The Word of God

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34 Celebrate insert pg. 1

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10 Celebrate insert pg. 3

R: Word of God, word of life

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 12th Chapter

C: Glory to you, O God.

*Holy Gospel John 12:20-33 Celebrate insert pg. 3

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Jim Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

“Beautiful Things” ACS #925

All this pain; I wonder if I'll ever find my way.
I wonder if my life could really change at all.

REFRAIN

You make beautiful things,
you make beautiful things out of the dust.
You make beautiful things,
you make beautiful things out of us.

All this earth; ... could all that is lost ever be found?
...Could a garden come up from this ground at all?

REFRAIN

All around, ... hope is springing up
from this old ground.
...Out of chaos, life is being found in you.

REFRAIN

*Prayers of the Church

Celebrate insert pg. 4

*Passing of the Peace

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

C: And also with you.

Offering

*“We give thanks to God for the gifts of life, for grace and forgiveness
for each day, and for everlasting life.”*

*Offertory Hymn “Give Me a Clean Heart” Margaret Douroux

Refrain

Give me a clean heart so I may serve thee. Lord, fix my heart so that I may be used by thee. For I'm not worthy of all these blessings. Give me a clean heart, Lord, and I'll follow thee.

1 I'm not asking for the
2 Sometimes I am up, and

Fine

Music Johannes Brahms

*Offertory Prayer

P: Jesus, you are the bread of life
And the host of this meal.
Bless these gifts that we have gathered
That all people may know your goodness.
Feed us not only with this holy food
But with hunger for justice and peace.
We pray this in your name.

C: **Amen.**

*The 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 God our Creator

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always
offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ,
who bids us turn to you and prepare for the Paschal feast.

*Words of Institution

*Lord's Prayer (sung)

C: Our Fa-ther in hea-ven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

For--give 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: Bread for the journey.
A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

Lamb of God

LMGM2

LAMB OF GOD

The musical score is written for two parts on a single staff. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The first part of the hymn is: 'Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us.' The second part is: 'Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, grant us peace, grant us peace.' The score ends with a double bar line.

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

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.

*Prayer after Communion

P: Generous God,
At this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,
Now make us one loaf to feed the world;
In the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **C: Amen.**

*Post Communion Hymn

“Now the Green Blade Rises” #379

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
Thinking that he would never wake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

Forth he came at Easter like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain;
Raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Your touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

*Blessing

P: Beloved,

We are God's own people, Holy, washed, renewed.

God bless you and keep you, Shower you with mercy,

Fill you with courage, And + give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

*Post Communion Hymn ELW #200

Now, Lord

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in

peace: your word has been ful - filled. My

own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -

pared in the sight of all peo - ple: a light to re -

veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your

peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther,

and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and

will be for - ev - er. A - men.

*Closing Hymn *“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”* #545

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing,
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, your love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us,
Trav’ling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration
for your gospel’s joyful sound.
May the fruits of your salvation
in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
To your truth may we be found.

Savior, when your love shall call us
From our struggling pilgrim way,
Let no fear of death appall us,
Glad your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
Reign with you in endless day.

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: Thanks be to God.

Music *“Sing to God, the Highest Good”*
Melchior Vulpus 1570~1615

Serving Today

Reader: Robert Bartee

Coffee Host: Sign up!

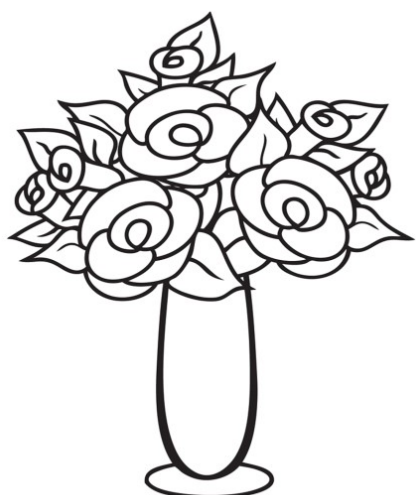
Altar Guild: Connie Cunningham

Office helpers: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager

RE – LENT

REMEMBER, REDEVELOP, REFINE, REKINDLE, REBIRTH,
REWARD, REVIVE, RESTART, REFORM, REUNITE, REFRESH,
REBUILD, RECYCLE, REDEEM, RELIEVE, REBOUND,
REFLECT, REMIND, REOPEN, REDRAW, RENEW, REINVENT,
RECLAIM, RECREATE, REBOOT, R E L A X !

L Turn away
E
N
T from sin



Sign up for Altar Flowers

Dedicate to loved ones.
Lots of openings after Easter
Use our florist, or byo.



**Provide Lunches for
Volunteers
Tuesday, March 26**
(4th Tuesday of each month)

Contact the church office
if you can provide:
Sandwiches, Fruit, Chips or Cookies

**Property Work Day
Saturday March 23**
(palm cutting)

For those of you who remember, we used to have a committee who faithfully & proudly took care of our property. Now, we have you. Yes, YOU. Please sign up for an hour or two.

**Rain or Shine, there is plenty of work to do .
.. inside & out!**

Standard: Weeding, Windows and Cleaning. Sometimes: Mopping the church floor, kitchen, Tree-trimming, Painting and Re-organizing.



Prayer Concerns

SHORT TERM: Rebecca Wickham, Family & friends of Sgt. William Nelson, Jen, Robbin, Maria, Ila & Reina, Family of Richard Barker, Margot Wilson, Michael, Steven Kamlin, Keith, Noelle, Ensley, Tom Peyser, Bob Zeigle, Jan, Jessie V., Margaret, Bill Gile, Mike Homer, Randy M., Tim Oldfield, Sierra, Beth's mom, Julie R., Anne Rice, Cheryl Davis, Rosie, The Webber Family, Janet, Sue, Lindsay Rosenberg, Middle East Peace, Maria, Cody Turner, Jan, Jacque N. Diane Strong, Tom Dawson, James, Tina, Lurline Moore, Keith, Taiyo, Marissa, Isaac, James Boudreau, Alvarado family, Dustin, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Father Jack Davis, Sam, Atlas, Sandi Csik, Janica Paustian, 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, 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.



**Help decorate our sanctuary
& honor loved ones**

- ~ Make \$15 checks payable to
St. Stephen's, Memo line "Lily"
- ~ List your dedication on sign up sheet
- ~ Take home your flower after the service.

The Easter lily has traditional and spiritual meaning. Mentioned in the Bible, the white lily symbolizes purity, rebirth, new beginnings and hope and is most often associated with the resurrection of Jesus. In Pagan traditions, the Easter lily is associated with motherhood and is gifted to mothers as a symbol of gratitude.

Easter Sunday

9:00 am Breakfast



This is not a fundraiser. This is a celebration! This is your opportunity to share in fellowship and welcome people. So, invite folks and let them see “our light shine”. Bring a guest who has never been to St. Stephen’s and receive one **FREE** meal!

We are also extending our welcome to our senior neighbors, by providing one **FREE** meal ticket.

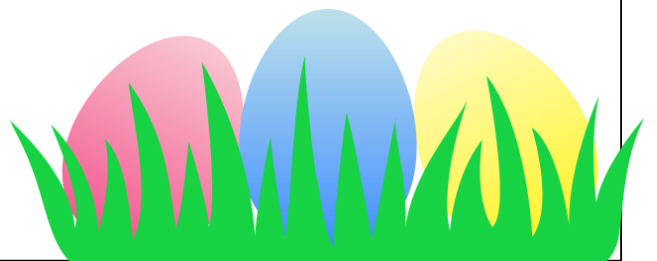
Donors: Thrivent Financial -

Trader Joes, Safeway & Staff of Life



10:00 am Worship & Children’s Time

11:00 am Egg Hunt



Music at St. Stephen's



Good morning everyone—Thank you Barbara, and Kent for joining the singers for Easter Sunday Celebration.

More talent, and voices are very welcome to sing “Songs of Praise”, for our risen Christ.

Please let me know if you are interested in joining the procession, banners, hand-held instruments are welcome.

“All That Brass “ ~ **New Music for Easter**

Easter Carrillon—Robert J. Powell, Composer

Easter Fantasy on Ancient Hymns —

Sondra K. Tucker, Composer

“The Hallelujah Chorus”, returns —

George F. Handell, composer. And more!

Lenten Services continue every Wednesday Evening

6:00 pm Soup

&

7:15 pm Holden Vespers with Pastor

“I think one of my great things about being a musician is that you never stop learning. “ ~ Yo Yo Ma

JOIN THE MUSIC TEAM !

Yours in Christ, and Mission ~ Gary

Upcoming Events

March Benevolence: St. Stephen’s Scholarship Fund

March 18	Embroiders Guild 7 pm
March 19	Newsletter Deadline at noon
March 19	Boy Scouts 7:00 pm
March 20	Preschool chapel 10:15 am
March 20	Lenten Wednesday 6:00 pm Souper Hosts: Don & Rosie and Steven H. 7:15 pm Holden Evening Prayer
March 21	Knitters Guild 10 am
March 21	Mens beginner A.A. 7:00 pm
March 22	A.A. 7:00 pm
March 23	Property Work Day 9:00—11:00 am
	- begin HOLY WEEK -
March 24	Palm Sunday Dramatic Worship (readers needed)
March 26	Habitat lunches 10:30 am
March 27	Newsletter Collating 2:00 (help needed)
March 28	Maundy Thursday 11 am & 7:00 pm worship
March 29	Good Friday 7:00 pm worship
March 30	Easter Breakfast Set up 10 am — help needed



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,
And invite people to share the joy of the Spirit.

Reconciling in Christ Statement

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 & Sun. School: Leslie Lapp
Music Director: Gary Roberts
Videographers: Jay Johnston, Kent Madsen & Barbara Rice
Child Development Center Director: Kathy Berens
Custodian: John Hopping

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And Liturgy Augsburg #SBL 14385