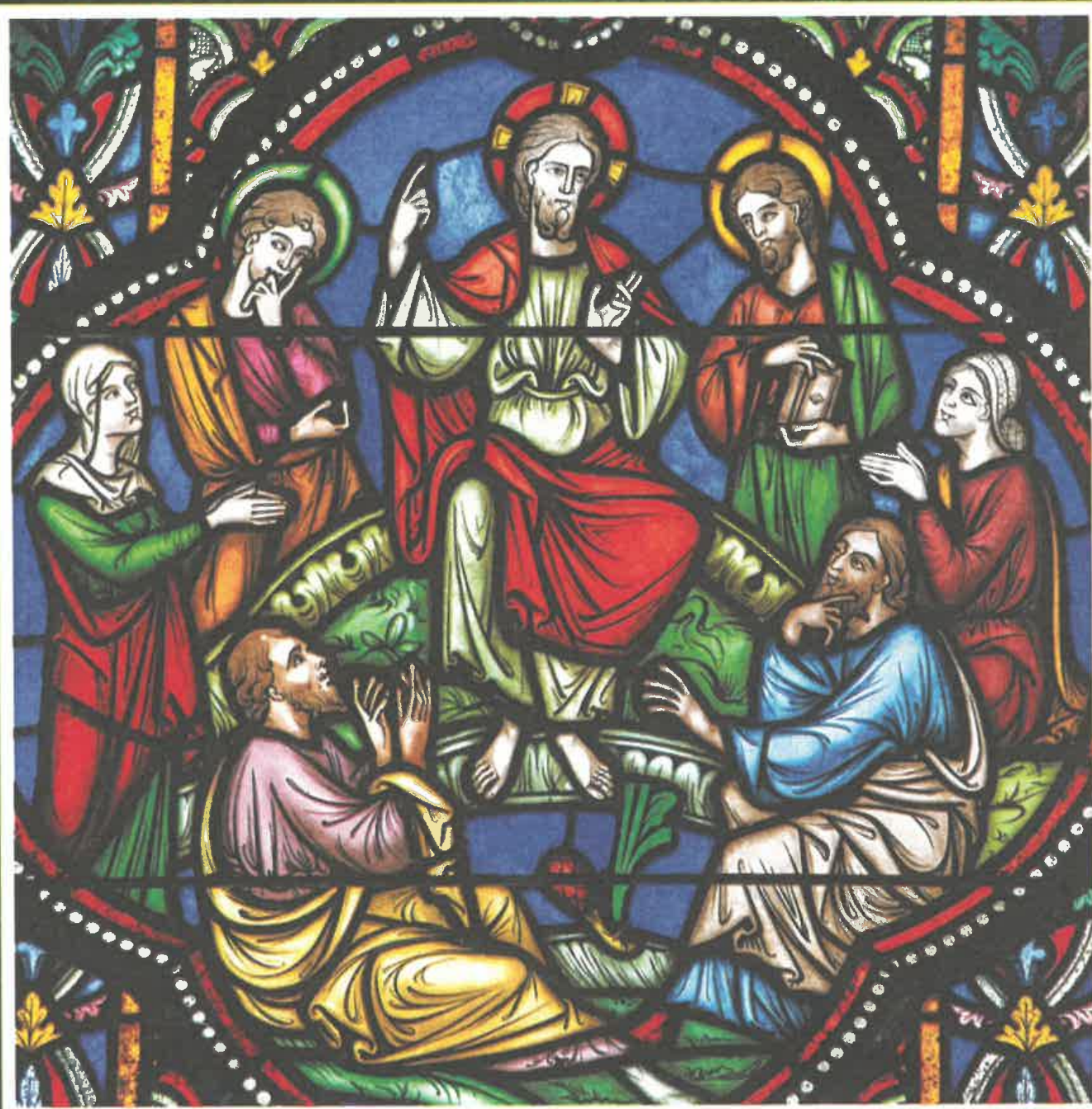


# Blessed are you

LUKE 6:22





# Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

## February 16, 2025

### 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.

Choir Introit            “Many Will Come”  
                                 Daniel Schandt

### The Gathering

Call to Worship    “Come to the Water of Life”    [ACS #955](#)

- 1. All who are thirsty for mercy, all who are thirsty for love;  
All who are thirsty for love, for mercy, come:  
Come to the Water of life.**
- 2. All who are thirsty for healing, all who are thirsty for touch;  
All who are thirsty for touch, for healing, come:  
Come to the Water of life.**
- 3. All who are thirsty for beauty, all who are thirsty for truth;  
All who are thirsty for truth, for beauty, come:  
Come to the Water of life.**
- 4. All who are thirsty for justice, all who are thirsty for peace;  
All who are thirsty for peace, for justice, come:  
Come to the Water of life.**

\*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,  
our creator,  
our protector,  
our wellspring of life.

**C: Amen.**

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations  
of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

*P: Merciful God,*

**C: you speak blessing and compassion into the world.**

***Forgive us for the ways we act  
With judgment, cruelty, or indifference.  
We ignore the needs of our neighbors;  
We resist your call to oppose injustice;  
We give in to scarcity and fear;  
We assume the worst about one another.  
Cleanse us from our faults  
And release us from their grasp.  
Show us your loving kindness.  
Restore our hearts and repair your world,  
That we may live in Christ's ways.***

**Amen.**

P: God proclaims these words of assurance;  
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by name. You are mine.”  
In † Christ, you are forgiven.  
In the Spirit, you are made free.  
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,  
Live anew as beloved children of God.

**C: Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn

*“All Are Welcome”* #641

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
A place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

REFRAIN

All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God’s children dare to seek  
to dream God’s reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God’s grace;  
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

REFRAIN

Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat:  
A banquet hall on holy ground  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;  
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

REFRAIN

Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
To heal and strengthen serve and teach,  
and live the Word they’ve known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God’s face;

Let us bring an end to fear and danger:      REFRAIN

Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:      REFRAIN

\*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

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

Kyrie 18



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

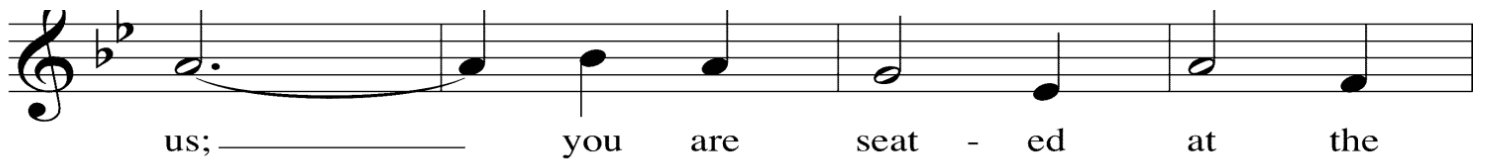
peo - ple on earth!

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

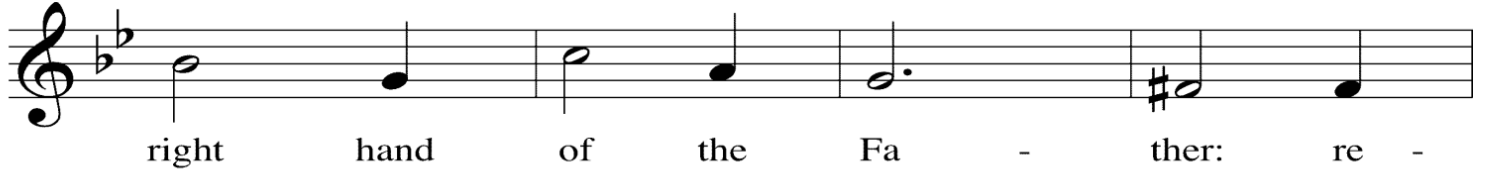
Fa - ther, Lord God,

Lamb of God, you take a - way the

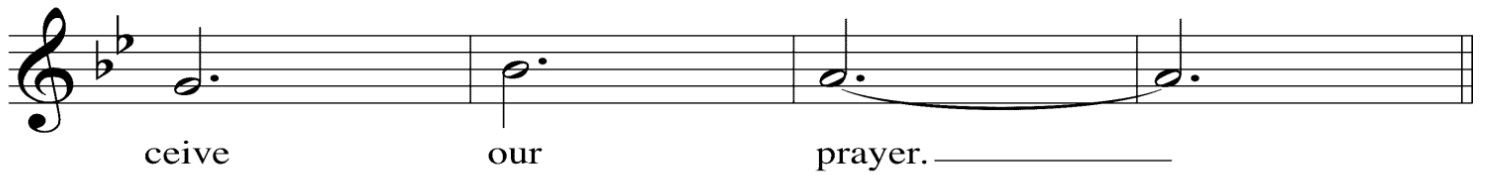
sin of the world: have mer - cy on



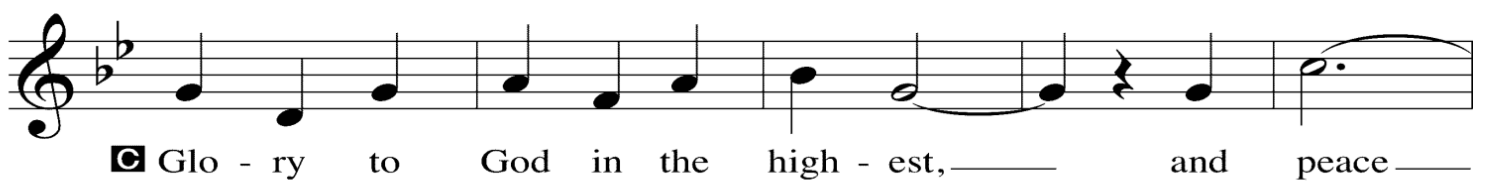
us; ————— you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re -



ceive our prayer. —————



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



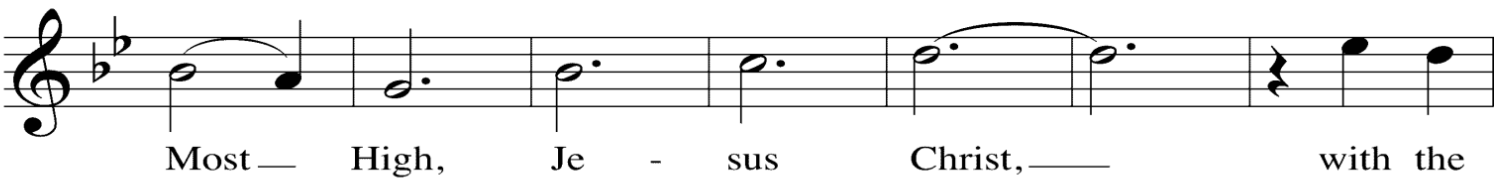
— to God's peo - ple on earth! —————



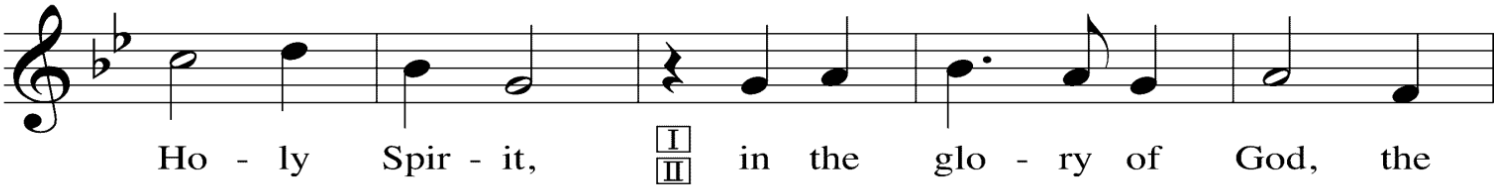
**I** For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -



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



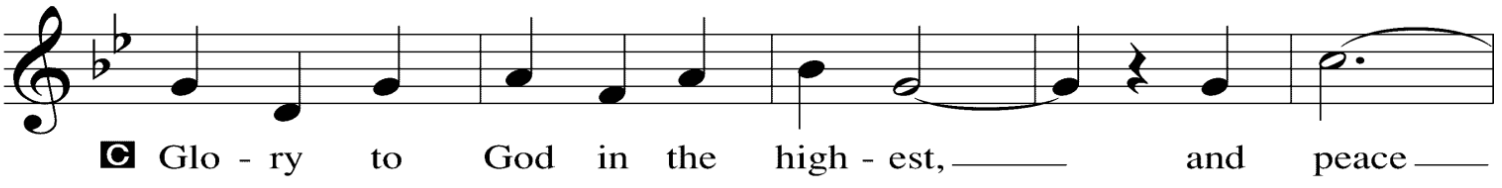
Most — High, Je - sus Christ, ————— with the



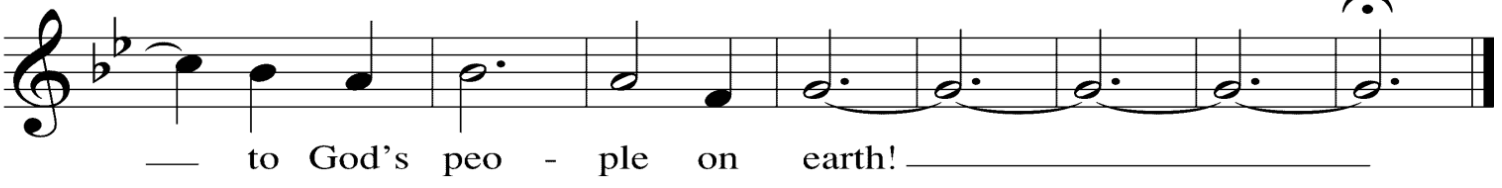
Ho - ly Spir - it, **I** in the glo - ry of God, the



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

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Celebrate pg. 1

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 1

Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Celebrate pg. 3

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### ALLELUIA



\*Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 6th Chapter

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



P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Rev. James Lapp

\*Hymn of the Day

“Build a Longer Table” [ACS #1062](#)

Build a longer table, not a higher wall,  
Feeding those who hunger, making room for all.  
Feasting together, stranger turns to friend,  
Christ breaks walls to pieces;  
False divisions end.

Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail;  
Where the weak find shelter, mercy will not fail.  
For any place where justice is denied,  
Christ will breach the jail wall, freeing all inside.

Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence.  
Love protects all people, sparing no expense.  
When we embrace compassion more than fear,  
Christ tears down our fences; all are welcome here.

When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad,  
Christ became our doorway to the reign of God.  
So must our tables welcome those who roam.  
None can be excluded; all must find a home.

\*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.

Offering 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.

Music            Good News Singers  
                    “Shout For Joy, Laud and Long”  
                    Music 1582, arr. Paul Manz 1919

\*Offering Prayer

P: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,  
And your abundance to the depths of the seas.  
Bless what we offer to your service;  
Our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,  
Now and always.

**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.....

\*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

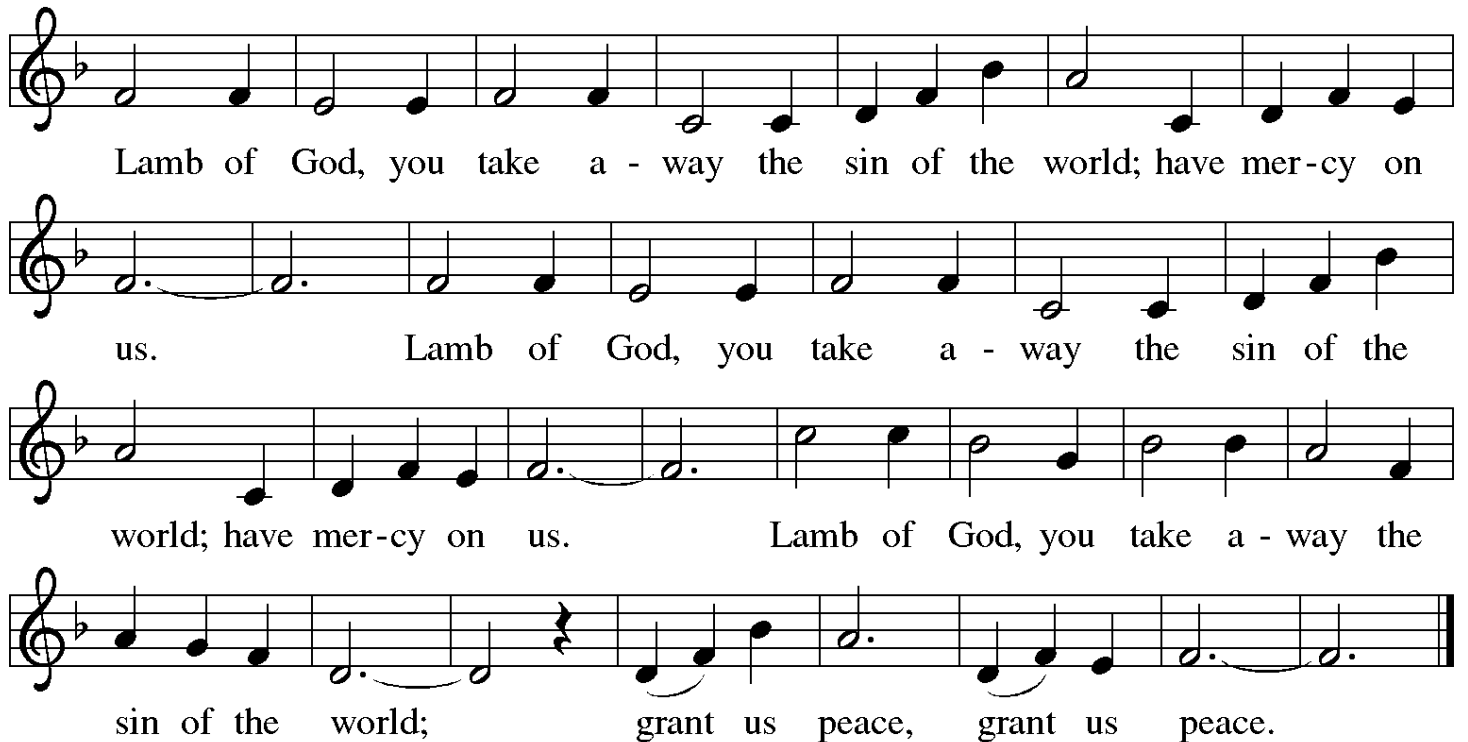
**P: The joy of the Lord is our strength.  
Come, eat this meal of gladness.**

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.*

#195

## 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 *“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;

(continued)



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

Prayer after Communion

P: Nourishing God,  
At this table you have refreshed us  
With holy gifts of food and drink.  
Strengthen us for service,  
And send us out to embody your good news  
Of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.  
In the name of Christ we pray,

C: Amen.

Post Communion Hymn "Light Shone in Darkness" #307

Light shone in darkness at the world's creation,  
Bathing in beauty nature's revelation.  
All that has being cry in adoration,  
"Praise for the light. Amen!"

Light shone in darkness at the new creation;  
Christ rose in glory, won for us salvation.  
Sing, earth and heaven, hymns of jubilation,  
praise for the light. Amen!

Light shines in darkness till the full creation;  
Christ's body, groaning, suffers tribulation,  
longs for God's justice,  
Global transformation, prays for the light. Amen!

## The Sending

### \*Blessing

P: The Spirit of the triune God  
† Bless you with joy,  
Anoint you with compassion,  
And send you in love.

C: Amen

### \*Closing Hymn “*Canticle of the Turning*” Red #723

My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
That the God of my heart is great,  
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
That you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight,  
And my weakness you did not spurn,  
So from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?

#### *REFRAIN*

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn.*

Though I am small, my...God, my all,  
You work great...things in me,  
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
To the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
And to those who would for you yearn,  
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
For the world is about to turn. *REFRAIN*

From the halls of pow’r to the fortress tow’r,  
Not a stone will be left on stone. *(continued)*

Let the king beware for your justice tears  
Ev'ry tyrant...from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall...weep no more,  
For the food they can never earn;  
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,  
For the world is about to turn.                    *REFRAIN*

Though the nations rage from...age to age,  
We remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us  
From the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard  
is the promise which holds us bound,  
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
who is turning the world around.                    *REFRAIN*

\*Dismissal

**P:** Go in peace. Live in hope.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

Music "Let Us Enter In" The Sending Ray Makeever

**P** *Prayers  
Please* 

SHORT TERM: Margaret, Bill Giles family, Dr. Bruce Dunn's family, Grey, Ruth Stiles, Susan Birkelo Family, James, Riley, Mary Saccullo, Chad Fields, Ana Cardenas, Rose, Levi, Lisa J., John B., Trace Hull, Linda, Scoutmaster Scott, Connie & Family of Paul Cunningham, Glosier family, Unemployed, George Webber, Isaac & Marissa, Chris Powers, Gloria, Beth & Family of Barbara Stiles, Marta's parents, Gary & Louse Matz, Friends in Tel Aviv, Nick, James, Mary D., Tom, Galahad, Debbie, Sam, Nate Barker, Robbin, Francisco, Michael, Keith, Noelle, Ensley, Sierra, Middle East Peace, Tom Dawson, Taiyo, Marissa, Isaac, Alvarado family, Dustin, Father Jack Davis, Sandi Csik, Sam, Adolfo, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Allen, Gary & Marjie Toops, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Nancy, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Sal, Katarina, Stephanie Jager.



*Sign up for Altar Flowers  
Dedicate to loved ones*

## Music at St. Stephen's



Draw the Circle Wider Still. The Good News Singers always give a heartfelt performance when they sing for God, and our congregation. Their gifts with the sanctuary choir, combine everyones gifts of music , and have the power tell our stories and bring us all closer to God. The many songs of our past, and future, continue to shape our faith we all live daily.

Other news : I have contacted two schools, and past Brass, and I think things are looking good for the Easter Choir. Many thanks for your support.

“Music has the power  
to bring people together  
like no other art form”

Yours In Christ & Mission ~ Gary



## “Reaching into the Woods”

### Women’s Retreat

March 7-9

also Saturday only option

Take a break from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and connect with other women in a beautiful, peaceful setting. We’ll gather for reflection, community, and renewal.

Through inspiring conversations, meaningful activities, and time to reflect, you’ll leave feeling refreshed and ready to embrace what’s next. It’s a chance to pause, grow, and connect with other women under the Redwoods .

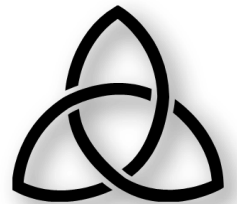
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## Trinity Tuesday

(Pub Theology / Discussion)

March 4 at 6:30pm

(First Tuesday of the month)



Place: Discretion Brewing 41st Ave.

1 HOUR      1 QUESTION      1 DRINK      (3-in-1)

*One old time Puritan definition of theology- “the science of living blessedly for ever. Blessed life arises from the knowledge of God.” Christians maintain that our best life possible is one that is lived in relationship with the living God. The “blessed life” is based on the “knowledge of God.” It is this knowledge that theology helps to provide. What do YOU think?      Kathy Allen 430-6359 for more info.*

\* Come : Share — Ponder — build community \*



## **Upcoming Events:**

February Benevolence Offering— Association of Faith communities—Rotating Shelter & Safe Spaces

- Feb. 16      No Sunday School
- Feb. 17      Embroiders Guild 7:00 pm
- Feb. 18      Boy Scouts 6:00 pm
- Feb. 19      Preschool Chapel 10:15
- Feb. 20      Knitters Guild 10 am
- Feb. 20      Bible Study 11 am & 7:30 pm
- Feb. 20      NL Deadline 12 NOON
- Feb. 20      Women's Café Group now Thursdays  
6:00 pm Fellowship Hall
- Feb. 20      Mens beginner A.A. Thurs. 7:00 pm Fireside
- Feb. 21      A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall
- Feb. 24      CDC Board 11:15 am
- Feb. 27      NL Collating 2:00 pm
- March 4      Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm Discretion Brew.
- March 7-9    Women's Retreat Mt. Cross  
Most are going just the day Saturday.

***Pastor's Office Hours: Weds. & Thur. 10:00—1:00 pm***Feb.

## **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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email: [office@ststephenslutheran.org](mailto:office@ststephenslutheran.org)  
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  
Church Musician: Gary Roberts  
Sunday School: Leslie Lapp  
Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens  
Custodian: John Hopping  
Videographers: Kent Madsen & Barb Rice

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539