



*Mary anointed
Jesus' feet,
and wiped them
with her hair*

JOHN 12:3

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

everything between righteousness & mercy

Sunday, April 6, 2025—10am

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

The Gathering

Call to worship

We come to worship because we long for mercy.

We long for community.

We long for God.

We come to worship because we need a good word.

We need connection.

We need moral reminders.

We come to worship because we are in between:

hope and grief,

faith and doubt,

joy and longing,

curiosity and conviction.

So we come to worship and God meets us here.

Surely, we are not alone. Thanks be to God for meeting us in the middle! Amen.

Call to confession

Friends, our faith calls us to live with both mercy and righteousness. Somewhere along the way, however, we have forgotten that truth. Somewhere along the way, we began arguing about who deserves mercy and whether or not they had acted with enough righteousness to receive it. Fortunately, God does not act that way. No matter what mistakes we have made or wrong turns we've taken, God consistently meets us with mercy and invites us to try again. So let us lean into that good news, and go to God in prayer:

Prayer of confession

Merciful God,
When we fail to be righteous,
show us mercy.
When we fail to be merciful,
show us what is right.
Again and again,
bring us closer to you.
Again and again,
show us the way.
Amen.

Words of forgiveness

Family of faith, hear and believe this good news:
When we fail to be righteous,
God is merciful.
When we fail to be merciful,
God invites us to try again.
Again and again,
God moves closer to us.
Again and again,
God shows us the way.
Thanks be to God for this unending love. **Amen.**

Prayer for illumination

Loving God,
Week after week we return to this space,
because we long to see you.
Like Zacchaeus who climbed a tree
to get a peek at you as you walked by,
we come to this sanctuary hoping to get a peek
of your goodness, of your joy, of your light.
So speak to us through these ancient words.
Let us get a peek of the love that lingers here.
Gratefully we pray, amen.

*Opening Hymn

“Bring Many Names” ACS #1094

*Bring many names, beautiful and good,
Celebrate, in parable and story,
Holiness in glory, living, loving God.
Hail and hosanna! Bring many names!*

*Strong mother God, working night and day,
Planning all the wonders of creation,
Setting each equation, genius at play:
Hail and Hosanna, strong mother God!*

*Warm father God, hugging every child,
Feeling all the strains of human living,
Caring and forgiving, till we’re reconciled:
Hail and Hosanna, warm father God!*

*Old, aching God, grey with endless care,
Calmly piercing evil’s new disguises,
Glad of good surprises, wiser than despair:
Hail and Hosanna, old, aching God!*

*Young, growing God, eager, on the move,
Saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
Crying out for justice, giving all you have:
Hail and Hosanna, young, growing God!*

*Great, living God, never fully known,
Joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
Closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:
Hail and Hosanna, great, living God!*

*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, cares and hopes for God's mercy.



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 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

God Stories

First Reading

Isaiah 43:16-21

Celebrate pg. 1

L: Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Sung by Choir

Second Reading

Philippians 3:4-14

Celebrate pg. 3

L: Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation—Leader sings first, then all together.

After the Gospel, all sing together twice.

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.

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

C: Glory to you, O God.

*Gospel Reading

John 12:1-8

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ. (Sing “Glory to you...” twice)

Holy woman, graceful giver,
Prophet, servant, and believer,
Woman with the ointment jar,
Rose up near the time appointed,
Broke the seal, Christ's head anointed
For the coming fatal hour.
For the coming fatal hour.

How the fragrance filled the dwelling!
How the act of beauty welling
Blest all those within the place!
How the act of pure devotion,
Whisp'ring of his coming passion,
Blest the heart of Christ with grace,
Blest the heart of Christ with grace!

Lovingly Christ stilled the scoffer
Who would grasping guard the coffer,
Pointing to a hidden trove;
Not all the treasures gain and profit;
Feed the poor, and feed the spirit
Acts of beauty, acts of love;
Acts of beauty, acts of love.

Though disdained or though contested,
Acts of love are never wasted:
Beauty is a face of God.
Graceful Mary, by your giving,
you have shown a way of living;
Acts of beauty, love, and good;
Acts of beauty, love, and good.

Affirmation of faith

In a world that loves to cast blame
and point fingers,
Jesus loved by different rules.
He offered mercy.
He invited people to dinner.
He told stories of love.
He chose to see the best in others.
We believe that small acts of mercy
and compassion have ripple effects in our lives.
We believe that small acts of righteousness
and justice are integral to a life of faith.
So like Christ, we believe in offering mercy,
inviting people to dinner, telling stories of love,
and choosing to see the best in others.
With God's help, may it be so. Amen.

*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 Prayer

C: **Gracious Provider,
You have set your immense treasures among us,
Opening your heart to the world.
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
Deepen our commitment
to sharing those treasures with others.
Through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

A Prayer of Invocation

God meets us in the night—
**before the sun rises,
before the wound heals,
before there are answers,
before there is closure.**

God meets us in the light—
**where joy is effervescent,
where laughter is contagious,
where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk,
where people gather around tables.**

God meets us in between—
**at the edge of the water,
at the beginning of the wilderness,
at the start of something new,
on the edge of faith.**

And if God meets us in all those places,
**then surely God meets us everywhere—
at the water's edge, at the start of something new,
after the baptism, and in the bread and cup.**

We are not alone. God is all around.

Let us worship the God of everything.

*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: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

Holy Communion — ALL, Yes — EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Communion is by intinction, we dip the bread into either the wine (red) or grape juice (white).

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world,

Repeat as needed Last time

have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,

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

Communion Hymn

“In the Singing” Red #466

In the singing, in the silence,
in the hands expectant, open,
In the blessing, in the breaking,
in your presence at this table,

REFRAIN

Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace'
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.

In the question, in the answer,
In the moment of acceptance,
In the heart's cry, in the healing,
In the circle of your people,

REFRAIN

*Communion Blessing

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

C: Amen.

*Prayer After Communion

P: Generous Host, You have shared your feast with us
and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and
grace in our communities, that your liberating love
might nourish the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Sending

Blessing

P: As you leave this place,
may you find God in every messy middle.
May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.
May you trust that you are made in the image of God,
and therefore, you contain multitudes.
So may you move through this world with an open heart,
with a curious mind,
and with the confidence that you do not go alone.
God is with you in the mountains, in the valleys,
and everywhere in between.
Believe that good news, and go in + peace.
C: Amen.

*Closing Hymn *“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”*
Red #596

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

REFRAIN

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil.

REFRAIN

His oath, his covenant, his blood
sustain me in the raging flood;
When all supports are washed away,
He then is all my hope and stay.

REFRAIN

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in him be found,
Clothed in his righteousness alone,
Redeemed to stand before the throne!

REFRAIN

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude “Surely God is My Salvation”
music, Hasidic melody

Serving Today

Reader: Elke Spires

Coffee Host: Rebecca Wickham

Altar Guild:



PRAYERS SHORT TERM: Cassidy, family of George Webber, Sam, Isabelle Hackman, Eric, Ellie, Paula & family, Julia, Jim Aller's family, 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., Linda, Glosier family, Unemployed, Isaac & Marissa, Chris Powers, Gloria, Marta's parents, Gary & Louse Matz, 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, Nancy, Jane, Barbara Allen, Gary & Marjie Toops, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Nancy, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Sal, Katarina, Stephanie Jager.

LONG TERM: Those suffering with Mental Illness, James Sheehan, Biergiel—Colclough family, Carla Brown, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Joel Hurtgamm, Dawit and family (Ethiopia), April McCalmont, Marty Nehring, Miller Mouw, Kyle Lapp, Will, Aaron Johnson, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Dom, Lisa & Beau, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Bobbie Erickson, Mike, 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, People of Palestine/Israel, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, S.S. Senior Housing, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family, men & women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

Trinity Tuesday

May 6 at 6:30pm



Place: Discretion Brewing 41st Ave.

1 HOUR

1 QUESTION

1 DRINK

(3-in-1)

Bring your deepest questions about:

- God, Faith, and the Biblical narrative
- The big questions that keep you up at night

Come with:

- An open mind
- A willingness to engage in respectful dialogue

*Join the conversation. Challenge your assumptions.
Deepen your understanding.*

All viewpoints welcome. Come as you are.

Questions: Call Kathy Allen at 831-430-6359
or email allen.kj@comcast.net

Upcoming Events:

April Benevolence Offering — Habitat for Humanity

Easter Lilies for sale today through April 10

April 1—11 Preschool & Kitchen Closed

April 8 No Scouts

April 9 LAST Lent Souper 6:00 pm
Hosts: Don & Rosie
Worship 7:00 pm

April 10 Mens beginner A.A. Thurs. 7:00 pm Fireside

April 11 A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm NOT Fellowship Hall

April 13 Palm Sunday Dramatic Worship—readers pls
And * Kitchen Dedication *

April 17 Maundy Thursday 11:00 am & 7:00 pm
(LUNCH hosted by MMRR)

April 18 Good Friday 11:00 am 7:00 pm

April 19 Easter set up 10 am

April 20 Easter Breakfast & celebration— help needed

May 6 Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm Discretion Brew

May 23—26 Mt. Cross Work Weekend

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

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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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

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