

HERE IS THE

*Lamb
of God*

JOHN 1:29



Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 18, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

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 Jesus, My Life, My Light” J. S. Bach

The Gathering

Call to Worship

“Come to the Water of Life” Blue #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 heart 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

“Making Their Way” Blue #979

Making their way down through the ages,
Sinners and saints have heard God’s call:
Wealthy and poor, powerful, lowly,
Jesus’ disciples, one and all.
Gathered for worship, offering thanks,
The greatest with the least have come to share this feast.

Making their way all the world over,
Christians assemble on this day,
Hearing the Word, sharing the Banquet,
Learning to walk in Jesus’ way.
Members of Christ, united in love,
They seek our God to know, and so together grow.

Making our way season by season,
Pilgrims, we journey till life’s end,
Traveling light, sharing the riches,
Caring for stranger as for friend,
Till in the joy of longing fulfilled,
Together we will come to our eternal home.

*Greeting

*P: The grace of our Light and Friend Jesus Christ, the love
of God our Creator, and the blessing of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*Kyrie (Here we offer up all our cries for God's help)

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

Kyrie 18

The musical score for Kyrie 18 is presented in two systems. The first system shows the vocal line (treble clef) and the piano accompaniment (bass clef) in 4/4 time. The vocal line begins with the lyrics "Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e -". The piano accompaniment consists of a series of chords. The second system continues the vocal line with the lyrics "le - i - son." and the piano accompaniment with a series of chords. The score is written in a simple, clear style.

Musique: Jacques Balthus
© 1998, Les Éditions de Talat, CEA Publications, Inc. - agent

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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. —

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

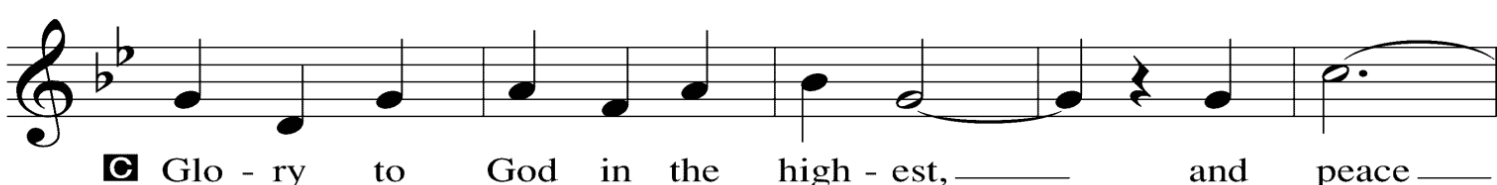
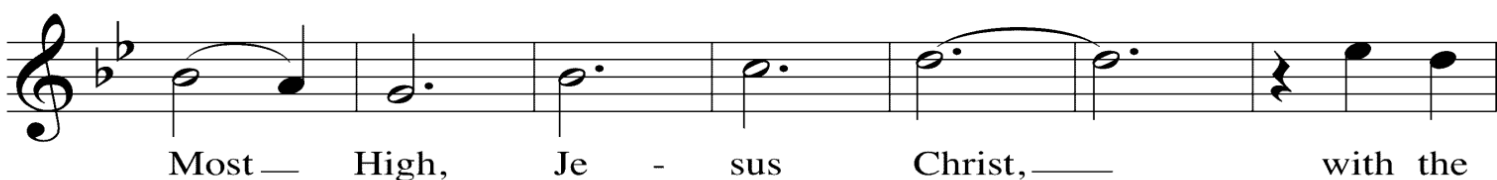
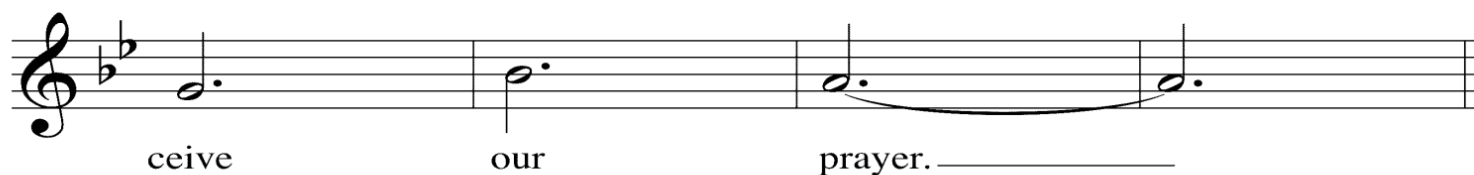
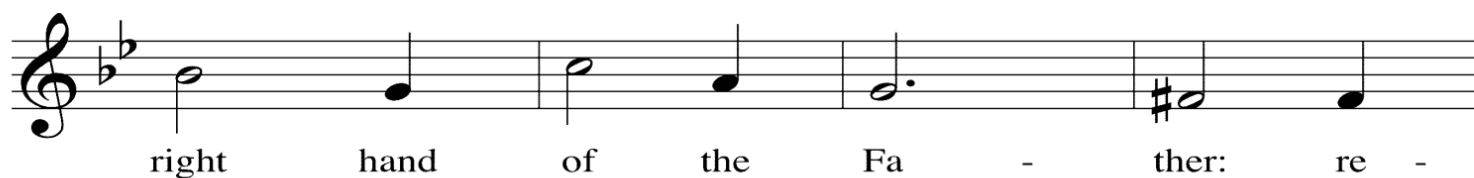
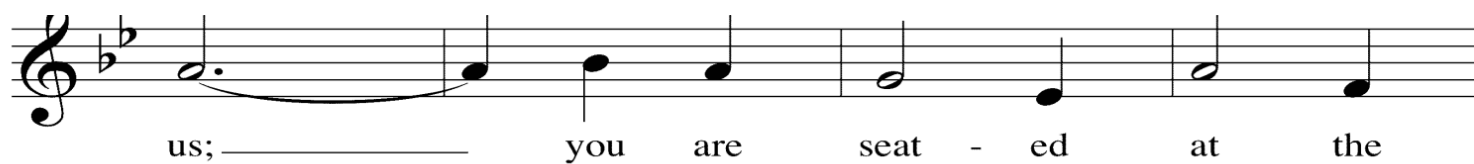
peo - ple on earth! —

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



*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

Isaiah 49:1-7

Celebrate pg. 1

L: Word of God. Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 40:1-11

Choir & Cong.

Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Celebrate pg. 2

L: Word of God. Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA



*Gospel Acclamation

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

C: Glory to you O God.

*Gospel Reading

John 1:29-42

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

Sermon

Rev. James P. Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

“Light Shone in Darkness”

Red #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 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.

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 “Jesus the Light of the World” Blue #914
Charles Wesley

*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**

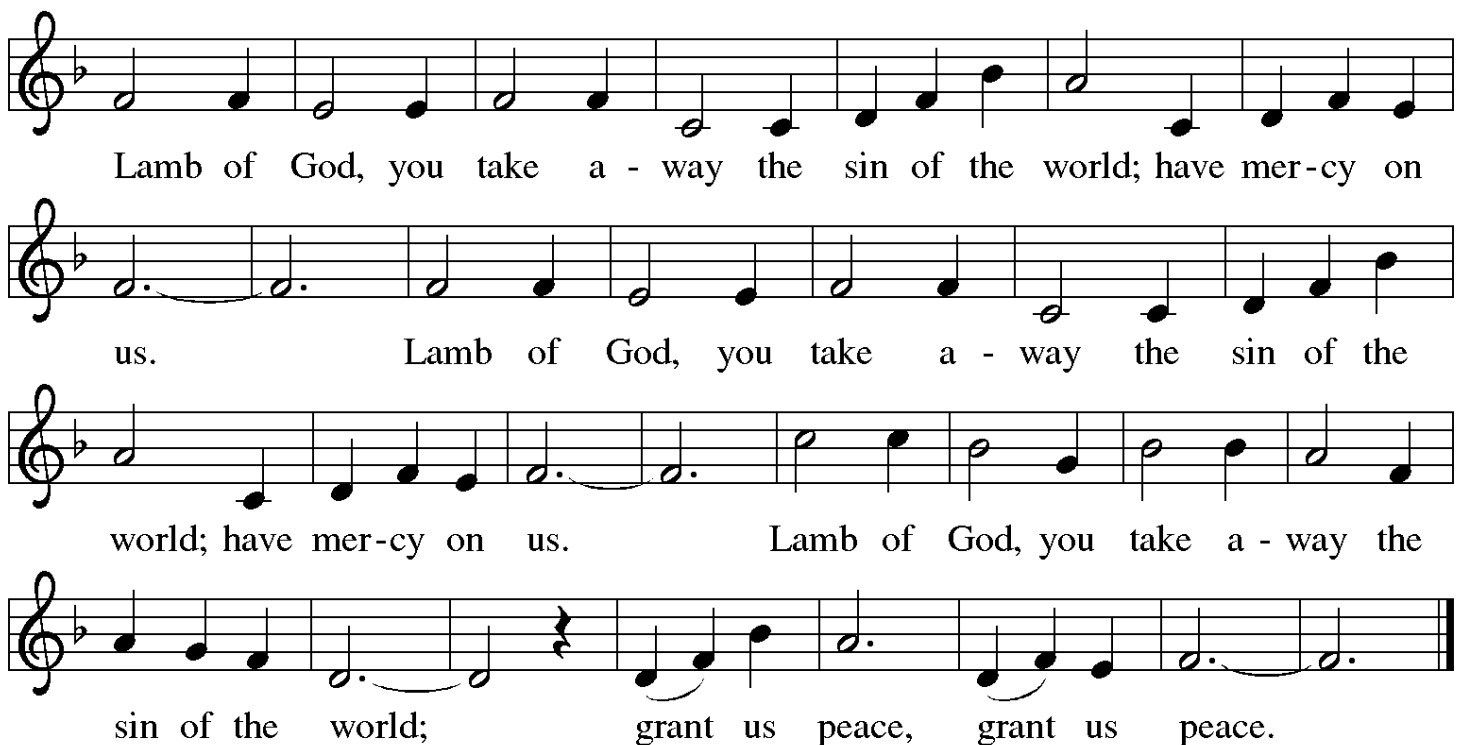
Invitation to Communion

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).

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.

Hymn “Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death” Red #452

1. Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,
And Christ shall give you light.
So learn his love' its length and breadth,
Its fullness, depth and height.
2. To us on earth he came to bring
From sin and fear release,
To give the Spirit's unity,
The very bond of peace.

3. There is one Body and one Hope,
 One Spirit and one Call,
 One Lord, one Faith, and one Baptism,
 One Father of us all.

4. Then walk in love as Christ has loved
 Who died that he might save;
 With kind and gentle hearts forgive
 As God in Christ forgave.

5. For us Christ lived, for us he died
 And conquered in the strife.
 Awake, arise, go forth in faith,
 And Christ shall give you life.

*Communion Blessing

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

C: Amen.

*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

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

“Arise, Your Light Has Come!” Red #314

Arise, your light has come!
The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God
which shines on you today.

Arise, your light has come!
Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captive's liberty,
Good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light has come!
All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the broken hearted ones
And comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light has come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing,
God's pow'r will make us strong.

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

Music “Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”
J.S. Bach — All Seasons



*The Altar Flowers are given
By Jeanette Dawson
In memory of her dad, Pard Dahl*

Serving Today

Reader: Beth Stiles
Altar Guild: Connie Cunningham
Coffee Host : Jeanette Dawson
Office Help: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager

* Sign up to Read, Host Coffee & Dedicate Altar Flowers *



SHORT TERM

Dorothy Ronning, Bob Holzwarth, Amanda, Mary Robe & Family, Renee, Family of Laura Gates, Sina & Bella, Katie's family, Chad Fields, Laura, Ayla, Tate & Terry, Beth Stiles, Margaret Schraft, Laura & twin babies, James, Don & Taiyo, Gary & Connie Stevenson, Family of Bobbie Erickson, Kevin, Marc Northcott, Cheryl & David Craig, Beth, Liz, Joan Wilson Family, Sam, Florence, Tom Williams, Tim Oldfield, Kathy M., Nancy, Jennifer Linkeon, Corrine & Daniel, Connie Garcia & Family, Tina & family, Ana, Kathybelle Barlow, Family & friends of Rev. Jim Carr, Grey, Levi, James, Galahad, Debbie, Sam, Nate Barker, Robbin, Keith, Noelle, Ensley, Middle East Peace, Tom Dawson, Dustin, Father Jack Davis, Adolfo, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Allen, Gary & Marjie Toops, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Isaac & Marissa, Mateo & Lina, Atlas, Sal, Katarina.

LONG TERM Those suffering with Mental Illness, James Sheehan, Biergiel—Colclough family, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Beth UG, Brian Utto, Kathy Brooks, Joel Hurtgamm, Dawit and family (Ethiopia), Miller, April, Aaron Johnson, Shelby, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Lisa & Beau, Linda Johnson, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Mike, Susan Anderson, Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Karin, Will, Chris & John B., 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.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 25 at 11 am



We gather together to elect leadership to council, elect voting members for Synod Assembly, and approve a budget for 2026 that reflects our mission. Please plan on attending to support your church as we continue to seek God's will for our ministry together.

Sign up or contact the office if you can assist with the coffee hour—provide finger foods & clean up.

Other Giving Options

We are now able to receive donations made by:
credit card, debit card, PayPal, Venmo & Zelle.

There are three choices:

- 1) **Vanco**, our regular electronic giving provider;
- 2) **PayPal / Venmo / Zelle** for single one-time gifts;
- 3) **PayPal** with the possibility of recurring donations and an option to cover the fees. All are available at <https://ststephenslutheran.org>





TAIZÉ

Prayer Silence & Meditative Song

Wednesday, January 21st at 6:00 pm

Are you feeling a bit out of sorts, stressed, harried, super busy? At times, I do. When I lived in San Jose and was a member of Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, I discovered the power of a Taizé service to help me find peace, calm, connection to community and to God.

Taizé was founded during World War II by Brother Robert Schutz. The community has grown into an international center for spirituality. Its mission emphasizes reconciliation, peace, and unity among Christians from diverse backgrounds. The heart of Taizé worship are simple repetitive chants that create a serene atmosphere conducive to meditation & prayer.

A Taizé service includes beautiful melodies that allow us to enter into a spirit of prayer. The simplicity of the chants invites everyone to participate. The service includes scripture readings and moments of silence providing space for personal reflection and listening to God's voice.

The service includes candle lighting, symbolizing our prayers and intentions for ourselves and others.

A Taizé service to be a midweek opportunity to step away from the busyness of life and immerse ourselves in God's presence. It is an opportunity for all of us – families, singles, youth, seniors – to pause, pray and connect with God and one another in a peaceful environ. It is an opportunity to gather together for a powerful evening of faith, meditation & community.

If you would like to join a group of us in planning a Taizé experience for St. Stephen's and the wider SC community please let us know .

- Mark Linder

Upcoming Events:

January Benevolence Offering = Community Bridges

- Jan. 20 - S.C. Learning Center (family room)
All week
- Scouts 6:00 pm
- Jan. 21 - Preschool Chapel 10:15 am
- Taize Service 6:00 pm
- Bible Study 7:30 pm
- Jan. 22 - Newsletter Deadline
- Women's Café 6:00 pm
- Men's A.A. 7:00 pm
- Jan. 23 A. A. Group 7:00 pm
- Jan. 25 Annual Meeting after 10 am worship
Bring snacks to share
- Jan. 29 Newsletter Collating 2:00 pm
- Jan. 31 Provide AFC Shelter Dinner 5:45—7:15 pm
St. John's 125 Canterbury Drive Aptos
Offer your resources to our neighbors without housing.
We are all worthy of dignity and connection. You can as
sist those without homes to a better life. (see sign up)
- Feb. 1 Scout Sunday—meet the troop & enjoy their treats
- Feb. 3 Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm Discretion Brewery
come for honest conversation and genuine community
- Feb. 12 Women's Circle of Promise 10:30 am
- Feb. 18 Ash Wednesday Worship

Pastor's Office Hours Wednesdays 10 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
Office Hours: Mon.—Friday. 12:00 —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: Jay Johnston, Kent Madsen & Barb Rice

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539