



A CITY BUILT
ON A HILL

CANNOT
BE HID

MATTHEW 5:14

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 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 “How Beautifully the Morning Star Shines”
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

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: 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



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. —

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

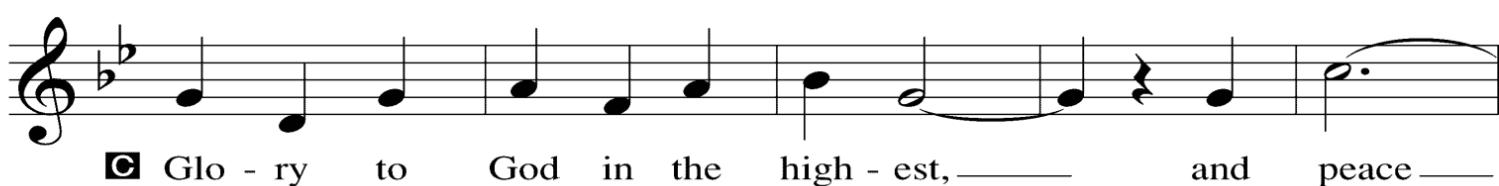
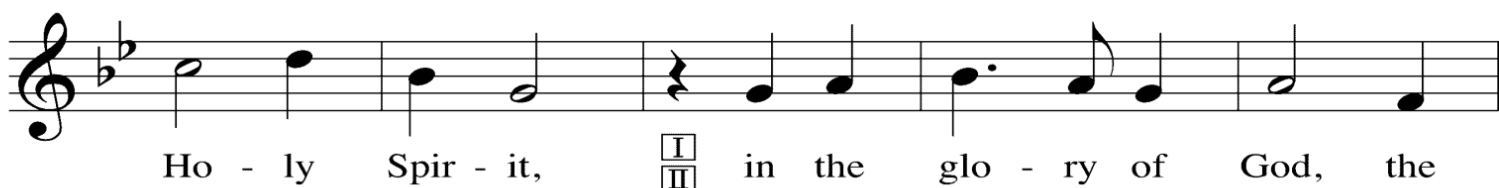
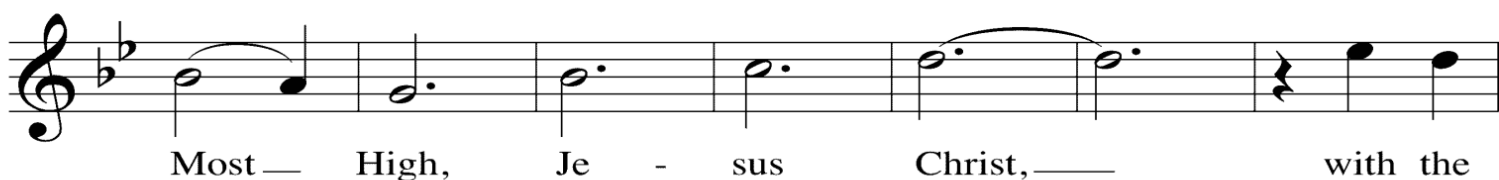
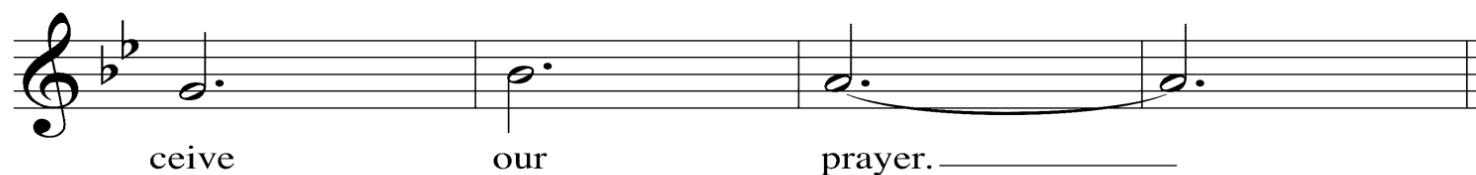
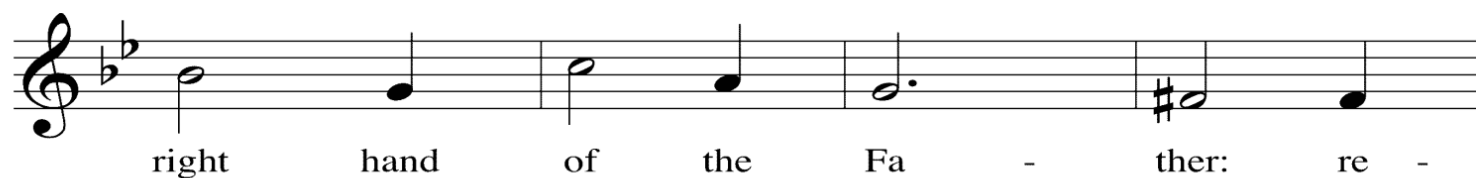
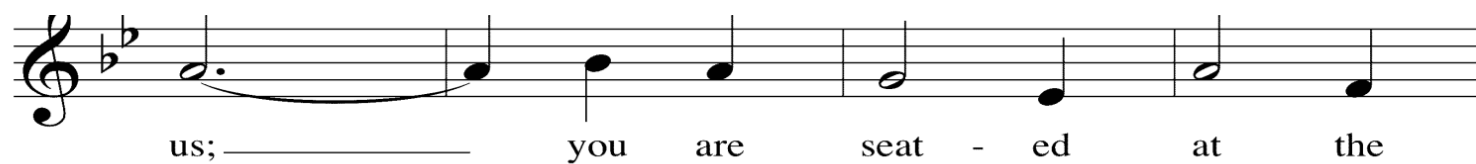
peo - ple on earth! —

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 58:1-12

Celebrate pg. 1

L: Word of God. Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 112:1-9

Choir & Cong.

Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

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. Mathew the 5th Chapter
C: Glory to you O God.

*Gospel Reading Matthew 5:13-20 Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God**

Sermon

Rev. James P. Lapp

*Hymn of the Day *"Christ, Be Our Light"* Red #715

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.

REFRAIN

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. REFRAIN

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed. REFRAIN

(hymn continued)

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone. REFRAIN

Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Signs of your kingdom come. REFRAIN

*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”

Red #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 "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"
Jay Wreth, 1813

*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 *“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”* Red #712

Lord, whose love in humble service
Bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken,
Worked your mercy's perfect deed:
We, your servants, bring the worship
Not of voice alone, but heart;
Consecrating to your purpose
Ev'ry gift which you impart.

Still your children wander homeless;
Still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom;
Still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion
Healed the sick and freed the soul,
By your Spirit send your power
To our world to make it whole.

(hymn continued)

As we worship, grant us vision,
Till your love's revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness
Dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens
Your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to ardent service,
Your abundant life to share.

Called by worship to your service,
forth in your dear name we go,
To the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, good will and comfort,
counsel, aid and peace we give,
That your servants, Lord,
in freedom may your mercy know and live.

*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 “Jesus, the Light of the World” Blue #914

1) Hark! the herald angels sing.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Glory to the newborn King,
Jesus, the light of the world.

REFRAIN:

We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
Oh, shine all around us by day and by night.
Jesus, the light of the world.

2) Joyful, all you nations, rise.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Join the triumph of the skies.
Jesus, the light of the world. REFRAIN

3) Christ, by highest heav'n adored.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Jesus, the light of the world. REFRAIN

4) Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!
Jesus, the light of the world. REFRAIN

*Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Music “The Light Shines Upon the Circle of the Earth”
J.S. Bach

Serving Today

Reader: Scouts

Altar Guild: Connie Cunningham

Coffee Host : Scouts

Office Help: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager

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



SHORT TERM

Camryn, Corbin, Marilyn,

Nathan, Dorothy Ronning, Bob Holzwarth,

Amanda, Mary Robe & Family, Renee, Family of

Laura Gates, Sina & Bella, Chad Fields, Laura,

Ayla, Beth Stiles, Margaret Schraft, Laura & twin

babies, James, Don & Taiyo, Pr. Gary & Corinne Stevenson, Fam-

ily of Bobbie Erickson, Kevin, Beth, Liz, Sam, Florence, Tom Wil-

liams, Tim Oldfield, Kathy M., Nancy, Corrine & Daniel, Connie Gar-

cia & Family, 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, Adol-

fo, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Allen, Gary & Marjie

Toops, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Isaac & Marissa,

Mateo & Lina, Atlas, Sal, Katarina. LONG TERM Those suffer-

ing with Mental Illness, James Sheehan, Biergiel—Colclough family,

Eric Utto-Galarneau, Beth UG, Brian Utto, Kathy Brooks, Joel Hurt-

gamm, Dawit & family (Ethiopia), Miller, April, Aaron Johnson, Shel-

by, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Lisa & Beau, Linda Johnson, Jan Shadle, Vi

Lenten Wednesdays
6:00 pm
(Worship 7:00pm)



Feb. 25
March 4, 11, 18 & 25

2 Hosts needed each evening.
Provide soup, bread /crackers & cookies.
Sign up now.

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>





PANCAKE BREAKFAST & EASTER CELEBRATION

Sunday, April 5

- Apply for a Thrivent Action Team Grant.
Contact Leslie or Tina **ASAP**.
- Set up, servers & clean up. See sign up sheet.
- Help with Childrens activities during worship
& egg hunt after
- Sign up to order an Easter Lily to help
decorate the sanctuary.
- Plan ahead and invite folks.
Let them see “our light shine”.

Upcoming Events:

February Benevolence Offering = Association of Faith Communities Rotating Shelter & Safe Spaces

- Feb. 10 - Scouts 6:00 pm
 - Church Council 6:30 pm
- Feb. 11 - Preschool Chapel 10:15 am
 - Bible Study 7:30 pm
- Feb. 12 - Women's Circle of Promise 10:30 am
 - Men's A.A. Group 7:00 pm
- Feb. 13—16 Preschool Closed
- Feb. 13 A. A. Group 7:00 pm
- Feb. 14 Embroider's Guild 10—4pm
- Feb. 18 Lent begins: Ash Wednesday
 Worship 11 am & 7 pm
- Feb. 20 Newsletter Deadline Noon
- Feb. 25 Soup Suppers begin 6:00 pm
 Sign up now
- Feb. 25 Taize Service 7:00 pm (after soupper)
- Feb. 26 Newsletter Collating 2:00 pm
- March 3 Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm Discretion Brewery
 come for honest conversation and genuine community

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

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