



St. Stephen Lutheran Church

One of 13,000 Stephen Ministry Congregations Around the World



Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2023

For Your Prayers –March 20-26, 2023

The readings are chosen so that the days leading up to Sunday (Thursday-Saturday) prepare for Sunday's readings while the days flowing out of Sunday (Monday-Wednesday) reflect back upon the Sunday readings. The complete Daily Lectionary readings can be found on page 1121 in the back of the ELW.

Lectionary readings for this week:

Monday: Psalm 146; Isaiah 59:9-19; Acts 9:1-20

Tuesday: Psalm 146; Isaiah 42:14-21; Colossians 1:9-14

Wednesday: Psalm 146; Isaiah 60:17-22; Matthew 9:27-34

Thursday: Psalm 130; Ezekiel 1:1-3,2:8-3:3; Revelation 10:1-11

Friday: Psalm 130; Ezekiel 33:10-16; Revelation 11:15-19

Saturday: Psalm 130; Ezekiel 36:8-15; Luke 24:44-53

Sunday: Ezekiel 37:1-14 ; Psalm 130(5); Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **George Bass, Joe Beene, Ed Brown, Kristin Carter, Karen Einarsen, Sharon Jacobs, Marilyn Johnson, Evelyn Kernan, Jim Mayfield, and Linda Reuben.**

Pray for those unable to come to worship: **Joyce Behlendorf, Martin Bleck, Ed Brown, Birdie Burton, York Doerr, Bob and Angie Groom, Edith Haecker, Pat Janot, Jeanne Nelson, Joanne Shue, Darlene Simon, and Kay Wasaff**

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Phil Arnold, David & Roberta Barbour, Rose Baumgarten, Megan Beese, Sally Blackburn, Mary Bloom, Rev. Donald Blume, John Butler, Ken Casilhas, Jerry & Elijah Connor, Jerris & Tony DeKievit, Yvonne Destout, Judy Drezek, Paul Dwiggin, Derald Edwards, Joan Fecondo, Gloria Flamm, Dan Flatin, Kay Flatin, Betty Frazee, Bob and Lois Friend, Joan & Frank Goodhart, Andrea Gonzalez, Mark Gulesian, Deanna Harbison, Rex Harder, Andy Havola, Frank Hayes, Char Henry, Nicole Ingle, Crystal Isaac, Nate Jacklin, Rev. Richard Johnson, Sandy Kellogg, The Kennedy family, John Knestrick, Richard Kochanski, Rebecca Krueger, Margaret Lewis, Jackie Locke, Ron Luchetti, Isabelle Lutzle, Keith Margrey, Doug Mayes, Detra Michaels, Lynn Nestrack, Gina Peterson, Edith Roberts, Betty Roth, Shann Rufer, Paul Sampson, Inge Seiter, David Shoberg, Patricia Simpson, Kelsey Slay, Mike Slyer, Brant Smith, Vasili Soultoukis, Jerry and Evelyn Spear, Chad Strausbaugh, Dustin Sullivan, Kelly Theilen, Charley Underdahl, Carolyn Williams, Travis Wilson, Caleb Winig, Brody Wood, Teresa, and Robert Yazujian, Abby Zwerner and the people of Syria, Turkey and Ukraine

Fourth Sunday in Lent

I. Gathering: *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

Welcome

Centering Music

Be Thou My Vision
St. Stephen Ringers

Arr. Hal Hopson

Call to Worship

Draw as close as you dare, children of God. Press into community and fellowship. **For Christ is found, not only in solitude but in the noise and chaos of the crowd.**

Draw close and press in, for together in worship, we truly become the body of Christ. **Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.**

There is a time to find God by ourselves and a time to find God together. **We gather as a community of saints to praise and worship our God in unity. Come, let us worship!.**

Confession and Forgiveness

Let us confess our sins of trespassing boundaries together:

Holy and righteous God,

you taught us to treat one another as we would like to be treated and to honor one another. Therefore, we believe in bodily autonomy, consent, and privacy, because we know you have endowed each person with the right to decide how close or how known they want to be. But we have not always respected bodily autonomy, consent, and privacy.

We listened in when we should have walked away.

We hugged or kissed when we should have asked for permission.

We gave gifts when we were asked to refrain.

We stayed late when we should have left on time.

We gave advice when we were not asked.

We spoke words of judgment about someone else's situation.

We shared secrets that were not ours to share.

We embarrassed someone for a laugh.

We shamed someone for a few more clicks.

We posted or commented when we should have been silent.

God, we have trespassed boundaries. Please forgive our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. May we learn to love each other better and more carefully. Amen.

Friends and siblings in Christ, though we may have work to do to repair our relationships, we can rest in the assurance we are forgiven by God. Let us go forth in peace, facing our consequences with determination and obedience.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn *Be Thou My Vision*

ELW 793

Bulletin pages 14

Greeting

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

Kyrie

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

Prayer of the Day

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

II. Word: *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ²Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet

him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.” ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

“Reader: “The Word of the Lord.” Response: “Thanks be to God.”

Psalmody

Psalm 23



¹The LORD¹ is my shepherd;
I shall not ¹ be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down ¹ in green pastures
and leads me be- ¹ side still waters.**

³You restore my ¹ soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways ¹ for your name’s sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall ¹ fear no
evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they ¹ comfort me. Refrain**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence ¹ of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is ¹ running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days ¹ of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the ¹ LORD forever. Refrain**

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Reader: “The Word of the Lord.” Response: “Thanks be to God.”

Lenten Acclamation



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.

Gospel

Response after announcement of the Gospel: “Glory to you, O Lord.”

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it

was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

Response at the conclusion of the Gospel: “Praise to you, O Christ.”

Sermon

Costly Sight

Pastor Jon Nelson

The Hymn of the Day will be announced in a few moments. First, please take time during the silence: What are your prayers in response to the sermon?

Hymn of the Day

Amazing Grace

ELW 779

Bulletin page 15

Prayers

Each petition concludes, "Merciful God." Response: "Receive our prayer."

III. Meal: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

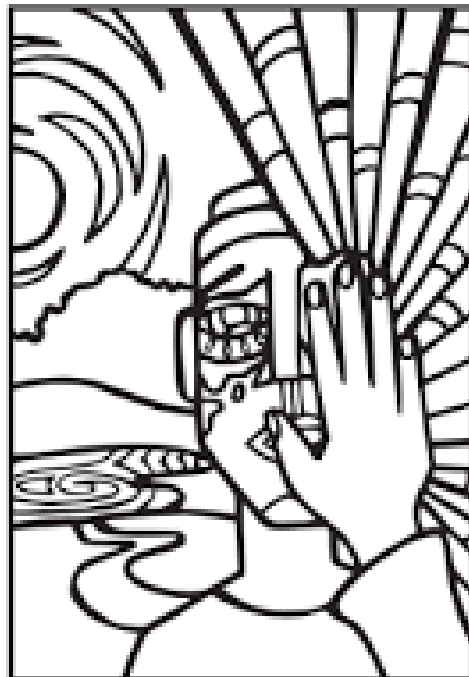
Offering

Offerings are gathered for the mission of the church: preaching and teaching the good news of our salvation through the death and resurrection of Christ, and caring for the poor. During the offering, the table is set for the Lord's Supper.

Offering of Music

That Priceless Grace

Arr. John Helgen



Offertory Hymn

Come to the Table

Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.

All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.

Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.

Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Offertory Prayer

God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution



The Lord's Prayer
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.

Holy Communion

When receiving Communion, either stand or kneel at the Rail. Pastor will distribute the bread and a Communion Assistant will come with a tray of pre-filled cups of wine and grape juice. The juice will be in the middle of the tray. Gluten-free wafers are available as an alternative to bread. St. Stephen is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, so all are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper.



O 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 Music

Amazing Grace
St. Stephen Ringers

Arr. Michael Helman

Communion Hymn

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

ELW 815

Bulletin page 16&17

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

IV. Sending: *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

Sending Hymn

Praise the One who breaks the darkness

ELW 843

Bulletin page 18

Blessing
God, the giver of love,
✝ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.
Amen.

Dismissal
Go in Peace. Serve in Love.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude *Spring* Arr. Michael Burkhardt
St. Stephen Ringers

Please exit the worship space quietly so that others may enjoy the postlude

Postlude Notes: Michael Burkhardt is internationally known for his innovative and inspiring hymn festivals and for his creative work with children. He is in frequent demand as a choral clinician, organ recitalist, and hymn festival leader. He is currently Director of Worship and the Arts at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Livonia, Michigan and Artistic Director for hearts, hands, and voices Fine Arts and Worship Program. From 2001 to 2007 he served on the faculty of Carthage College (ELCA) in Kenosha, Wisconsin, as Director of Choral Activities, College Organist, and Artist in Residence. He also served for several years as the Artistic Director of the Detroit Handbell Ensemble. Prior to his appointment at Carthage, he was a Faculty Associate in organ at Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona.



Be Thou My Vision; Contributors: Hal Hopson
music © 2006 Hope Publishing Company
THAT PRICELESS GRACE; Contributors: John Helgen
Tune: Setting © 2003 Augsburg Fortress
Amazing Grace; Contributors: arr. Michael Helman
© 2005 Alfred Publishing
The Lord is My Shepherd; Contributors: John Rutter
Text: © 1978, Oxford University Press
Spring; contributor Michael Burkhardt

“Ringling through the year” ©2021 Morning Star publications

One License Licensing Permission Reprinted/Streamed with permission under
One License #A721099; CCLI Permission Reprinted/Streamed with permission under CCLI License #11256031; Permission
granted, St. James Press

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the
Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by
permission.

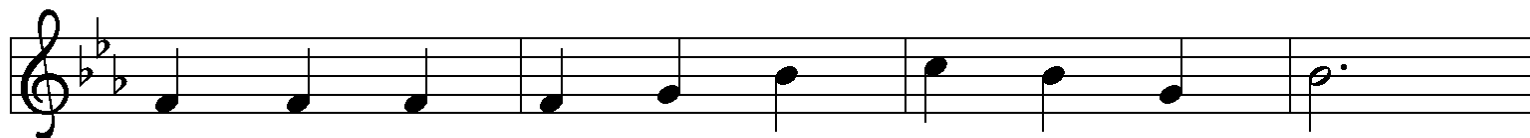
Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # SB164403



Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the

day are both a-like. The Lamb is the light of the

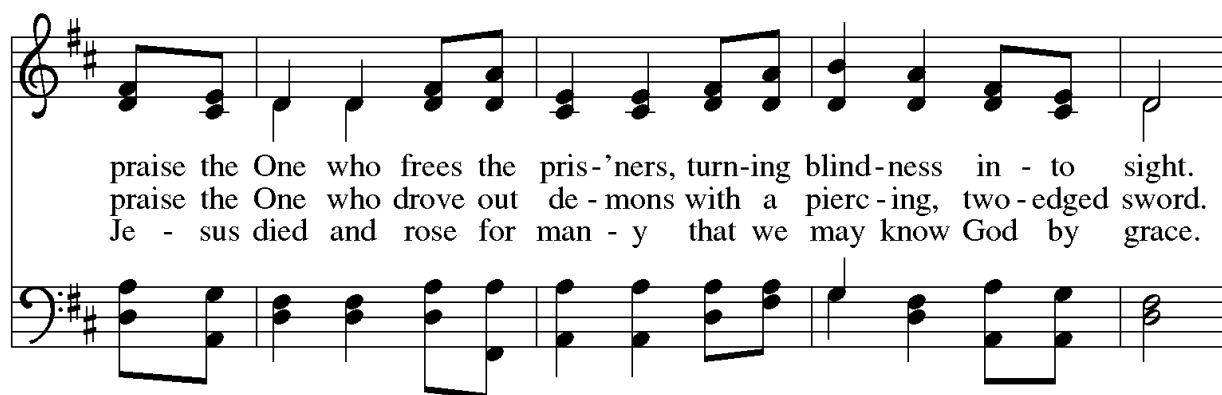
cit-y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je-sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

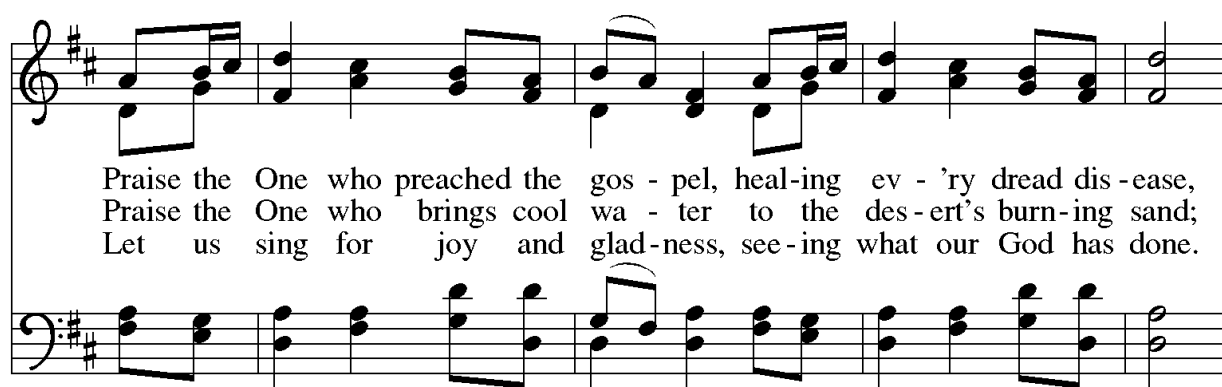
Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



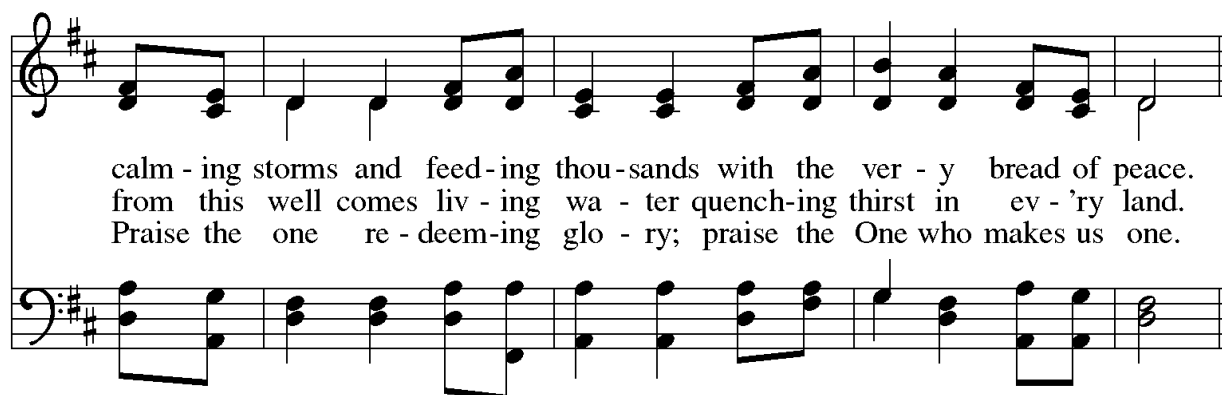
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

Text © 1987 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

As We Gather

Parents! Thanks for bringing your children to worship.

- Did you know that intergenerational worship is the single most important activity encouraging children's faith formation? (See vibrantfaith.com)
- When parents and children need to take a break for a few minutes, there's a play area with toys and books in the room right beneath the Worship Space.
- Age-appropriate activity bags are available in the Gathering Space – ask an usher for assistance.

Assistance is Available for You:

- **An induction loop** is provided for the benefit of hearing aid users. To use, please switch your hearing aid to "T."
- **Large print** worship materials are available - ask an usher.
- **Rest rooms** are accessible through the door in the wing to the left of the altar.
- **If someone should need emergency medical assistance**, CPR supplies, and a first aid kit are located in the hallway next to the Fellowship Hall.

COVID-19 Guidelines:

Community transmission of COVID-19 in Williamsburg is LOW; James City County is LOW; and York County is LOW. **We strongly encourage the wearing of masks in our building** at this time, especially for those who are more vulnerable to viral illnesses. We also encourage you to monitor yourself for flu (and COVID) symptoms and stay home if you are experiencing any.

What's Happening Today

Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God.

Education: Lenten Devotional . We have more printed copies available in the **Gathering Space**. We can also offer an electronic version of the devotional! **So if you would like a PDF version of the devotional please email either the Office or Pastor Jon** to have it emailed to you.

The Quill is going Electronic! Starting in April the Quill will go out via email and will be posted online, a few copies will be printed and available in the gathering space. If you still wish to receive a copy by mail please contact Hollie in the office.

Service: RIP Medical Debt.

The United States is the only developed country in the world today without a program of health care centralized by the government as a basic service to its citizens. Instead, we have maintained a sometimes chaotic marketplace of health insurance products available to our population, and this patchwork system inevitably results in overwhelming debt for many people with inadequate coverage. More than 100 million U.S. adults struggle with healthcare debt, and there is more than \$195 billion owed nationwide. Our congregation's Social Ministry Coordinating Committee would like to address this issue during Lent. We have chosen to work with and through RIP Medical Debt, an organization founded eight years ago to work to end medical debt in our country. Working with medical providers who have long-standing debt owed them by patients unable to pay it, RIPMD is able to purchase this debt at pennies on the dollar and then retire it for good. We have set a goal of collecting \$1,800 during Lent toward this end, and we ask for your help in meeting this goal. Please consider making a weekly \$5 or \$10 donation (or a one-time donation) during Lent to help us meet this goal. Be sure to note that it is for our Medical Debt initiative.

Food Pantries in our Community are running desperately low! Please donate items or funds, as you are able. You can bring any item to the church and we will make sure that they get to the appropriate location. All food items are welcome however there are some that have specific needs as indicated below. Please mark donations if you wish for them to go to a specific center.

Grove Christian Outreach Center

Needs: cereal, volunteers

Williamsburg House of Mercy

Needs: food, diapers (sizes 4-6), wipes

Salvation Army

Needs: shelf stable milk, pantry items, diapers (sizes 4-6)

FISH, Inc.

Needs: clothes, canned pasta, shampoo, laundry detergent

Upcoming

Bible Study Monday at 1:30PM in the **Library/Conference Room**. Come and study the upcoming Sunday's texts with **Rev. Jim Larsen** and the **Rev. Harvey Nelson**.

Would you like to be a Narrative reader for Palm Sunday? We need to fill 9 speaking roles for the 8:30 AM service as well as for the 11:00 AM service. If you are interested please sign up on the insert, and indicate which service you would be reading for.

Women's Retreat Opportunity! Our wise and wonderful Music Director, Karen Ives, is extending an invitation to all retreat participants to join the choir on Sunday, March 26. The anthem is "Dem Bones", and Pastor Mary Anderson will be singing with us! We will practice for 20 minutes on Friday evening, then you can sing with the choir at the service of your choice: Matins Choir - 8:00 am, or Chancel Choir - 10:30 am. Let's make a joyful noise!

Mulch Party! We will be receiving eight yards of mulch on **Saturday, April 1ST**, for our Preschool playground and we need your help to spread it! If you are available, please come to St. Stephen at 9:00 AM – bring your wheelbarrows, shovels, and rakes if you have them. Please mark the insert if you will be available to help our school!

Wednesday evenings in Lent, March 22 and 29th at St. Stephen:

- **6:00 PM:** Soup and Bread supper in the Fellowship Hall
- **7:00 PM:** Holden Evening Prayer – in person and on our YouTube channel.

Allergy season

This past winter was mild by all standards that I can find for measurement. We had little snow and cold temperatures. My joints say Yay!! We don't care for the cold weather. The problem is that now allergy season has come early. Plants are producing pollen early. The result is sore throats, coughs, sneezing, and stuffy noses. Following pollen allergies will be mold allergies. If you are one of the millions of people who suffer from allergies, you will need to be on the lookout sooner this year. There have been stronger winds moving the pollen around which may bring new pollens to the area. Mold will also be on the increase with the warmer weather this year. Mold can exacerbate seasonal allergies for some people.

Recommendations for avoiding early onset or early reaction include:

- Stay indoors especially in the early morning and late afternoon when plants release the most pollen.
- Keep windows closed at home and in your car to minimize pollen exposure.
- Change air filters more frequently in the heating/air conditioning systems in your home and car.
- Stock up on anti-allergy medications. You can start using steroid nasal sprays one to two weeks before your normal season would start.

Be aware of your own body and what your symptoms are if you feel sick. If you are running a fever, it likely is not allergies. If you have asthma, be sure to keep rescue inhalers with you.

Diana Tiller-Dichtel
Parish Nurse

St. Stephen Calendar - March 19-26, 2023

*Our worship service is available on our website www.saintstephenlutheran.net,
click on "Worship with Us" and "Services."*

SUNDAY, March 19~ Fourth Sunday in Lent

- 8:00 AM Matins Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
8:30 AM Worship – Holy Communion (*livestreamed on our YouTube channel*)
9:45 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
9:45 AM Affirmation of Baptism Class (Library/Conference Room)
10:00 AM Faith Formation (Preschool Room)
10:30 AM Chancel Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
11:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion

MONDAY, March 20

- 10:00 AM Staff meeting (Pastors Office)
1:30 PM Bible Study (Library/Conference Room)
2:30 PM Stephen Ministry Meeting (Library/Conference Room)

TUESDAY, March 21

- 7:00PM Preschool Committee meeting(Library/Conference Room)

WEDNESDAY, March 22

- 6:00 PM Soup and Bread supper (Fellowship Hall)
7:00 PM Holden Evening Prayer (Worship Space)
7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)

THURSDAY, March 23

- 1:00 PM Staff Bulletin Review
7:00 PM SMCC meeting (Library/Conference Room)

FRIDAY, March 24

- 6:30PM-8:30PM Women's Retreat Friday night social (fellowship hall)

SATURDAY, March 25

- 8:30 PM-4:15PM Women's Retreat
5:30 PM AA Meeting (Library/Conference room)

SUNDAY, March 26 ~ Fifth Sunday in Lent

- 8:00 AM Matins Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
8:30 AM Worship – Holy Communion (*livestreamed on our YouTube channel*)
9:45 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
9:45 AM Affirmation of Baptism Class (Library/Conference Room)
10:00 AM Faith Formation (Preschool Room)
10:30 AM Chancel Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
11:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer.....(8:30) Bill Dichtel
..... (11:00) Jeffrey Berry
Altar Guild(8:30) Diana Tiller-Dichtel and Diane McCurry
..... (11:00) Linda Vonderheide
Audio-Visual Team..... (8:30) JR & Diana Lyons (11:00) Doug Moore
Bread Baker..... Heidi Flatin
Cantors (8:30) Karen Shoberg (11:00) Terri Larsen
Communion Assistants(8:30) Diana Tiller-Dichtel and Paula Agor
..... (11:00) Margaret Steel and Pam Buckley
Flower Delivery Diane McCurry
Greeters/Hosts.....(8:30) Bob & Carol Harman (11:00) George & Linda Vonderheide
Lectors.....(8:30) Diana Tiller-Dichtel (11:00) Jane deSolms
Tellers.....Jeanne Garrison, Nelia Lamoureux, Joe Beene
Ushers.....(8:30) Bob Harman and JR Lyons (11:00) Glenn Joppa

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

612 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

www.saintstephenlutheran.net

(757) 229-6688

Love God, Love People, Form Faith.

(St. Stephen Lutheran Church Vision Statement)

All of Us, Called Through Our Baptisms

Pastor Jon Nelson (320-295-8861)

Karen Ives – Director of Music (757-229-6688)

Hollie Jones – Parish Administrator (229-6688)

Diana Tiller-Dichtel – Parish Nurse (232-5924)

Kristie Kelley – Preschool Director (229-6688)

Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center (873-2273; counselors are in Williamsburg on Thursdays)

Doing Ministry in the World

Pastorjn@saintstephenlutheran.net

MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.net

Office@saintstephenlutheran.net

Parishnurse@saintstephenlutheran.net

Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net

Welcome to St. Stephen Lutheran Church!

Please fill this out and drop it in the offering plate

or give it to an usher.

March 19 , 2023

Name: _____

For guests and members with changes:

Address (Home) _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # _____

E-Mail Address _____

Guests Only:

I belong to _____

Church Address _____

Please check as many as pertain:

___ Member

___ First time guest

___ Regular guest

___ Guest (out of town)

___ Student at William & Mary

___ Looking for a church home

___ Desire to speak with pastor

___ Would like more information about Stephen Ministry

___ Would like a Parish Nurse to contact me

Any comments? Please be sure your name is above, so we may respond, if necessary.

Prayer Requests

Please **add** to the prayer list in this month's bulletin and next month's *Quill*:

Name: _____

Please **remove** from prayer concerns:

Name: _____

_____ I need a **nametag!** _____

_____ Yes! I/We will attend the Holden soup dinners # of people _____

_____ I would like to be a Narrative reader for Palm Sunday April 2,2023

_____ 8:30 AM

_____ 11:00 AM

_____ I/We can help **spread mulch** in the Preschool playground!