



# St. Stephen Lutheran Church

One of 13,000 Stephen Ministry Congregations Around the World

We believe that community is *beautiful* and *messy* and *fulfilling* and *conflicted* and...the POINT. God calls us together into community for the sake of one another, our neighbors, and creation. We don't always get it right, but we trust that when we center the love and grace that Jesus taught, we will get it right more often than not. ***You are welcome here!*** We don't expect perfect, put-together people; we don't want you to conform to us and our ways; we want you to show up as who you are and to experience the love and grace of God as we have experienced it. And we hope that once you do, you will join us in sharing it with others too.



***February 11, 2024 ~ Transfiguration of Our Lord***

## For Your Prayers – February 12-18 , 2024

### Lectionary readings for this week:

**Monday:** Exodus 19:7-25 Hebrews 2:1-4 Psalm 110:1-4

**Tuesday:** Job 19:23-27 1 Timothy 3:14-16 Psalm 110:1-4

**Ash Wednesday:** Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalm 51:1-17 (1) 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**Thursday:** Daniel 9:1-14 1 John 1:3-10 Psalm 25:1-10

**Friday** Daniel 9:15-25a 2 Timothy 4:1-5 Psalm 25:1-10

**Saturday:** Psalm 32 Matthew 9:2-13 Psalm 25:1-10

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-10 (10) 1 Peter 3:18-22  
Mark 1:9-15

**Join your prayers for healing** with God's desires for **Aaren Battle, Ed Brown, Kristin Carter, Jack Harris, Sharon Jacobs, Marilyn Johnson, Evelyn Kernan, Jim Mayfield, Carole Meyer, Martha Reier, Linda Reuben, and Karen Shoberg.**

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

**Pray for these loved ones of our congregation:** John, Marty, Benita, Paula Battle, Donald and Carol Baum, Rose Baumgarten, Sally Blackburn, Linda Bonfiglio, Mary Bloom, Steve Boyles, Ann Bunn, Amy Carl, Jerry & Elijah Connor, Judy Craun, Doug Crinklaw, Sophia Czajkowski, Judy Drezek, Charlie Eidson, Joel Gillespie, Joan and Frank Goodhart, Deanna Harbison, Nick Havola, Bradley Kim Joan and Laurie Heintzelman, Char Henry, Lisa Hill, Jaxon Ireland, The Jacobs Family, Brian Johnson, Don Johnson, Connie Kendrick, The Kennedy family, Laura & Fred Kienle, Marnah Lund, David Maris, Laura Margolin, Doug Mayes, Jack Mayfield, Becky Murphy, Ed Moninger, John and Pollie Morison, Bob Myers, Silvana Oderisi, Lori Ogborn, Shary Raske, Paula Rega, Mark Punchard, Marci Ries, Sharon Rogers, Betty Roth, Lou Schuster, Inge Seiter, Kelsey Slay, Brant Smith, Vasili Soultoukis, Chad Strausbaugh, Charley Underdahl, and Caleb Winig.



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

### Welcome

### Centering Music

*Morning Star*

arr. John S.C. Kemp

Ingrid Brown, violin; Marie Nelson, cello

### Confession and Forgiveness (by Moira Laidlaw, Liturgies Online)

Lord Jesus Christ, God's glory and love shone through you that day on the mountain and you persisted in revealing that glory and love through your words and deeds, through your life of humble service. We hear again these wonderful words of God "You are my Son, the Beloved, listen to him!" We confess our failure to listen to you because of the influence on our lives of the gods of this world. When this happens our attitudes conceal rather than reveal your glory and your love.

If we conceal your love because our pursuit of other priorities prevents us from seeing and serving people in need: **forgive us, Lord.**

If we conceal your glory because all we reflect is our own self-centeredness: **forgive us, Lord**

If we conceal your truth through our lack of credible witness: **forgive us, Lord.**

If we conceal your justice through our failure to empower those who are powerless: **forgive us, Lord.**

If we conceal your mercy because of our hard and unforgiving attitudes: **forgive us, Lord.**

If we conceal your compassion because of our prejudice and intolerance: **forgive us, Lord.**

*Silence for reflection and confession.*

Lord Jesus Christ, cleanse our lives of all shameful attitudes of mind and heart so that we reveal your glory in and through all we do and say and are. This we pray in your name, and in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

It is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness" who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. The good news is that we are not only enlightened by our belief in Christ, we are cleansed and we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God!**

### Gathering Hymn

*Arise, Your Light Has Come!*

ELW 314

Bulletin page 12

### 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



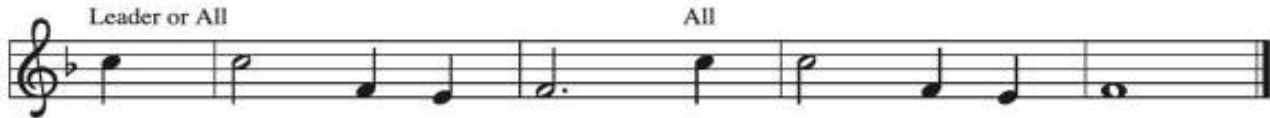
Leader or All

Se - ñor, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros. Cris - to, ten pie - dad.  
O Lord, have . . . mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy.



All

Se - ñor, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros. Cris - to, ten pie - dad.  
O Lord, have . . . mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy.



Leader or All

All

Se - ñor, ten pie - dad. Se - ñor, ten pie - dad.  
Have mer - cy, O Lord. Have mer - cy, O Lord.

## Gloria



1 ¡Glo-ria a Dios, glo-ria a Dios, glo - ria en los cie - los!  
1 Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!



¡Glo-ria a Dios, glo-ria a Dios, glo - ria en los cie - los!  
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!



¡A Dios la glo-ria por siem-pre! ¡A Dios la glo-ria por siem-pre!  
To God be glo-ry for - ev - er! To God be glo-ry for - ev - er!



¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén!  
Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén!  
Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén!  
Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

## **Prayer of the Day**

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Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

### **First Reading**

**2 Kings 2:1-12**

*Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.*

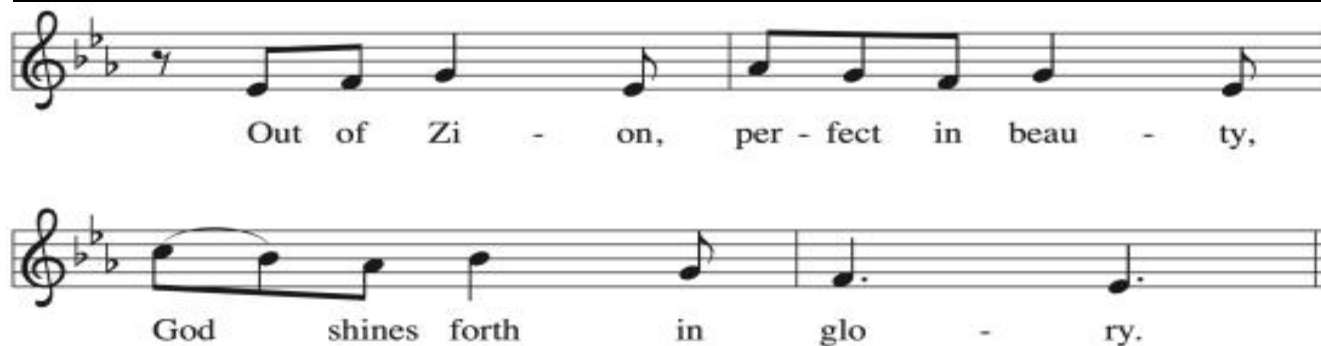
<sup>1</sup>Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. <sup>3</sup>The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

<sup>4</sup>Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. <sup>5</sup>The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

<sup>6</sup>Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup>Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup>When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." <sup>10</sup>He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." <sup>11</sup>As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup>Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

*Reader: "The Word of the Lord." Response: "Thanks be to God."*



<sup>1</sup>The mighty one, God the <sup>1</sup>LORD, has spoken;  
calling the earth from the rising of the sun <sup>1</sup>to its setting.

<sup>2</sup>**Out of Zion, perfect <sup>1</sup>in its beauty,  
God shines <sup>1</sup>forth in glory. Refrain**

<sup>3</sup>Our God will come and will <sup>1</sup>not keep silence;  
with a consuming flame before, and round about a <sup>1</sup>raging storm.

<sup>4</sup>**God calls the heavens and the earth <sup>1</sup>from above  
to witness the judgment <sup>1</sup>of the people.**

<sup>5</sup>“Gather before me my <sup>1</sup>loyal followers,  
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed <sup>1</sup>it with sacrifice.”

<sup>6</sup>**The heavens declare the rightness <sup>1</sup>of God’s cause,  
for it is God <sup>1</sup>who is judge. Refrain**

## Second Reading

## 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

*The spotlight of Christian ministry is not on the people who carry out ministry but on the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as God made light shine at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.*

<sup>3</sup>Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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

## Gospel Acclamation (1<sup>st</sup> time in Spanish, 2<sup>nd</sup> in English)

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. El Se - ñor re - su - ci - tó.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en, ris 'n in - deed.

### Gospel

Mark 9:2-9

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

*Mark’s gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus’ followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God’s glory manifest in the beloved Son.*

<sup>2</sup>Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” <sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

### Sermon

*Listen!*

Pastor Jon O Nelson

*Silence for reflection and prayer.*

### Hymn of the Day

*Oh, Wondrous Image, Vision Fair*

ELW 316

Bulletin page 13

**Affirmation of Love** *(inspired by 1 Cor. 13, from the World Council of Churches)*

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**I may speak in the languages of people and angels,  
but if I lack love, I am simply a resonant metal, a loud cymbal.  
I may have the gift of prophecy, understanding of all mystery and all knowledge;  
I may have the fullest faith, that moves mountains; but if I lack love, I am nothing.  
I may distribute all my goods to hungry people,  
I may even deliver my body to the flames, but if I lack love, I gain nothing.  
Love demands patience. Love serves. It does not walk away. It is not jealous.  
It does not brag. It does not seek its own interest.  
It is not irritable. It does not hold a grudge.  
Love does not celebrate injustice, but finds its joy in the truth.  
It excuses all. It believes all. It hopes for all. It endures all.  
Love has no end. Prophecies? They will finish. Tongues? They will come to an end.  
Knowledge? It will pass. Faith, hope and love continue. The greatest of these is love.**

**Prayers**

*Each petition concludes, "Lord in your mercy." Response: "Hear our prayer."*

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

**Offering**

*An offering is 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**

*Dazzling Presence on the Mountain*

Karen E. Black

Jim Larsen, Trumpet

(Congregation is asked to rise and sing the final stanza – page 14)

**Offertory Prayer**

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Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

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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...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





San-to, san - to, san - to Dios de glo - ria y po - der,  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God of pow - er and might,



cie - los y tie - rra pro - cla - man tu glo - ria.  
 heav - en and earth . . . are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na en los cie - los.  
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na en los cie - los.  
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ben - di - to a - quel que vie - ne en el nom - bre de Dios.  
 Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of our God.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na en los cie - los.  
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na en los cie - los.  
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

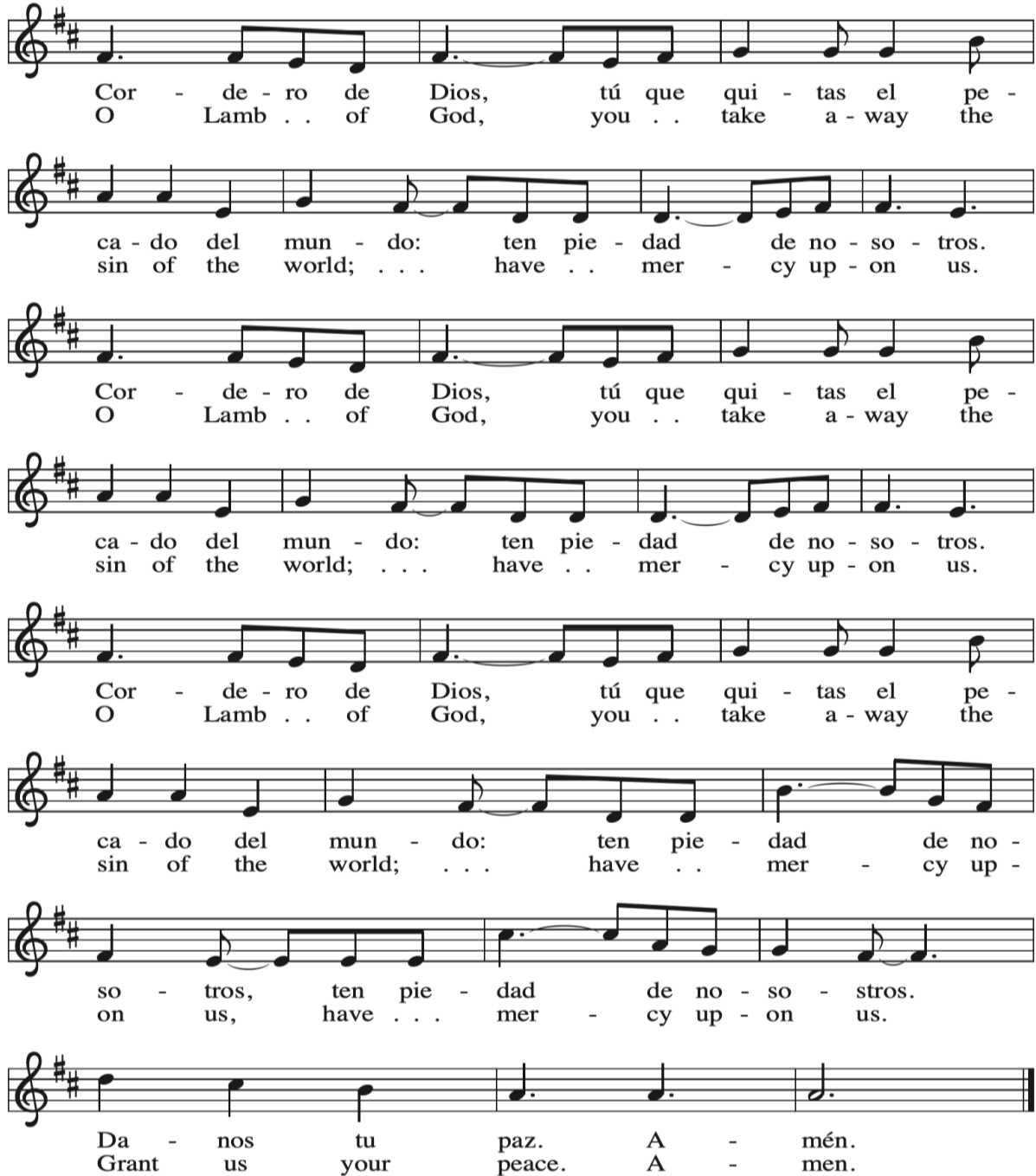
## Words of Institution

### 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. The 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.



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui - tas el pe -  
O Lamb . . of God, you . . take a - way the

ca - do del mun - do: ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.  
sin of the world; . . . have . . mer - cy up - on us.

Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui - tas el pe -  
O Lamb . . of God, you . . take a - way the

ca - do del mun - do: ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.  
sin of the world; . . . have . . mer - cy up - on us.

Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui - tas el pe -  
O Lamb . . of God, you . . take a - way the

ca - do del mun - do: ten pie - dad de no -  
sin of the world; . . . have . . mer - cy up -

so - tros, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.  
on us, have . . mer - cy up - on us.

Da - nos tu paz. Grant us your peace. A - mén.  
Grant us your peace. A - men.

Communion Hymns

*Beautiful Savior*

ELW 838  
Bulletin page 15

*O Beauty Ever Ancient*

ACS 1100  
Bulletin page 16

## Table Blessing

### Prayer after Communion

Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

**Sending Hymn**

*Alleluia, Song of Gladness*

ELW 318

Bulletin Page 17

### Blessing

**God who names you,  
Christ who claims you,  
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,  
✠ bless you and remain with you always. Amen.**

### Dismissal

Go in peace. You are God's beloved. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*Alleluia, Song of Gladness*

Setting, Robert Bucklee Farlee

### **A special thank you to our Orchestral Band:**

Bassoon: Linda Baumgarten  
Bass Clarinet: Erika Cave  
Cello: Marie Nelson  
Clarinet: Jeffery Berry, Bill Dichtel  
Euphonium: Theo Bergh  
Flute: Sonja Cave  
French Horn: Rich Brown  
Trombone: Jennifer Dabel  
Trumpet: Jim Larsen  
Violin: Ingrid Brown, John Jo Shoenfelt

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*Dazzling Presence on the Mountain/ WAVERLY; Contributors: Karen E. Black  
Tune: © 2015 Augsburg Fortress Text: © 2015 Augsburg Fortress*

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## Arise, Your Light Has Come!

1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,  
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in the key of D major (two sharps). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line from the first system. It concludes with a double bar line. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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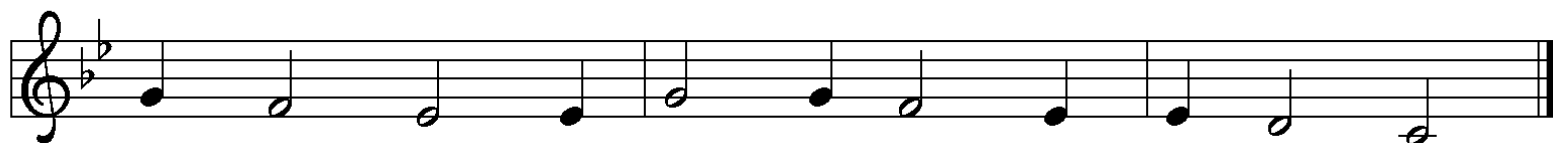
# Oh, Wondrous Image, Vision Fair



1 Oh, won - drous im - age, vi - sion fair of  
 2 With Mo - ses and E - li - jah nigh the in -  
 3 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray, Christ  
 4 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high by  
 5 O Fa - ther, with the e - ter - nal Son, and



glo - ry that the church may share, which Christ up - on the  
 car - nate Lord holds con - verse high, and from the cloud, the  
 deigns to man - i - fest to - day what glo - ry shall be  
 this great vi - sion's mys - ter - y; for which in joy - ful  
 Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er one, we pray you, bring us



moun - tain shows, where bright - er than the sun he glows!  
 Ho - ly One says, "This is my be - lov - ed Son."  
 theirs a - bove who joy in God with per - fect love.  
 song we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.  
 by your grace to see your glo - ry face to face.

Text: Sarum, 15th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
 Music: DEO GRACIAS, English ballad, 15th cent.

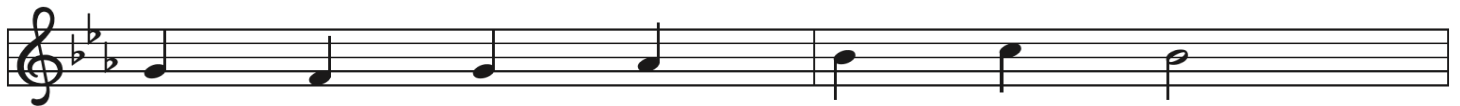
# Dazzling Presence on the Mountain



1 Daz - zling pres - ence on the moun - tain: hu - man eye had  
 2 From this mount of mys - tic splen - dor to the cross Christ  
 3 From the heights of new cre - a - tion, Christ be - holds his  
 → 4 Let our praise ring from each moun - tain, in - to deep - est



nev - er seen such a won - der, such re - splen - dence,  
 press - es on; here no Mo - ses nor E - li - jah,  
 world, re - deemed; as with Pe - ter and com - pan - ions,  
 val - leys pour, where, with lives of grate - ful ser - vice,



heav'n and earth in cloud con - vene.  
 on - ly thieves Christ's wings a - dorn.  
 brings us now to sights un - seen.  
 we a - dore Christ ev - er - more.



“This is my Son, the be - lov - ed,” thun - d'rous voice from  
 “Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy,” was one's pen - i -  
 Jus - tice, mer - cy, and com - pas - sion: these the booths he  
 To the Son, God's own be - lov - ed, and the Spir - it



cloud ex - claimed. Word made flesh to heal cre - a - tion,  
 ten - tial sigh. With trans - fig - ur - ing as - sur - ance,  
 bids us build, that the earth he loves may flour - ish  
 end - less - ly, may the church's praise be lift - ed



to dis - ci - ples God pro - claimed.  
 Christ re - joins his fer - vent cry.  
 as each life with grace is filled.  
 to the bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

Text: Paul E. Hoffman, b. 1956  
 Music: WAVERLY, Karen E. Black, b. 1960  
 Text and music © 2015 Augsburg Fortress

# Beautiful Savior

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!  
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;  
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;  
 Son of God and Son of Man!

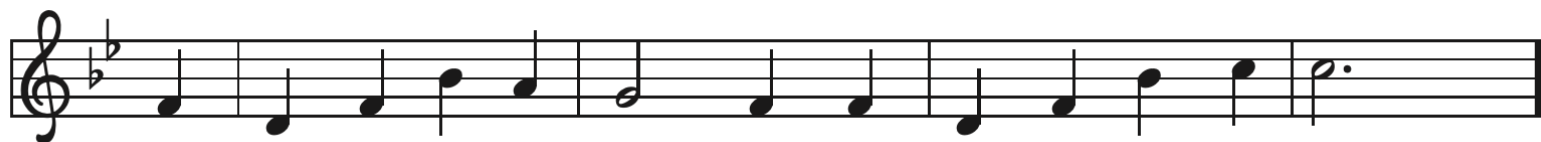
Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,  
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er  
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.  
 than all the an - gels in the sky.  
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

# O Beauty Ever Ancient



1 O beau-ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,  
2 O beau-ty in cre - a - tion, in world of sound and sight,  
3 O beau-ty that is move - ment in liq - uid line of grace,  
4 O beau-ty of the Spir - it where love is shin - ing through,



di - vine and Ho - ly Pres - ence, my be - ing sings to you,  
O beau - ty in the si - lence, in dark-ness as in light,  
O beau - ty that is still - ness in love - ly form or face,  
O beau - ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,



in grat - i-tude, in wor - ship my be - ing sings to you!

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, 1931–2020

Music: ANCIENT BEAUTY, Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953

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# Alleluia, Song of Gladness

1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can - not die;  
2 Al - le - lu - ia you are sound - ing, true Je - ru - sa - lem and free;  
3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while here be - low;  
4 In our hymns we pray with long - ing: Grant us, bless - ed Trin - i - ty,

al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er dear to choirs on high;  
al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er, bring us to your ju - bi - lee;  
al - le - lu - ia our trans - gres - sions make us for a while for - go;  
at the last to keep glad Eas - ter with the faith - ful saints on high;

in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.  
here by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters mourn - ing ex - iles still are we.  
for the sol - emn time is com - ing when our tears for sin shall flow.  
there to you for - ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

## 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.

**Health Update:** We always encourage you to monitor yourself for symptoms of illness and to worship from home if you are experiencing any. We have masks and hand sanitizer available for use in our building should you require.

## What's Happening Today

**Flowers are given** to the honor and the glory of God.

**Do you enjoy coffee and fellowship on Sunday mornings?** Please consider donating to the



coffee fund, simply place a dollar or so in the cup on top of the Keurig this will help us stay within budget! Don't have a dollar scan the QR code by the coffee pot or here in the bulletin.

**2023 Giving Statements** are available in the gathering space. Please remember to pick yours up before you leave.

**The Flower Chart for 2024** is posted in the display area of the Gathering Space. Please mark the date for which you would like to sponsor flowers! Sponsor sheets are in the tray below the chart!

## Upcoming

### **Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 14**

- **12:15 PM:** Ashes-to-Go. Please call the church when here. 757-229-6688
- **7:00 PM:** Worship at St. Stephen, featuring the invitation to observe Lent, ashes, and Holy Communion.

### **Wednesday evenings in Lent, February 21, 28, March 6, 13, and 20th** at St. Stephen:

- **6:00 PM** – Soup and Bread supper in the Fellowship Hall
  - **Sign up** to bring soup and/or bread on the poster in the Gathering Space!
  - **Sign up** on the insert sheet if you plan to attend
- **7:00 PM:** Holden Evening Prayer.

**Education: Book Study.** Starting the week of **Feb. 5th** Pastor Alex is leading a 7-week book study on “Transforming: The Bible and the Lives Of Transgender Christians” by Austen Hartke. There will be two options to meet for discussion: **Mondays at 7:00 PM** or **Tuesdays at 1:30 PM**. If you would like a copy of the book (\$20.00 each), please sign up on the bulletin insert and send your payment to the church marked “Book Study

**Support: HEART FOR THE HUNGRY** Celebrate Valentine's Day by restocking our community food pantries to help our neighbors in need! From February 1st through 14th, drop off food, and GWOM will donate \$1 for every pound donated, up to \$1,000 per agency( FISH, Grove Christian Outreach Center, Salvation Army and St. Olaf). Please donate food. You can drop off all donations here at the church or directly to the centers themselves.

**Communal Life: Shrove Tuesday Pancakes.** Join us for pancakes and sausages on Shrove **Tuesday (Feb. 13th)**, in the Fellowship Hall from **5:00 - 7:00 PM**. Free will donation, all proceeds help fund Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) activities (including our 2024 summer trip to the LYO Gathering in New Orleans). Please sign up on the insert so that we can have a head count for food.

**Communal Life: LSA Sunday Dinners.** Want to get to know our LSA members? Host a meal for them! Sign up to host a Sunday evening meal for LSA on the chart in the Gathering Space. If you haven't hosted before, instructions are available.

**Education: The St. Stephen Lutheran 2024 Theologian in Residence** is the Rev. James G. Cobb, who will be joining us on **March 2 and 3, 2024**. Pastor Cobb, a former member of SSLC, is celebrating the 50th anniversary of his ordination and has held many prominent appointments at the ELCA and LWF. He is also the author of 5 books. His topic will be "Christian Nationalism & A Lutheran Perspective." The **Saturday, March 2** session starts at **9:30am** in the Fellowship Hall and will end at 1:30pm (potluck lunch at noon). The Theologian in Residence will be the preacher at both services on Sunday, March 3.

**Service: Mowers and Gardeners needed for the upcoming season!** As we get closer to the warmer weather of Spring, we will need to start our mowing, trimming and gardening routine for the church grounds. So if anyone would like to help us do the mowing activity, please add your name to the bulletin insert or contact Randy Punchard ([randy4golf@aol.com](mailto:randy4golf@aol.com), 757-870-8410). For the gardening helpers for planting new flowers and basic gardening maintenance, please contact Chris Punchard ([mrschris16@aol.com](mailto:mrschris16@aol.com), 757-880-3347). Our church gets a lot of visibility from the walkers on Jamestown Road and visitors who attend various services. Last year our church won the beautification award for Williamsburg. We would like to do that again. All helping hands are welcome!

**Support: RIP Medical Debt.** Once again **our SMCC would like to invite the congregation to support RIP Medical Debt during this season of Lent.** If you would like to help relieve medical debt you can send a donation to the church marked "RIP Medical Debt." Last Lent we raised a little over \$5,000 which led to the forgiveness of ~\$500,000 in medical debt. Can we beat our previous fundraising total?

## **Health Ministry**

### **Valentine's Day**

Did you know that eating chocolate can actually be healthy? People who associate eating chocolate cake with celebration were more successful at weight maintenance than those who only felt guilt when eating chocolate. Chocolate has health benefits. Dark chocolate contains powerful antioxidants. The most beneficial being flavonoids called epicatechin. Flavonoids are compounds found in plants that fight inflammation and protect cells from free radicals. They have been shown to:

- Increase heart health by lowering blood pressure, reducing the risk of clotting, and increasing circulation;
- Balance the immune system;
- Combat diabetes by supporting the processes that help the body use insulin better;
- Improve brain function including improved reaction time and stronger memory;
- Boosts athletic performance;
- Reduce stress.

The higher the cocoa content, the more the beneficial flavonoids the chocolate contains. It should be at least 70% cacao content. So, enjoy that chocolate treat for Valentine's Day. Remember, however, everything in moderation!

**Diana Tiller-Dichtel, Parish Nurse**

## St. Stephen Calendar: February 11-18, 2024

### SUNDAY, February 11 ~ *Transfiguration of Our Lord*

- 8:30 AM** Worship – Holy Communion (live-streamed on our YouTube channel)
- 9:45 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
- 10:00 AM Faith Formation: Life Story (Preschool Room)
- 11:00 AM** Worship – Holy Communion

### MONDAY, February 12

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor Jon's Office)
- 1:30 PM Bible Study (Library/Conference Room)
- 2:00 PM Stephen Ministry Meeting (Pastor Jon's Office)
- 3:00 PM Finance Meeting (Library/Conference Room)
- 7:00 PM Book Study (Library/Conference Room)

### TUESDAY, February 13

- 11:30 AM** Preschool Chapel (Worship Space)
- 1:30 PM Book Study (Library/Conference Room)
- 5:00 PM Shrove Tuesday Pancakes (Fellowship Hall)

### WEDNESDAY, February 14 ( Ash Wednesday)

- 11:30 AM** Preschool Chapel (Worship Space)
- 12:15 PM Ashes-to-Go (Church Driveway)
- 6:15 PM Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
- 7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00 PM** Worship- Distribution of Ashes & Holy Communion (Worship Space)

### THURSDAY, February 15

- 12:30 PM Staff Bulletin Review (Library/Conference Room)
- 5:30 PM St. Stephen Rings (Worship Space)

### FRIDAY, February 16

### SATURDAY, February 17

- 5:30 PM AA Meeting (Library/ Conference Room)

### SUNDAY, February 18 ~ *First Sunday in Lent*

- 8:30 AM** Worship – Holy Communion (live-streamed 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: Lesson (Preschool Room)
- 11:00 AM** Worship – Holy Communion

## Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer .....(8:30) John McCurry  
.....(11:00) Jeffrey Berry  
Altar Guild ..... (8:30) Rita Kristiansen and Carol Wiers  
.....(11:00) Sue Neidlinger  
Audio-Visual Team..... (8:30) JR & Diana Lyons (11:00) Tobias Janke  
Bread Baker ..... Paula Agor  
Cantors..... (8:30) Paula Agor (11:00) Marj Gottschalk-Trone  
Communion Assistants ..... (8:30) Carol Wiers and Diane McCurry  
..... (11:00) Julie Meeks and Jeffrey Berry  
Flower Delivery ..... Diane McCurry  
Greeters/Hosts..... (8:30) Paul & Rita Kristiansen (11:00) Alison Carney  
Lectors .....(8:30) Linda Baumgarten (11:00) Sandy Croushore  
Preacher & Presider ..... Pastor Jon O Nelson  
Tellers ..... Jane deSolms, Susan Britcher, Jim Larsen  
Ushers ..... (8:30) Tom and Sandy Peterkin (11:00) Jim Weilmuenster and Russ Dabel

## ***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)

**Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt** (717-434-5037)

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

**Hollie Jones** – Parish Administrator (229-6688)

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

**Holly Ready** – Preschool Director (229-6688)

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

Doing Ministry in the World

Pastorjn@saintstephenlutheran.net

Pastorasw@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.*

*February 11, 2024*

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*:

(please note all names will be removed at the end of the following month, if you wish for someone to be added back on to the prayer list please resubmit their names here)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please **remove** from prayer concerns:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I need a name tag

\_\_\_\_\_ I/ We would like to help with Mowing or Gardening

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We will be attending Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner on February 13

\_\_\_\_\_ I/ We plan to attend the Theologian in Residence presentation on March 2

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We wish to order #\_\_\_\_\_ Easter Lilies to decorate St. Stephen (\$21.00 each).

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Thanks for: \_\_\_\_\_

No Dedication \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We wish to support the Jean Kuhn Memorial Fund - to help fund unbudgeted social ministries.

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In thanks for: \_\_\_\_\_

No Dedication \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to St. Stephen and designate *Easter Lilies* or *Jean Kuhn Memorial Fund* in the memo line

