



# St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Love God, Love People, Form Faith.

**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.



***March 22, 2026***

***Fifth Sunday in Lent***

## For Your Prayers –March 23-29, 2026

### **Lectionary readings for this week:**

***Mon – Mar 23:*** 1 Kings 17:17-24; Acts 20:7-12; Psalm 143

***Tue – Mar 24:*** 2 Kings 4:18-37; Ephesians 2:1-10; Psalm 143

***Wed – Mar 25:*** Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41; Matthew 22:23-33; Psalm 143

***Thu – Mar 26:*** 1 Samuel 16:11-13; Philippians 1:1-11; Psalm 31:9-16

***Fri – Mar 27:*** Job 13:13-19; Philippians 1:21-30; Psalm 31:9-16

***Sat – Mar 28:*** Lamentations 3:55-66; Mark 10:32-34; Psalm 31:9-16

***Next Sunday:*** Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 26:14—27:66

***Join your prayers for healing*** with God's desires for **Kristin Carter, Ginny Cummings, Craig Eichfeld, Edith Haecker, Dave Hoyer, Jim Ivey, Sharon Jacobs, Terri Larsen, and Jim Mayfield.**

***Pray for those unable to come to worship:*** **Ailene Bartlett, Ed and Ingrid Brown, Pat Janot, Marilyn Johnson, Jon Lund, Carole Meyer, Jeanne Nelson, Darlene Simon, and Kay Wasaff.**

***Pray for these loved ones of our congregation:*** Randy Altona, Phyllis Andrews, Lori Bardey and family, Kristin Carter, Carol Baum, Robi Bayard, Jeffrey Berry, Sr., Lila Bradley, June Brantley, Carol Bergh, Mary Bloom, Doug Bolick, Bob Britcher, Raymond Bunn, Ruth Ann Coski, Amaree Cluff, Dru Dowdy, Judy Drezek, Hollis Fulton, Joan Goodhart, Charee Hampton, Sue Hassan and family, Andy Havola, Nick Havola, Kim, Joan and Laurie Heintzeman, Lisa Hill, Doris Hillenbrand, Michelle Holdsworth, Jaxon Ireland, Don Johnson, Connie Kendrick, Jenn Kramer, Bob Loubach, Layton, Marnah Lund, Keara Mahony, Trish Macerelli, Laura Margolin, Barry and Mabel Martin, Ellen Martin, Mabel Mater, Jackie Mazzone, Tom Mifflin, Jimmy Mitchell, Liz Montalvo, Bob Myers, Jim Ogborn, Jeanette Osborn, Maricel Paulin, Janet Popelas, Coral Pumley, Scott Radley, Kurt Recktenwald, Carol Sue Repass, Brian Ritter, Ruth Sandoval, Lou Schuster, Pamela Sharp, Kelsey Slay, Valerie Smith, Helen Soultoukis, Vasili Soultoukis, Kenneth & Laura Spencer, Chad Strausbaugh, Al Stern, Monika Stern, Lara Templin, Lenorah Thomas, Karli Wallace Thompson, Jenn Tyson, Matt Weilmuenster, Elaine Wrich, and Lynda Wright

## *Fifth Sunday in Lent*

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

**Welcome**

**Centering Music**

*Wondrous Love*

Setting, John Carter

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn**

*Restore in Us, O God*

ELW 328

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**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**

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord.

For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, 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

### **Ezekiel 37:1-14**

*Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the Lord."*

<sup>1</sup> The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."<sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup> I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live."<sup>10</sup> I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. <sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophecy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.

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

### Psalm 130



I wait for you, O LORD; in your word is my hope.

<sup>1</sup> Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD;

<sup>2</sup> **O LORD, hear my voice!**

**Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.**

<sup>3</sup> If you were to keep watch over sins,

O LORD, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup> Yet with you | is forgiveness,  
in order that you | may be feared. REFRAIN

<sup>5</sup> I wait for you, O LORD; | my soul waits;  
in your word | is my hope.

<sup>6</sup> My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch | for the morning,  
more than those who keep watch | for the morning.

<sup>7</sup> O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is | steadfast love;  
with the LORD there is plen- | teous redemption.

<sup>8</sup> For the LORD shall | redeem Israel  
from | all their sins. REFRAIN

## Second Reading

## Romans 8:6-11

*For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.*

<sup>6</sup> To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

## Lenten Acclamation

Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

## Gospel

## John 11:1-45

*Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.*

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

<sup>1</sup> Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup> after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. <sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup> The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of

daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup> But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them.” <sup>11</sup> After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” <sup>12</sup> The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” <sup>13</sup> Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup> For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” <sup>16</sup> Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.” <sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” <sup>27</sup> She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.” <sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” <sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup> When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup> He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” <sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?” <sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” <sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

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

**Sermon:**

*Holy Stench*

Pastor Jon Nelson

**Hymn of the Day**

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

ELW 666

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## Prayers

Each petition concludes: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

#### Offering Invitation

When Jesus witnesses Mary weeping over her dead brother, Lazarus, Jesus' spirit was greatly disturbed and he was deeply moved. Let us live in the legacy of Christ, who is moved with compassion for the bereaved and who works towards the ways of life. We gather our offerings in the spirit of compassion and solidarity.

#### Offering of Music:

*Dem Bones*

Arr. by Audrey Snyder

Choral Scholar Trio: Sam Watkowski, Nick Jobe, and Brian Hesse

#### Offertory Prayer

To the alleviation of suffering, to support during loss, to compassion during grief—we dedicate our gifts, Soulful God. For sorrow and joy dance together in our lives. And when we close off to one, we close off to the other. **Amen.**

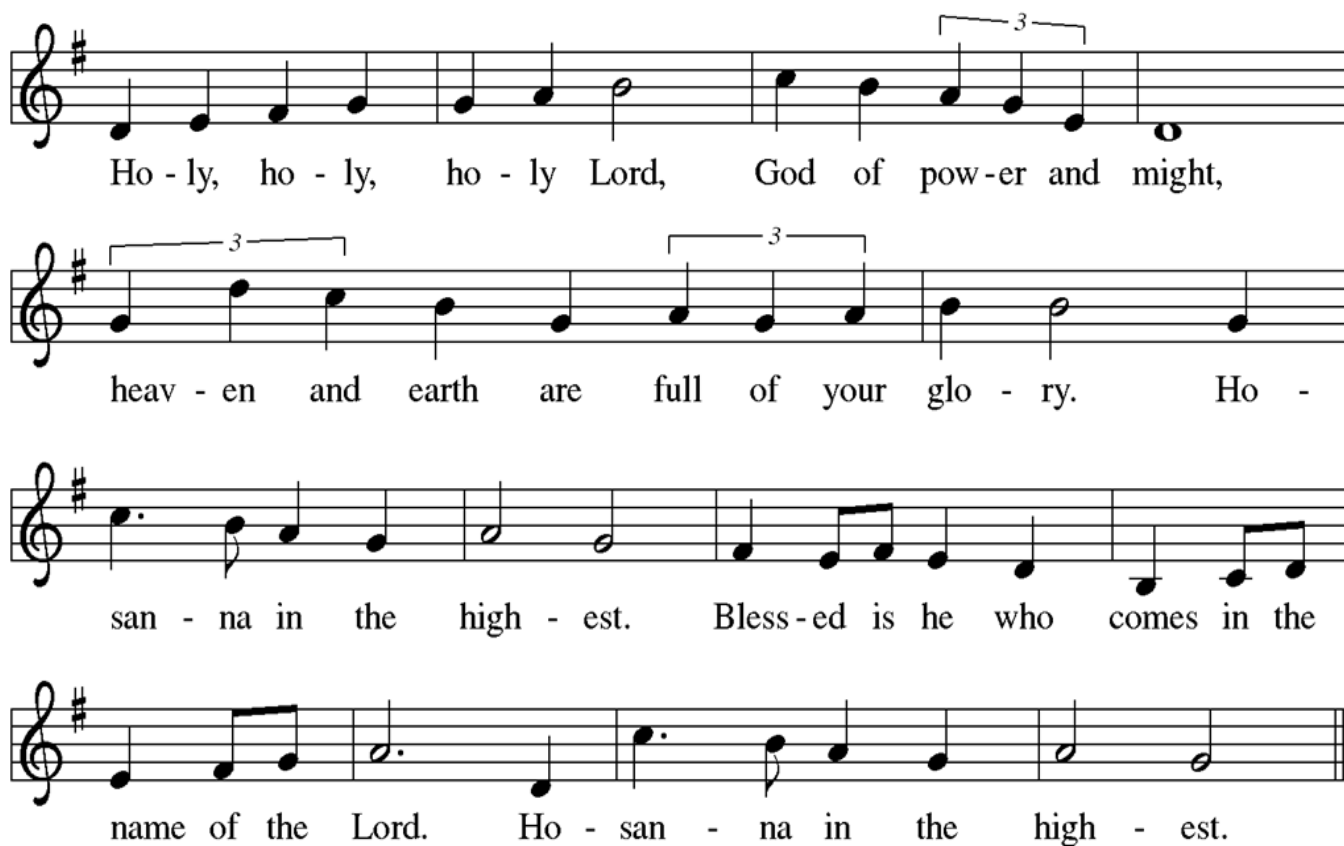
#### The Great Thanksgiving

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 ... and join their unending hymn:



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

## Eucharistic Blessing

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your...

...With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

## 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. All are welcome to the Lord's Supper.*

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.

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Leader

Free to go in peace as you have prom - ised.

All

Free to go in peace as you have prom - ised.

Leader or All

Now, Lord, you have set your ser - vant free, free to go in peace as you have

All

prom - ised. Free to go in peace as you have prom - ised.

Leader or All

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior

whom you have prepared for all the world to see:

All


Free to go in peace as you have prom - ised.

Leader or All



a light to en-lighten the nations, and the glory of your peo-ple Is-ra-el.

All



Free to go in peace as you have prom-ised.

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

##### Blessing

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always. Amen.

##### Dismissal

Go in peace. Believe the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

##### Postlude

*If You but Trust in God to Guide You*

J. S. Bach

## Preparing for our Lenten Mid-Week Series: Walking Wet

### Reflection Questions on [Jonah 3:10-4:11](#)

- Jonah's ministry in Nineveh is successful and yet he is angry. How does it make you feel to see Jonah so angry that the people of Nineveh turned away from their sinfulness and God showed them mercy?
- What might the worm teach us in this story?
- God chooses forgiveness, grace, and mercy over punishment and destruction. What are other examples in scripture or in your own life of forgiveness, grace, and mercy?
- The Book of Jonah ends without a resolution of the story. What do you think happens next?

**Spiritual Practice: Pray for Those Who Make You Angry:** Jesus loves all of God's people including those we like and those we don't like. Reread Luther's comments on the Fifth Petition of the Lord's Prayer (Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us) on page 1164 in the ELW. Reflect on this observation by Pastor Daubert in his book, [Martin Luther's Small Catechism: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Edition](#), "Needing grace is at the core of the Christian life – the common factor for all who are human. This means that we know we need grace and are grateful that the God who made the world and comes to us in Jesus offers it to us freely. It transforms us to see the brokenness and mistakes made by others in a new light and enables us to be gracious and forgiving to others and want what is best for them as well." Now try praying for someone who makes you angry. Use the following link to download a handout with guidance on how to pray for someone who makes you angry: [Loving Kindness Meditation](#)

**Learn more about ELCA Advocacy:** ELCA Advocacy works for change in public policy based on the experiences of Lutheran ministries, programs and projects around the world. The ELCA Advocacy office has fantastic resources to help individuals and congregations as they strive for justice and peace. You can explore those resources at: <https://www.elca.org/our-work/publicly-engaged-church/advocacy>.

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*Dem Bones; Contributors: Audrey Snyder.; © 2018 Hal Leonard*

*Tree of Life; Contributor: Aaron Thompson©2006 Worl's Library Publications*

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# Restore in Us, O God



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -  
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from  
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -  
4 Three - per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.  
fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flow'r.  
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.  
we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company.

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# What Wondrous Love Is This

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to  
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down  
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,

that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914–1997, alt.  
 Arr. © 1955 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## As We Gather

### Restrooms & First Aid

- ❖ A gender-neutral, family restroom and a Women's restroom can be found in the hallway behind our Worship Space.
- ❖ Additional Men's and Women's restrooms can be found on the lower level of the church building.
- ❖ A first aid kit and an A.E.D. can be found hanging on the wall in the hallway behind our Worship Space.

### Live-streaming

- ❖ We regularly live-stream our services and cannot guarantee that you will not appear on our YouTube or Facebook channel. Sitting in the East Wing or the NE section of the Worship Space will minimize your chances of being on screen. We can also bring communion to you if you inform an usher of that desire. Both services are live streamed.

### 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.org)
- ❖ When parents and children need to take a break for a few minutes, there's a play area (aka "pryground") with toys and books in the East wing of 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.

**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 this morning** are given in celebration of Jane deSolm's 80th birthday!!!!

**We welcome Ina Berkey** this morning on organ and piano. Karen is accompanying the William and Mary Barksdale Women's Choir on their weekend spring tour to Richmond, Philadelphia, Wilmington (DE), and Alexandria, VA.

## Information & Upcoming

### Wednesday evenings in Lent, March 25th at St. Stephen:

- **5:30 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

**6:30 PM:** Evening Prayer

### Easter week Schedule

**April 2 7:00 PM, Maundy Thursday at St. Martin's Episcopal Church**

**April 3 7:00 PM, Good Friday worship at St. Stephen**

**April 4 7:00 PM, the Easter Vigil at St. Martin's Episcopal Church**

**April 5 Easter Sunday St. Stephen**

- **8:30 AM, 11:00 AM – Festival Easter worship**

**Faith Formation Help Needed!** Our Faith Formation now meets three times a month on Thursdays for a meal and a lesson. Pastor Jon would welcome some help providing the meals! Are you available and willing to cook an evening meal for our families with young children?

**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.

### **Seeking Volunteer(s) to Help St. Stephen Dining Small Groups**

We are looking for a volunteer (or co-volunteers) to take over putting the St. Stephen dining small groups together, which involves a few steps three times a year: 1) asking Parish Administrator Hollie Jones to put sign-up notices in the Sunday bulletin every four months, 2) dividing up the names of those who sign up, and 3) emailing each group point person at the beginning of each four-month time period with instructions for getting the group together. Virtually all these steps are doable via email. If you appreciate the dining group experience and want to help keep it going, or just have an interest in a volunteer role you can do from home, please reach out to Alison Carney or Ina Berkey. Sample emails and instructions will be provided as needed!

**Calling gardeners** or anyone who enjoys getting in the dirt! This church has always relied on volunteers to keep our gardens looking beautiful. We are again looking for volunteers to take a week or more to weed, water and dead head the flowers. The heavy, pruning and mulching are done by a company we hire a couple times a year. Please indicate your willingness to help on the insert or contact Chris PUNCHARD

**Parish Life:** We will have our annual Easter Breakfast Potluck between services on Easter. Please bring a hot dish, fruit, deviled eggs or sweet treat to share. Coffee and juice will be provided.

**All are welcome to the Parish Life** meeting between services on **March 29**. We will be looking at upcoming events through the summer. We love new ideas and input. Questions? See Chris PUNCHARD

**Kitchen Keepers** will be **Monday March 23**. Our big focus for the day will be cleaning the chairs in Fellowship Hall.

We could use some extra help that day between **12-3**. So if you're available for just this one day it would be appreciated!

Questions should be directed to Chris PUNCHARD.

**Easter Potluck Breakfast:** We will have our annual Easter Breakfast Potluck **between services on Easter Sunday, April 5**. Please bring a hot dish, fruit, deviled eggs, or a sweet treat to share. Coffee and juice will be provided.

**CrockPot Meals:** Volunteers are needed for the Crockpot Ministry of 2026, helping homeless families housed in area motels to make their own crockpot meals. Last year, 1,288 meals were provided by members of area churches two Thursdays per month. Currently, 26 families, including 47 children, are being served in five motels. Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050e4fa8ad2a1-crockpot1#/>

**Immigration Fees.** We are looking to help a client of Sharon Powell's with legal fees to keep him with his family. If you feel called to help, you can give through the church by directing a donation to SSLC and indicating that it is for "Immigration Legal Fees."

## St. Stephen Calendar: March 22-March 29, 2026

### SUNDAY, March 22 ~ Fifth Sunday in Lent

- 8:00 AM Matins Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)  
**8:30 AM Worship – Communion** (*livestreamed on our YouTube channel*)  
9:45 AM Choir Men’s Rehearsal (Worship Space)  
9:45 AM 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Class (Pastor’s Office) & AOB (Library/Conference room)  
10:30 AM Chancel Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)  
**11:00 AM Worship – Communion** (*livestreamed on Facebook*)  
**6:00 PM LSA Dinner** (College room)

### MONDAY, March 23

- 12:00 PM Kitchen Keepers  
12:15 PM Staff meeting (Pastor Jon office)  
1:30 PM Bible Study (Library/Conference room)  
3:00 PM Stephen Ministry Meeting (Library/Conference Room)

### TUESDAY, March 24

- 6:00 PM-8:00 PM Stephen Minister Training (Fellowship Hall)

### WEDNESDAY, March 25

- 5:00 PM Girl Scouts (Preschool Room)  
5:30 PM Soup Supper (Fellowship Hall)  
**6:30 PM Lenten Midweek Service** (Worship Space)  
7:00 PM Chancel choir rehearsal (Worship space)  
7:00 PM AA meeting (Fellowship Hall)

### THURSDAY, March 26

- 4:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal (Worship space)  
5:15 PM Faith5 Meal (Fellowship Hall)

### FRIDAY, March 27

### SATURDAY, March 28

- 11:30 AM Orcha Band Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)  
5:30 PM AA Meeting (Library/Conference room)  
5:30 PM Al-Anon (Gathering Space)

### SUNDAY, March 29 ~ Palm Sunday

- 8:00 AM Matins Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)  
**8:30 AM Worship – Communion** (*livestreamed on our YouTube channel*)  
9:45 AM Matins and Chancel Rehearsal (Worship Space)  
9:45 AM 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Class (Pastor’s Office) & AOB (Library/Conference room)  
**11:00 AM Worship – Communion** (*livestreamed on Facebook*)  
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## Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer(8:30) Jeff Bushmire .....(11:00) Jeffery Berry  
Altar Guild ..... (8:30) Amy Bergh  
.....(11:00) Pam Buckley  
Audio-Visual Team.....(8:30) JR & Diana Lyons (11:00) David Nelson  
Bread Baker..... Sharon Powell  
Cantor ..... Sam Watkowski  
Communion Assistants ..... (8:30) Amy & Brian  
Bergh ..... (11:00) Cyndy Touhsaent and Lori Harms  
Flower Delivery .....Nelia Lamoureux  
Greeters/Hosts ..... (8:30) Sandy Peterkin (11:00) Beth Grant  
Lectors..... (8:30) Reed Nester (11:00) Marj Gottschalk-Trone  
Pastor ..... Pastor Jon Nelson  
Tellers..... Tom & Sandy Peterkin and Sandy Croushore  
Ushers..... (8:30) Brian Agor and Bill Dichtel (11:00) Russ Dabel and Jim Weilmuenster

## ***St. Stephen Lutheran Church***

*612 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185*

[www.saintstephenlutheran.net](http://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)**

**Jessica Kimball – Preschool Director (229-6688)**

**LSA Pastor Gerry Johnson(703)209-3599**

**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**

**[Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net](mailto:Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net)**

**pastorgfj@gmail.com**

***Welcome to St. Stephen Lutheran Church!***  
***Please fill this out and drop it in the offering plate***  
***or give it to an usher.***

***March 22, 2026***

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

\_\_\_\_\_ LSA member

\_\_\_\_\_ Looking for a church home

\_\_\_\_\_ Desire to speak with pastor

\_\_\_\_\_ Would like more information about Stephen Ministry

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/ We need a name tag \_\_\_\_\_ .

\_\_\_\_ I/We will be attending soup suppers # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I/We would like to help with the Gardening around the church.

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