



# 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 8, 2026***  
***Third Sunday in Lent***

## For Your Prayers –March 9-15, 2026

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

***Mon – Mar 9*** Genesis 24:1-17; 2 John 1—13; Psalm 81

***Tue – Mar 10*** Genesis 29:1-4; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4; Psalm 81

***Wed- Mar 11*** Jeremiah 2:4-13; John 7:14-31, 37-39; Psalm 81

***Thu – Mar 12*** 1 Samuel 15:10-21; Ephesians 4:25-32; Psalm 23

***Fri – Mar 13*** 1 Samuel 15:22-31; Ephesians 5:1-9; Psalm 23

***Sat – Mar 14*** 1 Samuel 15:32-34; John 1:1-9; Psalm 23

***Next Sunday:*** 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23 (5); Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

**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, Donald and 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 Heintzelman, 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 Soutoukis, Vasili Soutoukis, Kenneth & Laura Spencer, Chad Strausbaugh, Al Stern, Monika Stern, Lara Templin, George and Jewel Thomas, Karli Wallace Thompson, Jenn Tyson, Matt Weilmuenster, Elaine Wrich, and Lynda Wright

## *Third Sunday in Lent*

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

**Welcome**

**Centering Music**

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

David Maxwell

**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**

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

ELW 332

Bulletin page 13

**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

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth 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

**Exodus 17:1-7**

*Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—"Is the Lord among us or not?"—received a very positive answer.*

<sup>1</sup> From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup> The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" <sup>3</sup> But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup> So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup> The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. <sup>6</sup> I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup> He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

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

### Psalm 95



- <sup>1</sup> Come, let us sing | to the LORD;  
let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.
- <sup>2</sup> **Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.**
- <sup>3</sup> For you, LORD, | are a great God,  
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.
- <sup>4</sup> **In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are | also yours.**
- <sup>5</sup> The sea is yours, | for you made it,  
and your hands have molded | the dry land.
- <sup>6</sup> **Come, let us worship | and bow down,  
let us kneel before the | LORD our maker. REFRAIN**
- <sup>7</sup> For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand.  
Oh, that today you would | hear God's voice!

<sup>8</sup> **“Harden | not your hearts,  
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah | in the desert.**  
<sup>9</sup> There your ancestors | tested me,  
they put me to the test, though they had | seen my works.  
<sup>10</sup> **Forty years I loathed that gener- | ation, saying,  
‘The heart of this people goes astray; they do not | know my ways.’**  
<sup>11</sup> Indeed I swore | in my anger,  
‘They shall never come | to my rest.’” **REFRAIN**

## **Second Reading**

## **Romans 5:1-11**

*Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus’ death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.*

<sup>1</sup> Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. <sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup> But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

*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 4:5-42**

*Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.*

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

<sup>5</sup> [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. <sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would

have given you living water.”<sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?”<sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?”<sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,<sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.”<sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband,’<sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!”<sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet.<sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.”<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.<sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.<sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”<sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.”<sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?”<sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,<sup>29</sup> “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?”<sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to him.<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.”<sup>32</sup> But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”<sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?”<sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.<sup>35</sup> Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.<sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.<sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’<sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.”<sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.<sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word.<sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

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

**Sermon:**

*The Well of Vulnerability*

Pastor Jon Nelson

**Hymn of the Day**

*For All the Faithful Women*

ELW 419

Bulletin page 14

**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

God is always reaching out to the people, places, and parts of us that are weary from isolation or cast out by exclusion. God comes to lift up the lowly and make prophets of the dejected. With thanks for the subversive ways of love, let us bring what we have together.

**Offering of Music:** (8:30) *I'm Going on a Journey* Mark Hayes  
Matins choir; Thom Recktenwald, Flute

(11:00) *Rain Down* Cortez/Carter  
Chancel choir; Jonathan Hallman, Soloist

#### Offertory Prayer

Holy One, your loyalty is not to social etiquette. Your love is not tethered to decency nor decorum. Wherever there is suffering in body or in spirit, you come alongside with companionship. No exceptions. For all the ways you show us such care when others don't, we give you thanks. For the times you extend that care to those whom we deny, we bring our offerings with humble gratitude. **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:

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with several triplet markings. The lyrics are: 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.**

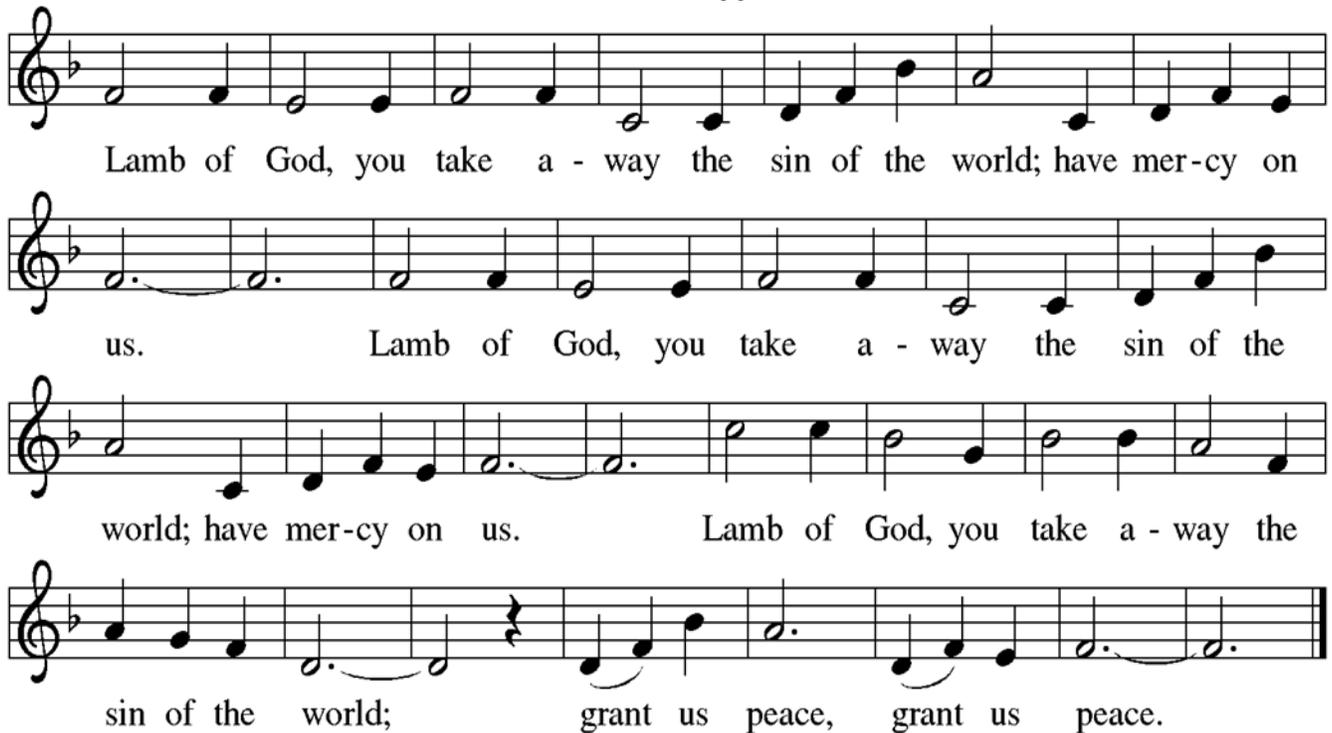
Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

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**

*Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty*

Michael Larkin

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

### Reflection Questions on [Luke 18:35-43](#)

- What do you notice about the blind man in this text and how he is being treated by the people around him?
- What can the followers of Jesus learn from the actions of the blind man in the story?
- What does Jesus see when he looks upon the blind man?
- Thanks to Jesus and the man's faithfulness, he receives his sight. The now sighted man responds by following Jesus. How do people today respond to powerful experiences of Jesus in their lives?

**Spiritual Practice: Head, Heart, Gut Lectio Divinia.** This practice is a variation on Lectio Divina. The invitation is to read a passage of scripture and reflect on it using these three questions:

- **Head:** Read the scripture passage once and ask yourself - What is one word or phrase from this passage that speaks to me?
- **Heart:** Read the scripture passage a second time and ask yourself – What do you feel? What situation in your life is being touched by this passage?
- **Gut:** Read the scripture passage a third time and ask yourself – What is God's invitation to you from this passage?

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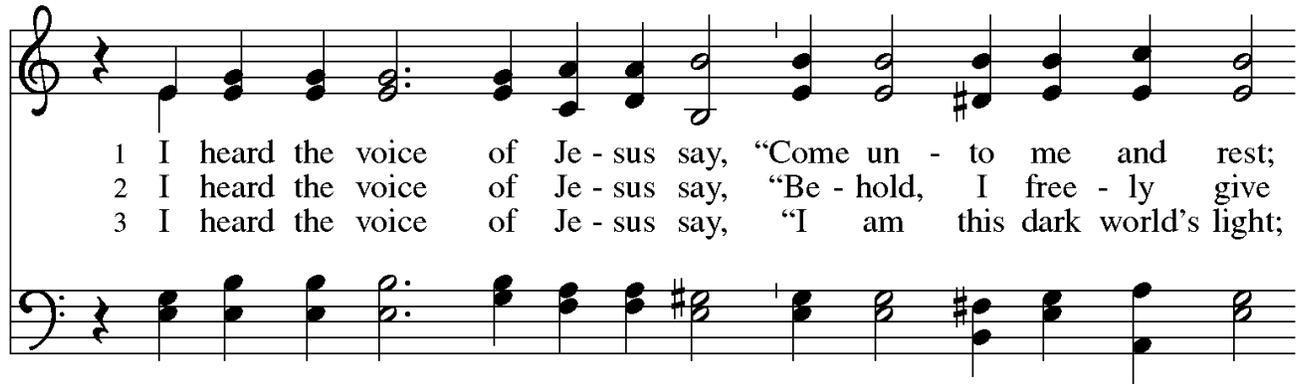
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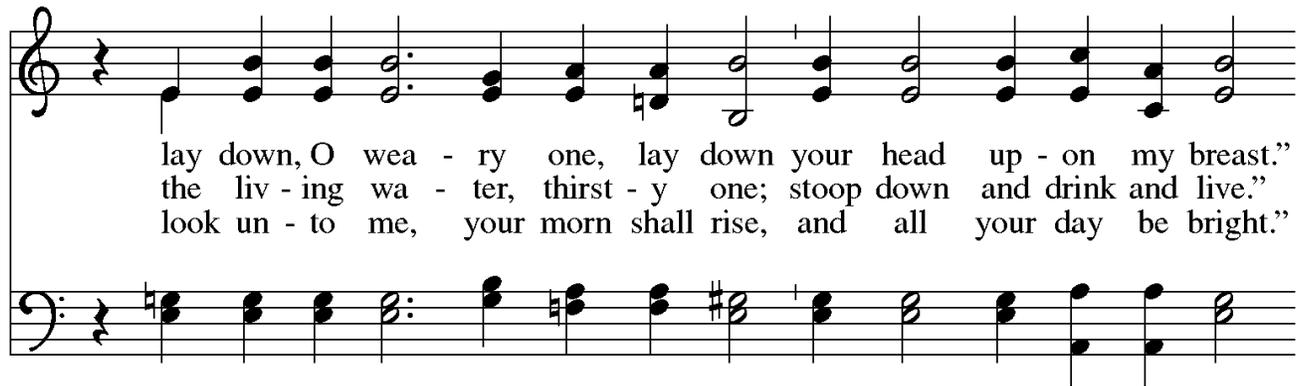
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# I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



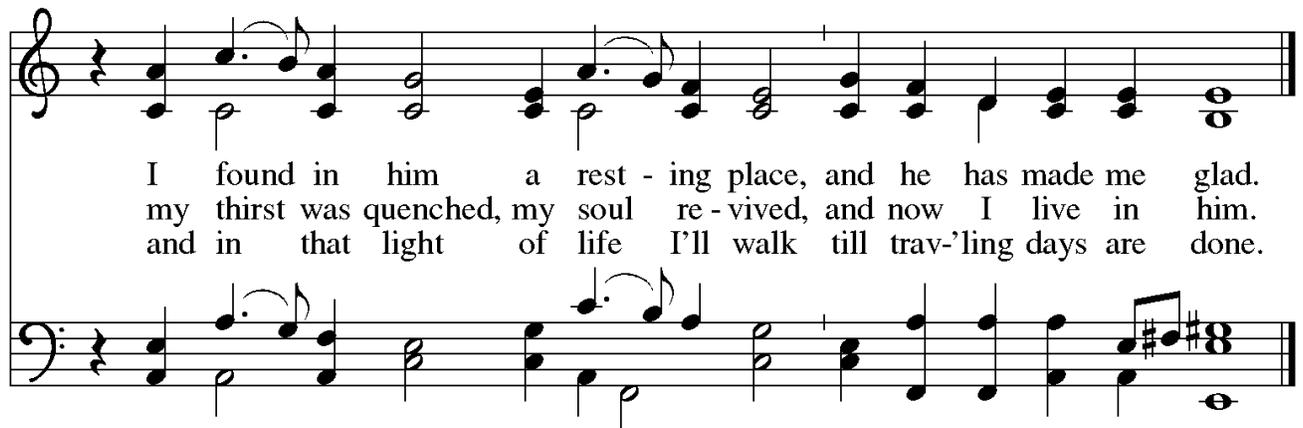
1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;  
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."  
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."  
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;  
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;  
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.  
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.  
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

# For All the Faithful Women

## *The Woman at the Well*



1 For all the faith-ful wom - en who served in days of old,  
2 Re - call the out - cast wom - an with whom our Lord con-versed:  
3 All praise to God the Fa - ther! All praise to Christ the Son!



to you shall thanks be giv - en; to all, their stor - y told.  
Christ gave her liv - ing wa - ter to quench her deep - est thirst.  
All praise to God the Spir - it, who binds the church as one!



They served with strength and glad - ness in tasks your wis - dom gave.  
Like hers, our hearts are yearn - ing; Christ of - fers us his word.  
With saints who went be - fore us, with saints who wit - ness still,



To you their lives bore wit - ness, pro - claimed your pow'r to save.  
Then may our lips be burn - ing to wit - ness to our Lord.  
we sing glad al - le - lu - ias and strive to do your will.

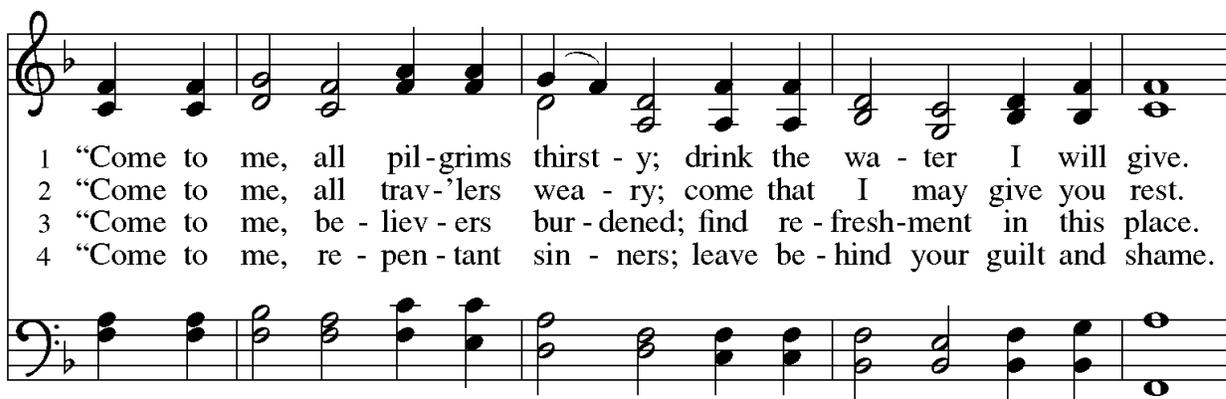
Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

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# Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty



1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst-y; drink the wa-ter I will give.  
 2 "Come to me, all trav-lers wea-ry; come that I may give you rest.  
 3 "Come to me, be-liev-ers bur-dened; find re-fresh-ment in this place.  
 4 "Come to me, re-pen-tant sin-ners; leave be-hind your guilt and shame.

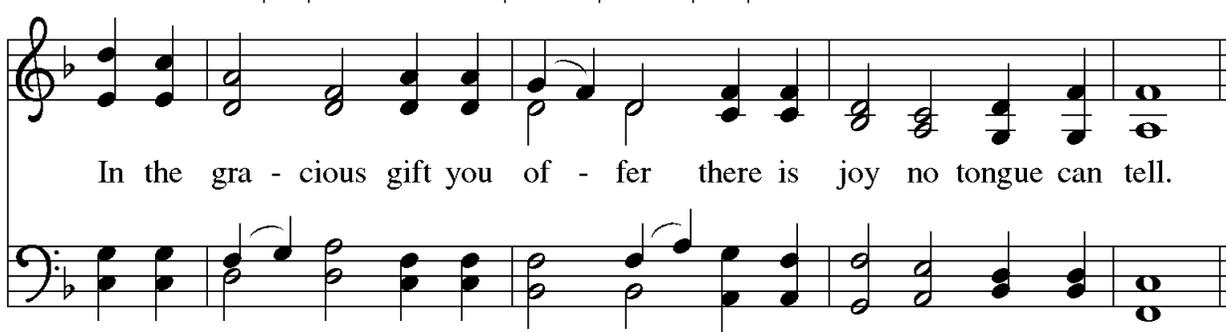


If you knew what gift I of-fer, you would come to me and live."  
 Drink the cup of life I of-fer; at this ta-ble be my guest."  
 Come, re-ceive the gift I of-fer, turn to me and seek my face."  
 Come and know di-vine com-pas-sion, turn to me, I call your name."

*Refrain*



Je-sus, ev-er-flow-ing foun-tain, give us wa-ter from your well.



In the gra-cious gift you of-fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

5 "Come to me, distressed and needy;  
 I would be your trusted friend.  
 Come and seek the gift I offer,  
 come, your open hands extend." *Refrain*

6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;  
 lonely ways no longer roam.  
 Come and take the gift I offer,  
 let me make in you my home." *Refrain*

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939  
 Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985  
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 Arr. © 1985 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 honor of spring and new beginnings, in honor of Love for each other and to the glory of God!

## Information & Upcoming

**Wednesday evenings in Lent, March 11,18 and 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**

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**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!

**On Sunday March 15 Grace Inside** will be here between services to share about the prison ministry and how our community can provide support and care to this ministry.

**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

**Women's Study, Thursday, March 12**

For our March Women's Study, we will focus on key themes of Lent, using Bible verses to guide our discussion. Please join us at 1:00 pm or 7:00 pm in the library on Thursday, March 12. Sandy Johnson will facilitate.

## St. Stephen Calendar: March 8-March 15, 2026

### SUNDAY, March 8 ~ Third 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 Matins Choir 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*)

### MONDAY, March 9

- 12:15 PM Staff meeting (Pastor Jon office)  
1:30 PM Bible Study (Library/Conference room)  
3:00 PM Finance meeting (Library/ Conference room)

### TUESDAY, March 10

- 6:00 PM-8:00 PM Stephen Minister Training (Fellowship Hall)  
7:00 PM Church Council meeting (Library)

### WEDNESDAY, March 11

- 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 12

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

### FRIDAY, March 13

### SATURDAY, March 14

- 5:30 PM AA Meeting (Library/Conference room)  
5:30 PM Al-Anon (Gathering Space)

### SUNDAY, March 15 ~ Fourth 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 **Grace Inside (Fellowship Hall)**  
9:45 AM Matins Choir 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)**

## Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer.....(8:30) Sandy Peterkin  
.....(11:00) Alina Dabel  
Altar Guild ..... (8:30)  
..... (11:00)  
Audio-Visual Team..... (8:30) Nancy Carter (11:00) Charles Osborn  
Bread Baker.....Heidi Flatin  
Cantors .....(8:30) Karen Shoberg (11:00) Jonathan Hallman  
Communion Assistants .....(8:30) Tom & Sandy Peterkin  
..... (11:00) Jennifer Dabel and Alina Dabel  
Flower Delivery .....Marie & Harvey Nelson  
Greeters/Hosts .....(8:30) Rosie Frey (11:00) Chris Punchard  
Lectors..... (8:30) Tom Peterkin (11:00) Jeane Moore  
Pastor .....Pastor Jon Nelson  
Tellers..... Jane deSolms, Susan Britcher and Jim Larsen  
Ushers..... (8:30) JR Lyons and George Martin (11:00) Corey Knestrick and Russ Dabel

### ***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 8, 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.

\_\_\_\_ I/ We are interested in gathering together at the Church to watch movies

\_\_\_\_\_ prefer weekdays \_\_\_\_\_ Prefer weekends

\_\_\_\_\_ is the Movie Genre that I am interested in

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