



# St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

## HOLY COMMUNION

Thanksgiving  
November 24, 2024

You are welcome here! As a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the ELCA, we believe that the gospel is God's gift to all people, shared unconditionally and without regard to race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, socio-economic or family status, age, physical or mental abilities, outward appearance, or religious affiliation. We seek racial equality and justice. In this way, we live into the truth written in Ephesians (2:14)—that Christ breaks down the dividing walls between us and makes us one.

## Gathering

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

### **Prelude**

### **Welcome**

### **Joys & Concerns**

### **\*\* Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
our refuge,  
our delight,  
our beginning and our end.

**Amen.**

Let us come in truth before the one who loves us  
and has freed us from our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Eternal One, robed in majesty and mercy,  
 we confess that sin has taken hold of us  
 and we are complicit in its power.  
 We are disturbed in spirit and our hearts cannot rest.  
 Unbind us and set us free.  
 Lead us again to the waters of rebirth,  
 that we may live just and generous lives  
 for the good of your world  
 and the care of our neighbors,  
 following in the servant way of Jesus.  
 Amen.

These words are trustworthy and true:  
 Christ bore our sins once, for all, on the cross,  
 swallowing up death forever.  
 For his sake, you are † forgiven  
 and God remembers your sin no more.  
 Let your heart be glad again,  
 and rejoice in your salvation.  
 Amen.

**\*\* Gathering Hymn**

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

ELW 834

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

\*\* Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!  
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.  
Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807–1876

## \*\* 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.**

\*\* Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

## \*\* Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



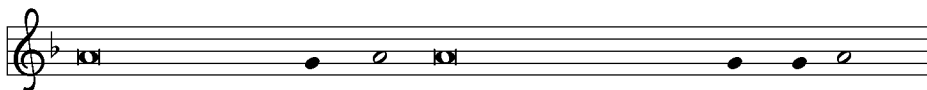
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,

\*\* Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men.

\*\* Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

## \*\* Hymn of Praise



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's  
3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we



giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -  
au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes  
name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one



will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,  
sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to  
liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord



heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we  
ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in



praise you for your glo - ry.  
ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.  
God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - - men.

## \*\* Prayer of the Day

*Assisting Minister leads the prayer of the day and the assembly responds: Amen.*

\*\* Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

# Word

*God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.*

## **First Reading**

Joel 2:21-27

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

## **Psalm**

Psalm 126

- <sup>1</sup> When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.
- <sup>2</sup> **Then our mouth was filled with laughter  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
then it was said among the nations,  
“The Lord has done great things for them.”**
- <sup>3</sup> The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we rejoiced.
- <sup>4</sup> **Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses in the Negeb.**
- <sup>5</sup> May those who sow in tears  
reap with shouts of joy.
- <sup>6</sup> **Those who go out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
carrying their sheaves.**

## **Second Reading**

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

\*\* Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

**\*\* Gospel Acclamation**



**\*\* Gospel**

Matthew 6:25-33

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.  
**Glory to you O Lord.**  
The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you O Christ.**

**\*\* Gospel Acclamation**

*Please see gospel acclamation above.*

**Reflection**

Michael Farthing

\*\* Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**



## \*\* Hymn of the Day

### *For the Beauty of the Earth*

ELW 879



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,  
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:  
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:  
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:



#### *Refrain*



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.



Text: Follitt S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.  
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

\*\* Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

## **\*\* Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **\*\* Prayers of the People**

*Each portion of the prayer ends with:*

Response:            Merciful God,    receive our prayer.

# Meal

## **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **Offering**

*Each week we give thanks to God for what God has given us: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. A financial gift to St Stephen's supports the work of the congregation in our community.*

**\*\* Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

## \*\* Offering Song

*Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness*

ELW 489



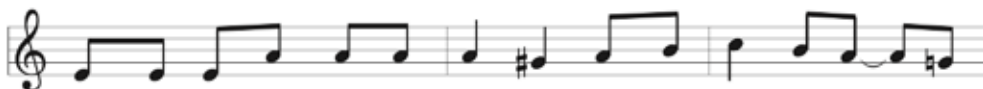
*Ven - goa ti, Je - sús a - ma - do: lí - bra - me de mi pe -*  
1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, leave the gloom - y haunts of  
2 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der o - ver this sur - pass - ing  
3 Je - sus, source of last - ing plea - sure, tru - est friend, and dear - est



*ca - do. Cal - ma, Re - den - tor, mi llan - to;*  
sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's splen - dor,  
won - der that the bread of life is bound - less  
trea - sure, peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing,



*he pe - ca - do tan - to, tan - to.*  
there with joy your prais - es ren - der.  
though the souls it feeds are count - less;  
joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing:



*Con la san - gre que ver - tis - te das con - sue - loal al - ma*  
Bless the one whose grace un - bound - ed this a - maz - ing ban - quet  
with the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to us is  
hum - bly now, I bow be - fore you, love in - car - nate, I a -



*tris - te; ham - bre tor - nas en har - tu - ra,*  
found - ed; Christ, though heav'n - ly, high, and ho - ly,  
giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious con - so - la - tion,  
dore you; wor - thi - ly let me re - ceive you,

\*\* Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.



sal - va - ción me das se - gu - ra.  
 deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.  
 pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.  
 and, so fa - vored, nev - er leave you.



*Refrain/Estribillo*

¡Oh Cris - to! ¡Oh Cris - to!  
 Be thank - ful! Be thank - ful!



Ge - ne - ros - o tú meo - fre - ces la sa - lud,  
 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, and re - joice!



quea los tu - vos siem - pre das con ple - ni - tud.  
 Bless the one whose grace un - bound - ed is our joy.

2 Vida ofrece, y paz preciosa  
 tu palabra poderosa;  
 por unirse al elemento  
 hace el santo sacramento.  
 Con el pan y vino adquiere  
 cuerpo y sangre del Cordero.  
 ¡Oh, misterio tan profundo!  
 ¿Quién lo entiende en este mundo? *Estribillo*

3 Ya mi alma tú libraste,  
 y el pecado tú quitaste,  
 cual preludio de tu cielo,  
 hoy me gozo en tu consuelo.  
 Cielos, tierra, noche y día  
 te den gracias a porfía:  
 "Por tus múltiples favores,  
 ¡gracias mil y mil loores!" *Estribillo*

Text: Johann Franck, 1618-1677, stanzas; Esther Berticaux, b. 1944, refrain; tr. composite  
 Spanish stanza text © 1964 Publicaciones "El Escudo," admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
 English stanza text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Refrain text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.

\*\* Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

**\*\* Offering Prayer**

*Assisting Minister leads the offering prayer and the assembly responds: Amen.*

**\*\* Dialogue**

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.**

**\*\* Preface**


**\*\* Holy, Holy, Holy**



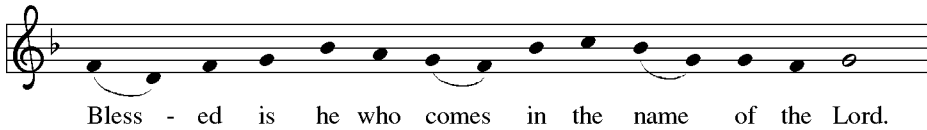
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



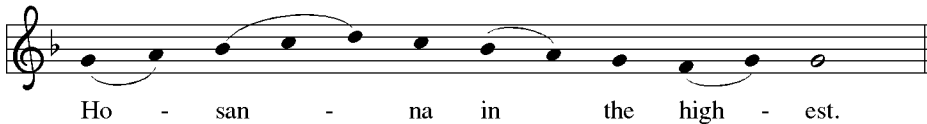
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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.

**\*\* Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

**\*\* Thanksgiving at the Table**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,...be all honor and glory, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**\*\* 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.

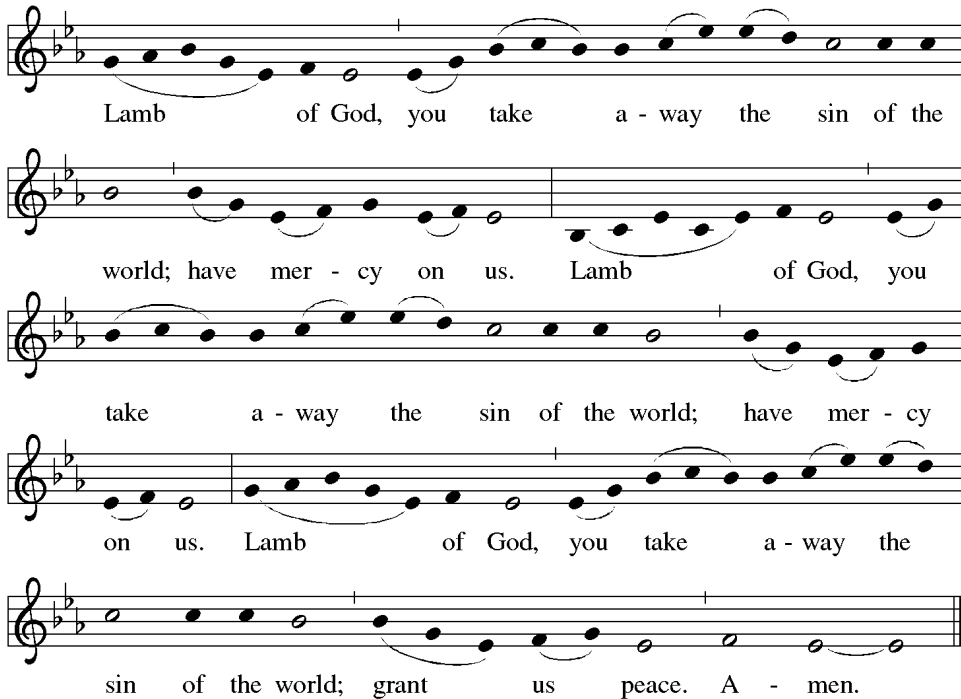
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

**Invitation to Communion**

**\*\* Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

## Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy  
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

## Communion

*Holy Communion is a free gift of God's grace and love. Everyone is welcome to share in this meal. Come forward, take an empty cup from the table, then kneel or stand along the Communion rail. If you require GF wafers, please tell the minister. Our chalices contain red wine and amber-colored juice. As you return to your seat, place your used cup in the receptacle at the end of the first row of pews. If you wish to receive words of blessing, simply tell the minister.*

\*\* Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

# Communion Hymn

## Come, Let Us Eat

ELW 491

Leader or All



- 1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
- 2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
- 3 In Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest,
- 4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word,

All



come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.  
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.  
in Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest.  
rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.

Leader or All



Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,  
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,  
In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,  
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,

All



our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.  
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.  
in the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.  
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom.

Text: Billema Kwillia, b. 1925, sts. 1–3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1–3, alt.

Music: A VA DE, Billema Kwillia, adapt.

Text sts. 1–3 and tune © Lutheran World Federation; text st. 4 and music adapt. © 1972 *Contemporary Worship 4*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

\*\* Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.



## **Communion Blessing**

### **\*\* Post Communion Prayer**

Together, let us pray.

**Faithful God,**

**you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink  
in the body and blood of your Son.**

**Now send us out to labor with you,**

**in service to the world you have made,**

**and among the people you have made your home,**

**in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **Announcements**

**\*\* Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

# Sending

*We are sent into the world to serve.*

## \*\* Blessing

## \*\* Sending Hymn

*Let All Things Now Living*

ELW 881



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to  
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and



God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,  
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who  
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the



still guides us on to the end of our days.  
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -  
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -



fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,  
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

\*\* Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

till shad-ows have van-ish-ed and dark-ness is ban-ish-ed, as  
till all things now liv-ing u-nite in thanks-giv-ing: "To  
for-ward we trav-el from light in-to light.  
God in the high-est, ho-san-na and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980, alt.  
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune  
Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

## \*\* Dismissal

Go in peace,  
To Love, To Invite, To Serve.  
Live generously.  
Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

*Flowers are given by Betty Sperati  
celebrating Bill's 75th birthday and Aurora's 15th birthday*

\*\* Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

## Participants in Today's Service

**Presiding Minister:**  
The Rev. Karen Weber

**Music Director:**  
Claudio Espejo

**Assisting Minister/Lector:**  
Michael Farthing

**Altar Guild:**  
Michele Torchia

**Usher:**

**Camera:**  
John Gordon

**Ministers:**  
The people of St. Stephen's

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May God go with you today and every day.

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