



# 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.



***Third Sunday in Lent***  
***March 23, 2025***

## For Your Prayers – March 24-30, 2025

### Lectionary readings for this week:

**Monday:** Jeremiah 11:1-17;Romans 2:1-11;Psalm 39

**Tuesday:** Ezekiel 17:1-10;Romans 2:12-16;Psalm 39

**Wednesday:** Numbers 13:17-27;Luke 13:18-21;Psalm 39

**Thursday:** Joshua 4:1-13;2 Corinthians 4:16—5:5;Psalm 32

**Friday:** Joshua 4:14-24;2 Corinthians 5:6-15;Psalm 32

**Saturday:** Exodus 32:7-14;Luke 15:1-10;Psalm 32

**Next Sunday's Lessons:** Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32 (11)2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**Join your prayers for healing** with God's desires for **Susan Britcher, Ellen Bushman, Kristin Carter, Bob & Ginny Cummings, Sharon Jacobs, Donna Kittelson, Jim Mayfield, Carole Meyer, Helen Nelsen, and George Vonderheide.**

**Pray for those unable to come to worship:** **Ailene Bartlett, Ed Brown, Ruth & Forrest Fenstermaker, Bob and Angie Groom, Pat Janot, Marilyn Johnson, Jeanne Nelson, Darlene Simon, and Kay Wasaff.**

**We hold the family and friends** of **Linda Vonderheide**, especially **George**, in prayer as they grieve her death.

**Pray for these loved ones of our congregation:** Susan, Charles Baugh, Donald and Carol Baum, Gary Baumgarten, Robi Bayard, June Brantley, Sue Havola Berhs, Mary Bloom, Tim Brown, Raymond Bunn, Karin Cavanaugh, Chris Clarke, Amaree Cluff, Ruth Ann Coski, Judy Craun, Judy Drezek, Becky Drury, Darrin and Rosemary Dunn, Tanya Fritz, Hollis Fulton, David Gade, Joel Gillespie, Greg Gildner, Joan and John Goodhart, Jonathan Hallman, Charee Hampton, Mark Harbison, Sue Hassan and family, Andy Havola, Nick Havola, Bradley, Kim, Joan and Laurie Heintzelman, Lisa Hill, Jaxon Ireland, Lynn Isenburg, Claudia Jacobik, Brian Johnson, Don Johnson, Connie Kendrick, The Kennedy family, Jenn Kramer, Elaine Lane, Marnah Lund, Keara Mahony, Jim Monteith, Trish Macerelli, Laura Margolin, Jack Mayfield, Doug MacKenzie, Jimmy Mitchell, Liz Montalvo, Mia Monteith, Ed Moninger, Kim Morris, Bob Myers, Jeanette Osborn, Coral Pumley, Kurt Recktenwald, Stephen Rier, Sam Scovill, Pamela Sharp, Vasili Soultoukis, Kenneth & Laura Spencer, Chad Strausbaugh, Al Stern, Monika Stern, George and Jewel Thomas, Charley Underdahl, Brenda Webster, Pat Whelan, Caleb Winig, and Elaine Wrich.

## *Third Sunday in Lent*

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

**Welcome**

**Centering Music**

*Rockingham*

Raymond H. Haan

**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 return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One,  
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,  
but our lives do not always reflect you  
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion  
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality  
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,  
even though you have set us free again and again.**

**We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.**

**Transform our lives  
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

**Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
God's arms are always stretched open wide  
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In † Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Song**

*All Who Are Thirsty*

ACS 981

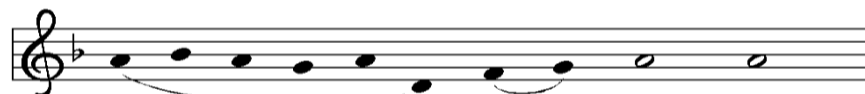
Bulletin Page 11

**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.**

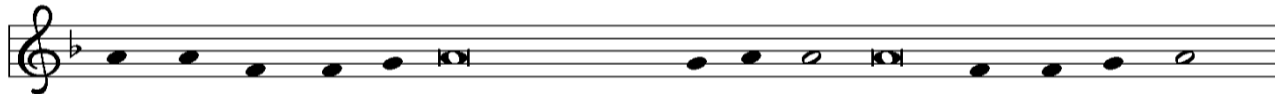
# Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



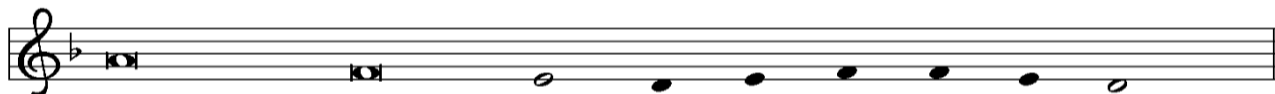
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



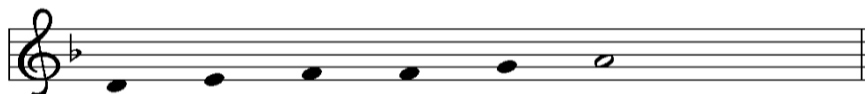
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



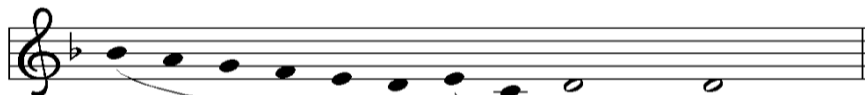
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



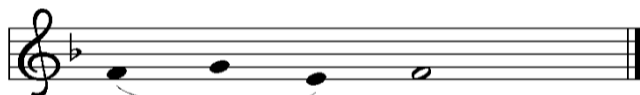
let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men.

## **Prayer of the Day**

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, 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**

**Isaiah 55:1-9**

*To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.*

<sup>1</sup> Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. <sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. <sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. <sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. <sup>5</sup> See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. <sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. <sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. <sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

### **Psalm**

**63:1-8 (Tune "Lord Jesus Think Of Me")**

O God, you are my God;  
I seek you eagerly ;  
my soul and body thirsts for you  
In barren lands and dry  
  
Therefore I gazed on you  
Within your holy place,  
That I might look upon your power  
The glory of your face.  
  
Your Love is ore than life ;  
my lips shall give you praise;  
I lift my hands up in your Name  
And bless you all my days  
  
My soul is well content,  
My mouth shall give you praise

When I remember you at night  
And ponder all your ways

Your wings have sheltered me  
My helper in the past;  
My soul, Lord, clings to you alone,  
Your right hand hold me fast.

## **Second Reading**

## **1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

*Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.*

<sup>1</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. <sup>6</sup> Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup> Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." <sup>8</sup> We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup> We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup> And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup> These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup> So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup> No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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

## **Lenten Acclamation**



Jesus began | to proclaim,\* Repent, for the kingdom of heaven | has come near. (Matt. 4:17)

## **Gospel**

## **Luke 13:1-9**

*Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.*

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

<sup>1</sup> At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.<sup>2</sup> [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”<sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.” <sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup> He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

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

**Sermon**

Testing

Pastor Jon Nelson

*Silence for prayer and reflection.*

**Hymn of the Day**

*As the Deer Runs to the River*

ELW 331

Bulletin page 12

**Affirming Our Faith** (*20th century South African creed*)

Jesus taught us to speak of hope as the coming of God's kingdom.

**We believe that God is at work in our world turning hopeless and evil situations into good. We believe that goodness and justice will triumph in the end and that tyranny and oppression cannot last forever. One day all tears will be wiped away; the lamb will lie down with the lion, and justice will roll down like a mighty stream.**

True peace and true reconciliation are not only desired, they are assured and guaranteed in Christ. **This is our faith. This is our hope. Amen.**

**Prayers**

Each petition concludes, “God, in your mercy,” Response: **“receive our prayer.”**

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

**Offering**

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

**Offering Music**

8:30 *May This Church Be Like a Tree*

Pablo Sosa

11:00 *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

Michael Burkhardt

## Offertory Prayer

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

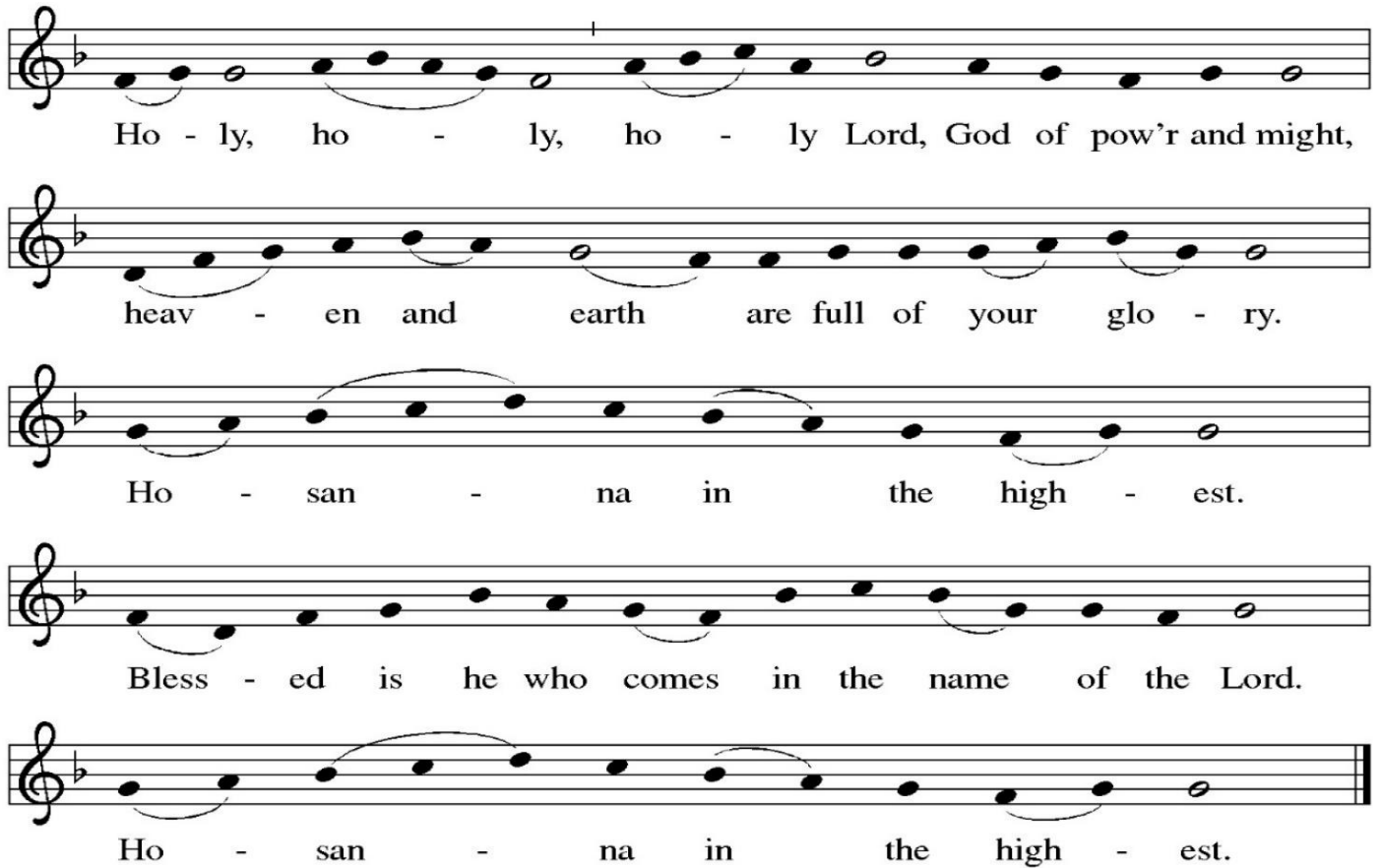
## The Great Thanksgiving

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

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

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:




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.

## Words of Institution



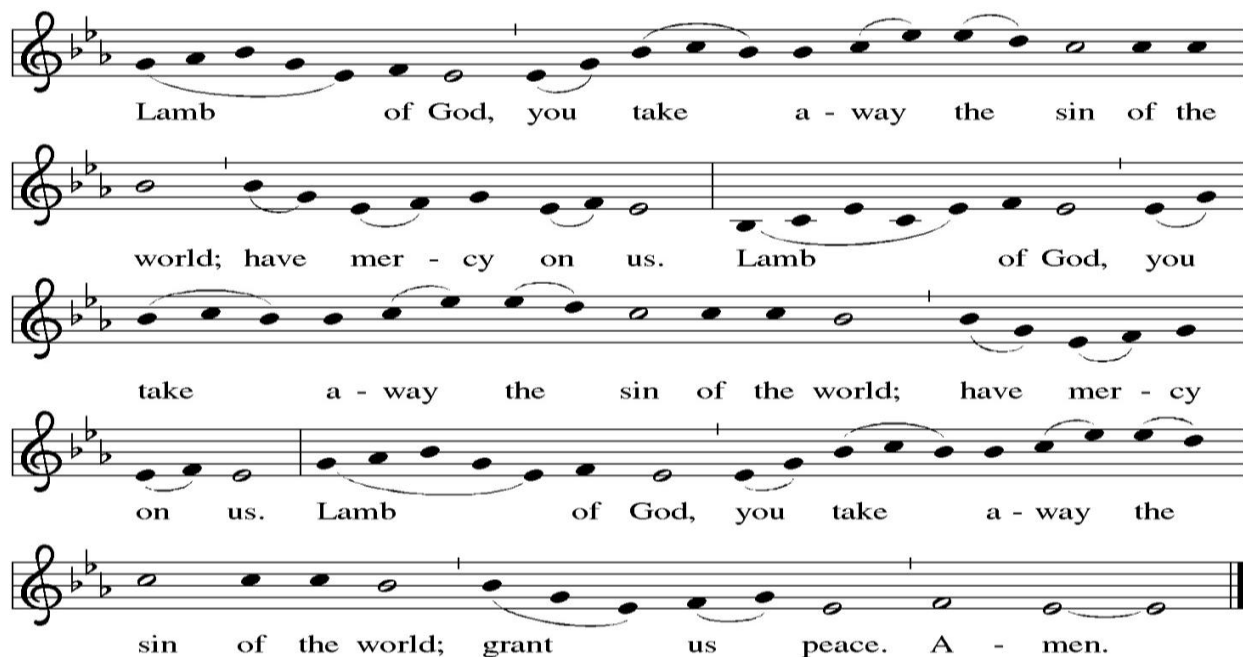
## The Lord's Prayer



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,  
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.  
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we  
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al  
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,  
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

## Holy Communion

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



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 Hymn**

*Restore in Us, O God*

ELW 328

Bulletin page 13

*O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts*

ELW 658

Bulletin page 14

**Table Blessing**

**Prayer after Communion**

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

**Sending Hymn**

*Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*

ELW 618

Bulletin pages 15

**Blessing**

**God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, † bless you now and forever. Amen.**

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*

Paul Manz

Copyright Information

ROCKINGHAM; Contributors: Raymond H. Haan

Tune: (c) 1980 Harold Flammer

May This Church Be Like a Tree; Contributors: Pablo Sosa, Andrew Donaldson

Tune: © 2013, GIA Publications, Inc.

Rock of Ages; Contributors: Michael Burkhardt

Tune: © 2022 Augsburg Fortress

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer; Contributors: Paul Manz

Tune(c) 1974, 1992, and 2011 Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP), a division of MorningStar Music Publishers.

One License Licensing Permission Reprinted/Streamed with permission under One License #A721099, New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # SB164403; Permission granted, St. James Press

# All Who Are Thirsty

Leader All

All who are thirst - y, come to the wa-ters. All who are hun - gry,  
come here and eat. All who are thirst - y, come to the wa-ters.  
There's e - nough for all.

All who are thirst - y,

The musical score is written for a Leader and All. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'All who are thirst - y, come to the wa-ters. All who are hun - gry, come here and eat. All who are thirst - y, come to the wa-ters. There's e - nough for all. All who are thirst - y,'. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Text: Brian Wentzel, b. 1979

Music: ALL WHO ARE THIRSTY, Brian Wentzel

Text and music © 2014 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

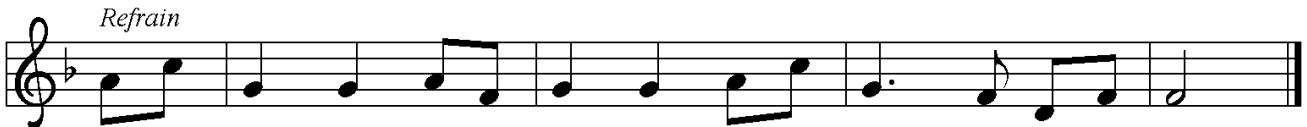
# As the Deer Runs to the River



- 1 As the deer runs to the riv - er, parched and wea - ry from the chase,
- 2 When your Is - rael crossed the des - ert where no stream or spring was seen,
- 3 "Come and drink," I - sa - iah sum-moned, "all who for God's mer - cy plead!
- 4 Christ, we come from des - ert plac - es, deep - est thirst un - sat - is - fied.



we have come from hurt and hur - ry, thirst - ing for your heal - ing grace.  
Mo - ses struck the rock, and wa - ter flowed for them, re - fresh - ing, clean.  
God's for - give - ness, like a foun-tain, flows to sat - is - fy your need."  
Lead us to the wa - ters flow - ing from the cross on which you died.



Je - sus, source of liv - ing wa - ter, may we drink of you and live!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Music: JULION, David Hurd, b. 1950

Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc.

Music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

## 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.

Music © 1985 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

# O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

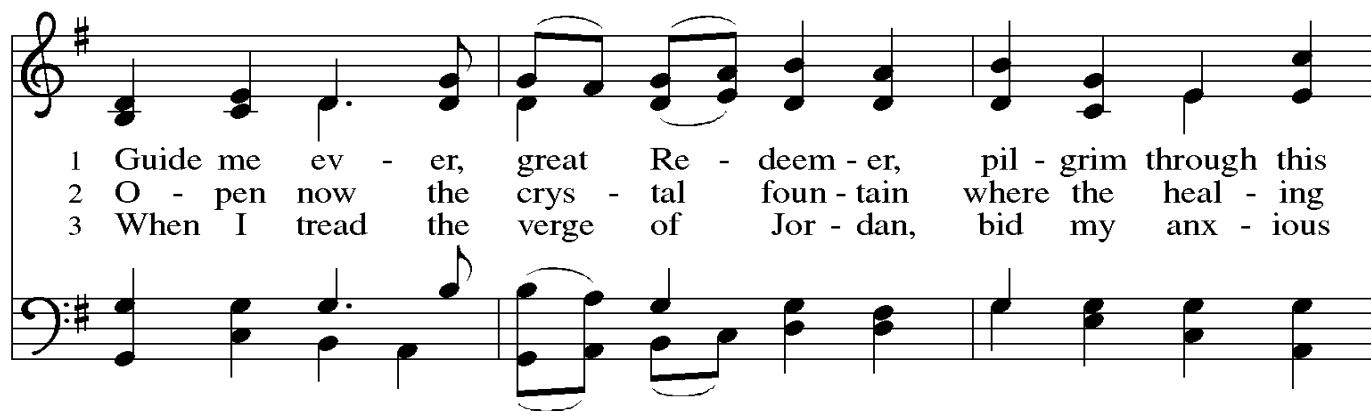
1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of  
 2 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to  
 3 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our  
 4 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our

life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -  
 feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -  
 chang - ing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you  
 mo - ments fair and bright! Oh, chase the night of sin a -

parts we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.  
 head; our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.  
 turn, blest, when by the faith we hold you fast.  
 way! Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.  
 Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

# Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer



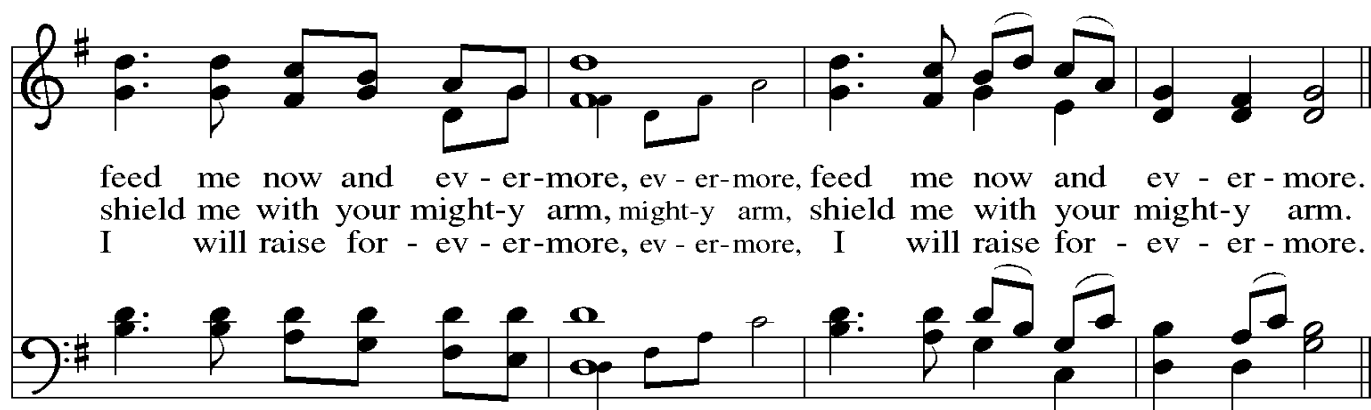
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing  
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me  
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,  
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
shield me with your might - y arm, might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.  
I will raise for - ev - er - more, ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

## 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 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.

### 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 by Sandy Reed-Bryant in honor of my granddaughter, Ivy Seward's 5th birthday

**HVAC:** Please keep in mind that Cox Powell is actively working in the **Fellowship Hall, Mon-Fri** From **7AM-3:30 PM**. They are constantly in and out of that space to have access to the attic space above.

**SMCC & RIC Sunday!** Join us between services this Sunday in the Fellowship Hall for a continuation of the Social Ministries Coordinating Committee meeting and an update/forum from the Reconciling in Christ team!



## Upcoming

### Wednesday evenings in Lent

at St. Stephen: **5:30 PM** – Soup supper in the Fellowship Hall

- **Sign up** to bring soup and/or bread on the poster in the Gathering Space!

- **6:30 PM:** Lenten Midweek Service. “The 5 Senses”

- ❖ **March 26- Scent**

- ❖ **April 2- Touch**

- ❖ **April 9- Taste**

**Maundy Thursday: 6:30 PM** at St. Stephen:

Pastor Gerry Johnson will preach

**Good Friday: 6:30 PM** at Our Saviour’s:

Pastor Jon Nelson will Preach

**Easter Vigil: 8:00PM** at St. Stephen

**Congregational Conversation.** The church council would like to continue our conversation about the best way to move forward with our ministry plan, especially as regards staffing. To that end we will be having **ONE WORSHIP SERVICE on Sunday, March 30th at 9:45 AM, followed by a congregational conversation in the Fellowship Hall and a potluck.** We hope you can join us to offer your input!

**Refugee Family Sponsorship.** As can often happen in these situations, there was a long stretch of no action, followed by a sudden burst of it! We are excited that one portion of the family we have been trying to help out of Afghanistan has made it to the US. We know the first priority will be housing, quickly followed by furniture, groceries, diapers, and clothing. Please keep an eye out for ways you can help!

**Liberation Theology reading group.** Starting in March we will meet on the **2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6:00PM** to discuss a reading from Liberation Theology. We will continue on **Thursday, March 28th** discussing Part Two of “A Theology of Liberation” by Gustavo Gutierrez (available to check out from [openlibrary.org](http://openlibrary.org)). For an email reminder, sign up on the bulletin insert.

**Avalon** will be here between services on April 6<sup>th</sup> to talk about what they do and how you can help.

**Quill and Missives** if you are not receiving the Quill or Pastor Jon’s emails please fill out the insert with you information so that you can begin receiving them electronically.

**The Lenoir-Rhyne University A Cappella Choir and Brass Ensemble** will be in performance at First Lutheran Church in Norfolk this Thursday, March 27 at 7pm. “This year’s tour revives our planned 2020 tour, which was canceled just days before departure when the university closed due to the pandemic,” said Ryan Luhrs, Ph.D., associate professor of music and director of the A Cappella Choir. The program will feature choral and brass music from a variety of time periods and styles, including Ola Gjeilo’s “Dark Night of the Soul” and highlights from André Thomas’ “Mass: A Celebration of Love and Joy.” Other selections include music by Christopher Tye, Henry Purcell, Evan Ramos, Taylor Scott Davis, Joel Thompson, the Soweto Gospel Choir, and F. Melius Christiansen. Lenoir-Rhyne University is a private Lutheran university in Hickory, North Carolina. It was founded in 1891 and is affiliated with the North Carolina Synod of the ELCA. Noted alumni of Lenoir-Rhyne **AND** their choir include Lou and Emily Rossiter.

**Many of you have expressed an interest in reviving the Quilting Group.**

Several of us met with the ladies of Our Saviour’s who are also interested. We are waiting for them to decide on a day and time for that group to meet. We would like to have those interested in getting this started here at St Stephen to meet on Thursday April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:30 in the library. Our hope is that with different days and times the ladies of both churches will be able to come together and create some beautiful quilts, comfort blankets, lap blankets etc. Perhaps our first project could be something for the beds of our family we are resettling here!

**Funeral Service for Linda Vonderheide:** The memorial service will be held at The Landing on March 27th at 2:00pm.

## St. Stephen Calendar March 23- 30, 2025

*Our worship service is available on our website [www.saintstephenlutheran.net](http://www.saintstephenlutheran.net), click on “Worship with Us” and “Services.”*

### SUNDAY, March 23

- 8:00 AM Matins choir warm up (Worship Space)  
**8:30 AM Worship – Holy Communion (livestreamed on our YouTube channel)**  
9:30 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)  
9:50 AM RIC & SMCC (Fellowship Hall)  
10:00 AM Faith Formation: Music (Fellowship hall Space)  
10:30 AM Chancel Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)  
**11:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion (livestreamed on Facebook live)**  
6:00 PM Dinner (College Room)

### MONDAY, March 24

- 10:00 AM Staff meeting (Pastor’s Office)**  
11:30 AM Ric Committee meeting(Library/Conference Room)  
1:30 PM Bible Study (Library/Conference Room)

### TUESDAY, March 25

### WEDNESDAY, March 26

- 8:55 AM Yoga (LSA Room)  
5:30 PM Soup and Bread Supper (Fellowship Hall)  
**6:30 PM “Scent” Lenten Service (Worship Space)**  
7:00 PM Chancel Rehearsal (Worship Space)  
7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

### THURSDAY, March 27

- 11:00 AM Bulletin Review (Library/Conference room)  
  
5:30PM Handbell Practice (Worship Space)

### FRIDAY, March 28

### SATURDAY, March 29

- 9AM-12PM Choral Guild Retreat (Fellowship Hall)  
3:30 PM Memorial Service: “Birdie” Burton  
5:30 PM AA Meeting (Library/Conference Room)  
5:30 PM Al-ANON F Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

### SUNDAY, March 30

- 8:30 AM Matins and Chancel Choir Warm-up and Rehearsal (Worship Space)  
9:25 AM Handbell Warm-up (Worship Space)  
**9:45 AM Worship – Holy Communion (livestreamed on our YouTube channel)**  
11:00 AM Faith Formation: (Fellowship hall Space)  
11:00 AM Congregational Conversation (Fellowship Hall)  
5:00 PM LSA Bible Study & Dinner (College Room)

### Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer..... (8:30) Diana Tiller-Dichtel  
.....(11:00) Alina Dabel  
Altar Guild ..... (8:30) Diana Tiller-Dichtel  
.....(11:00) Nancy Egloff and Pam Buckley  
Audio-Visual Team..... (8:30) JR & Diana Lyons (11:00) Charles Osborn  
Bread Baker..... Sharon Powell  
Cantors .....choir  
Communion Assistants .....(8:30) Paula Agor and Karen Sanderlin  
..... (11:00) George Bass and Lori Harms  
Flower Delivery ..... Carol Wiers  
Greeters/Hosts ..... (8:30) Rosie Frey (11:00) Alison Carney  
Lectors..... (8:30) Harlan Schone (11:00) Russ Dabel  
Pastor.....Pastor Jon Nelson  
Tellers..... Tom & Sandy Peterkin and Sandy Croushore  
Ushers..... (8:30) Bill Dichtel and Tom Witt (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 (757-229-6688)

**Jessica Kimball** -Preschool Director (757-229-6688)

**Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center** (757-873-2273; counselors are in Williamsburg  
on Thursday

Doing Ministry in the World

Pastorjn@saintstephenlutheran.net

MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.net

Office@saintstephenlutheran.net

Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net

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

***March 23, 2025***

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 Stephen Minister to contact me

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

# Prayer Requests

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

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

Please **remove** from prayer concerns:

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

\_\_\_\_ I/We need a name tag: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I/We would like an email reminder about "Liberation Theology Reading group"

\_\_\_\_\_ email address

\_\_\_\_ I/ we would like to receive the Quill/ Missives

\_\_\_\_\_ email address