

St Stephen

Evangelical Lutheran Church



Encouraging and
strengthening faith in Jesus,
and sharing the joy of God's love.

February 21, 2016

Second Sunday in Lent

10:15 am

Pastor Pedro Suarez

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

—WE GATHER—

INTRODUCTION

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek the face of the Lord again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Before God and in the company of our sisters and brothers, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.



My Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Lord, there is none like you.

All of my days I want to praise the won - ders of your might - y love.

My com - fort, my shel - ter, tow - er of ref - uge and strength;

let ev - ry breath, all that I am nev - er cease to wor - ship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing pow - er and maj - es - ty, praise

to the King. Moun - tains bow down and the seas will roar at the

sound of your name. I sing for joy at the work of your hands;

for - ev - er I'll love you, for - ev - er I'll stand.

Noth - ing com - pares to the prom - ise I have in you.

Text: Darlene Zschech, b. 1965
 Music: SHOUT TO THE LORD, Darlene Zschech
 Text and music © 1993 Darlene Zschech/Hillsong Publishing, admin. in U.S. and Canada by Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP),
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THE GREETING

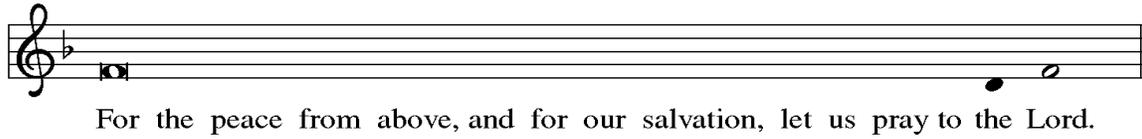
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

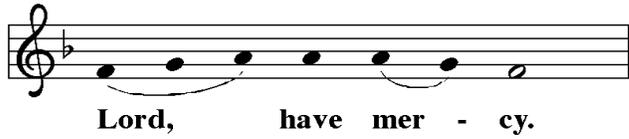
KYRIE (Sung)



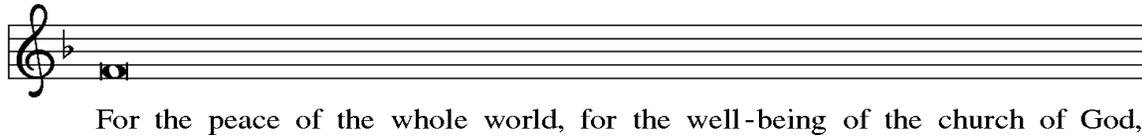
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



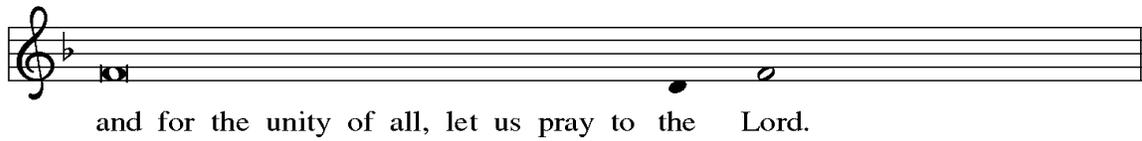
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



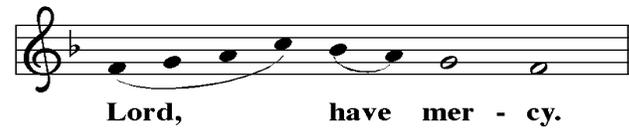
Lord, have mer - cy.



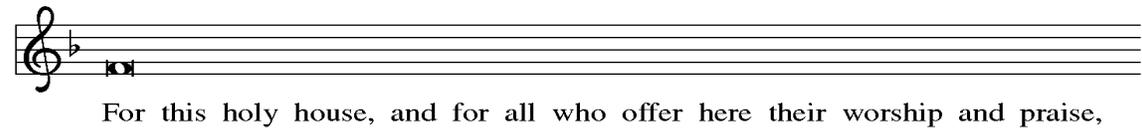
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



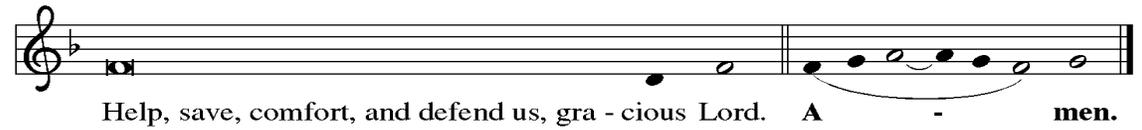
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

HYMN OF PRAISE “Glory to God...”

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,
we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together:

C: God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

AMEN

Children's Message

—WE HEAR GOD'S WORD—

FIRST READING:

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸ But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks, be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 27

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

² **When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh
my adversaries and foes they shall stumble and fall.**

³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

⁴ **One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the LORD all the
days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.**

⁵ For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

⁶ **Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his
tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

⁷ Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

⁸ **"Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, LORD, do I seek.**

⁹ Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my
help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

¹⁰ **If my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will take me up.**

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

¹² **Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.**

¹³ I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

¹⁴ **Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!**

SECOND READING:**Philippians 3:17—4: 1**

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. 4 ¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. **AMEN.**

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Please Rise for the Gospel Acclamation.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Alleluia”

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 13th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!**GOSPEL:****Luke 13:31-35**

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³² He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

You may be seated.

SERMON**—WE RESPOND—**

P: Please stand as you are able for the Sermon Song.



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
 3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
 I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
 now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
 oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816–1874, alt.
 Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

THE APOSTLE'S 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

A: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

C: Amen.

After each petition of the prayer is said:

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: **Hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us share with one another the peace of the Lord.



~WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE~

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Be Thou my vision

ELW #793

(verses 1 and 3 only)



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

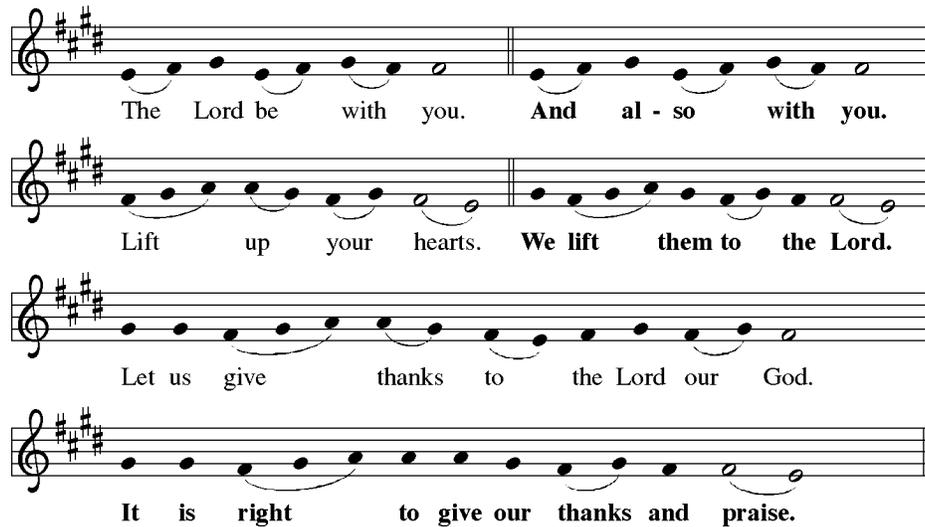
OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray,

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. **Amen.**

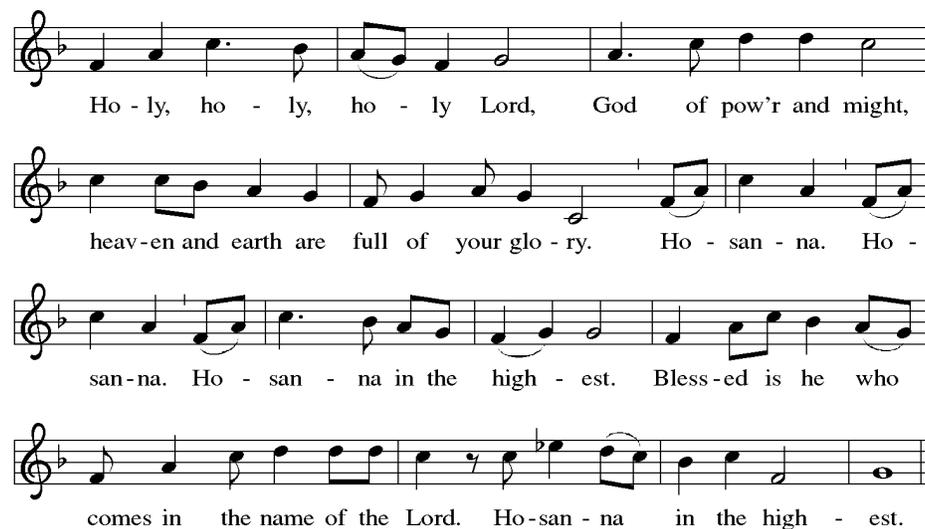
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Dialogue (Sung)



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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. Ho -
san-na. 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.

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

P: And now, we come to You in prayer, as our Savior Jesus has taught us:

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation of Communion

P: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

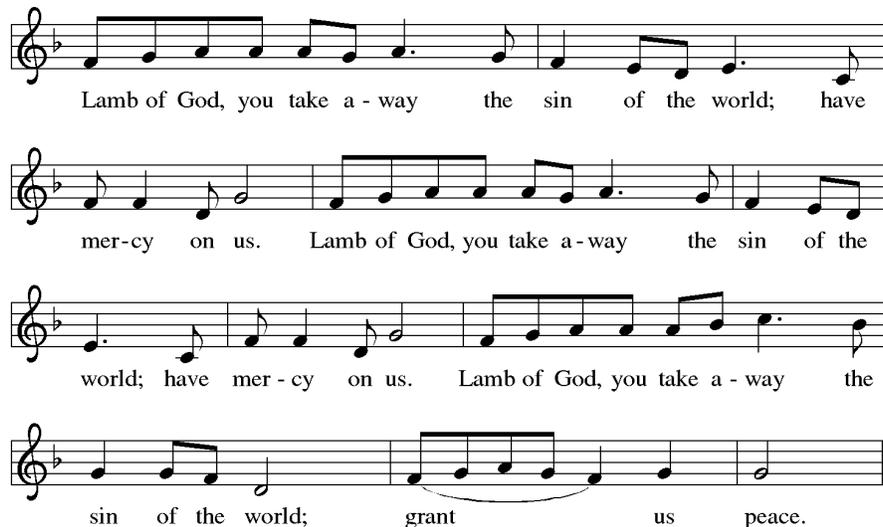
We believe Jesus Christ is present in the bread and wine by his Word of Promise. All baptized Christians are invited to participate in the celebration of God's forgiving love, strengthening faith, and grace-filled hope. Those who are not baptized and children not yet communing may come forward for a blessing (please cross your arms on your chest if you desire a blessing).

Reception of Communion

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

Communion distribution is continuous. Please come forward by the center aisle and receive the bread in your hands as you hear the words "The body of Christ, given for you" to which you may respond, "Amen." You may then dip the bread into the cup as you hear the words "The blood of Christ, shed for you," to which you may respond, "Amen." Please note that the communion wine is alcohol-free. Please indicate if you need gluten-free elements.

"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.



1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent-ly o - ver me,
 2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down-y breast
 3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No-ah's cleans-ing flood.



and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.
 where I will find sweet com-fort and peace with - in thy nest.
 Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.



Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,
 Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,
 Oh, take in - to thy keep-ing thy chil-dren great and small,



and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with-in thy grace.
 for I am but a new - born and need thy ten-der care.
 and while we sweet-ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite
 Music: BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR, Swedish folk tune
 Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, admin. Selah Publishing Co., Inc., agent.

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Instrumental Music

Cesar Vidaud

P: Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray,

Wise and generous God, we thank you that at this holy table you have fed us again with the food of everlasting life. Send us with your blessing to seek the good of our neighbor and call others to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

~WE ARE SENT FORTH~

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's faces shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace. **Amen.**



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
 an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
 watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
 Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

IN OUR PRAYERS

In our prayers today are these members of our homebound and others of our parish family in need of healing: Cynthia Langbauer. We also need to pray for: Marie Koach, Barbara Nilles, Carmen Crespo, Henry Rosua, Frank Odiema, Roy Kaptain, Jimmy Fennelli, Bob & Jane Reinhold, Larry and Beverly Sheehan, Dee Lauterberg, Chico E., Paul Hanzlik, C.C., Catherine Zippay, and for Adam and Krystynan and the Polkowski family.

Prayers for Friends of the Church: Joe Mullahey, Lucille Capece, Marty Shram, Lexie Sachlis, George F., David Spall, Joan Coletti, Giacomo Dresseno, Jeannie Rogers, Adam Rubino, Berna, Braemen Weiner, Chandler Weiner, Debbie Fiore, Debbie Seckel, Elaine Brustad, Elizabeth Kraus, Hazel Quire, Juan Tavarez, Kenneth Smith, Mary Taylor, Norma Duckworth, Cynthia, Tim Tyler, Richard H., Antonio C., Mireya D., Laurie Engelhardt, Emma Holmes and her family, Joe Papagno and for the Miller, and DeBolt families at the death of Zac Miller., for the Silato Family who lost their father, Tony, last Monday, Also, Cynthia McCormick, Lemmuel Knowles Sr. and John Palamar.

We are always updating our prayer list. If you would like your name added or removed, please notify Pat Belanger or the office.

Flowers sponsored this week by: Larry & Rose Jones in celebration of the 55th wedding anniversary. Congratulations! God bless you both.

Announcements

QUILT SUNDAY: This Sunday, February 21 at all services “Thread of Love” quilt group will be displaying their projects to the congregation.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: Beginning Wednesday, February 17th Pastors Pedro Suarez and Tom Peterson will be leading a Bible study at 12:15p.m. If you would like to receive material for this Bible study online please email Pastor Suarez at ststephenpastor@gmail.com

TOWER OF CHANGE: Reminder that the Tower of Change will be counted after Easter, with the money going to "Food for the Poor".

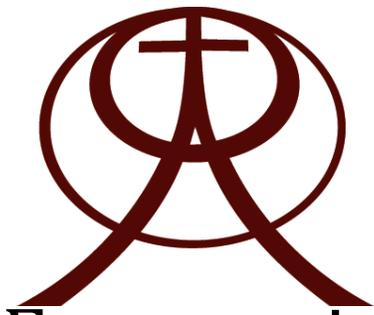
CONTRIBUTION REPORTS: Please, don't forget to pick up your 2015 contribution statement envelope in the Narthex. Thank you!

Service Assistants for February

10:15 AM	<u>February 21</u>	<u>February 28</u>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Pat Belanger	Carol Jacobson
ACOLYTE	Maddie Kibler	Sera Butz
LECTOR	Marti Stroburg	Joanne Brustad
USHERS – Need 4 to Serve	Marsha Kibler Lynda & Zac Smith Web Antill	Rick Brustad Susanne Loggins Scott Kelley Lisa Castaneda
Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli	Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli	Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS – Need 2 to serve	Judi Dooge Marie Koach	Lynda Smith Zac Smith
SOUND	Sera Butz	TBA
ROJECTION	TBA	Larry Jones



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St. Stephen

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Encouraging and strengthening faith in
Jesus, and sharing the joy of God's love.

Sunday Worship Schedule

Praise and Faith formation 9:00 a.m.
Traditional Blend Worship Service at 10:15 a.m.
Latino Worship Service at 12:30 p.m.
Holy Communion is celebrated weekly

Church Staff

Rev. Pedro Suarez – Pastor
pastor@ststephenlutheran.net
Cesar Vidaud – Director of Music
Aidee Koach – Administrative Assistant
sslcpompano@gmail.com

Congregation Council

Larry Jones, President:
councilpresident@ststephenlutheran.net

Web Antill	Eric Castaneda
Christian Hecker	Lynda Smith
Natalie Prego - Secretary	Kathy Runk - Vice Pres.

Office hours: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 Mon- Fri

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