

# St Stephen

a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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

February 21, 2021

First Sunday in Lent

10:15am

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## Holy Communion

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### INTRODUCTION to the First Sunday in Lent

*On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world. The vestments and paraments of Lent are purple, the color of penitence.*



### Gathering

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

### Prelude

Temple Talk: Quilt Sunday

Kathy Leone

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*The assembly stands and turns to the font. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father, and of the ✚ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*The presiding minister leads the following prayer of preparation:*

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Brothers and sisters, during these great forty days of Lent, let us prepare ourselves to receive Christ in word and sacrament by confessing our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

I confess  
**to God Almighty,**  
**before the whole company of heaven,**  
**and to you, my brothers and sisters,**  
**that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed**  
**by my fault,**  
**by my own fault,**  
**by my own most grievous fault;**  
**wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me,**  
**forgive me all my sins,**  
**and bring me to everlasting life.**  
**Amen.**

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, ✚ forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.  
**Amen.**

*During this time the CDC and the Bishop's Office recommend against congregational singing in the building, the ensemble will sing. The words and music are here for your meditation, please do not sing out loud.*

*The assembly turns to the altar as the cross passes by.*

**GATHERING SONG:            O Lord, throughout These Forty Days            LBW# 99**



1 O Lord, through-out these for - ty days you prayed and kept the fast;  
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your faith - ful - ness en - dured;  
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind a - bove;  
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and all our earth - ly days,



in - spire re - pen - tance for our sin, and free us from our past.  
lend us your nerve, your skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
so teach us to de - ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
that when the fi - nal Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan, b. 1930  
Music: CAITHNESS, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1635

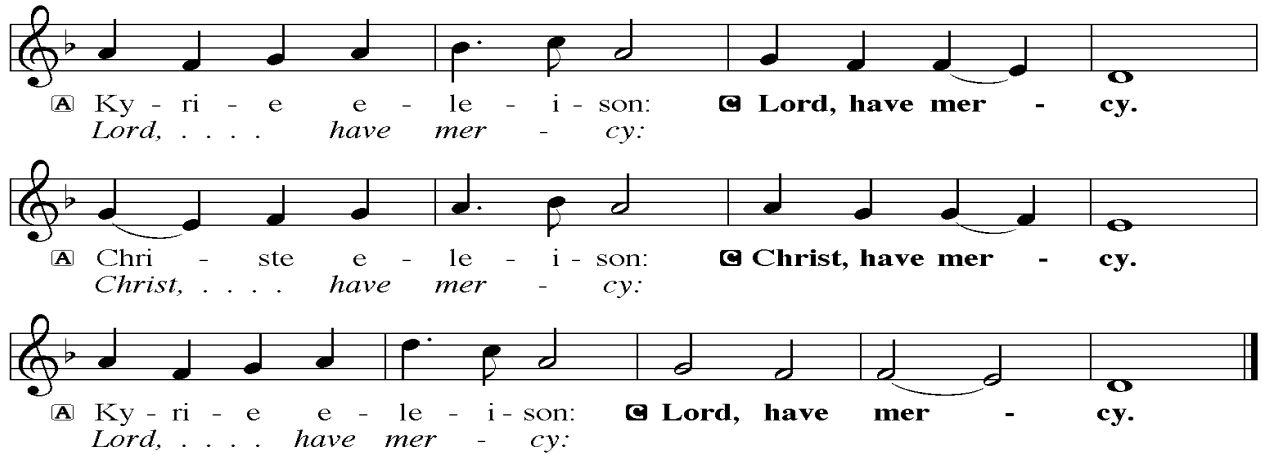
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## **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

**P:** Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all.  
**C: And also with you.**

## KYRIE



Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:

Ⓐ Chri - ste e - le - i - son:    Ⓞ Christ, have mer - cy.  
Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:

Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept, then the presiding minister leads the prayer.*

P: Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*The assembly sits.*



## Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading and song.

## FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-17

A reading from Genesis.

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup>God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 25:1-10

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

## SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18-22

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

<sup>18</sup>Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

*After a brief silence, the assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

***The Gospel Acclamation is sung by a leader***

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15

P: ✝ The Holy Gospel, according Mark.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

<sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## SERMON

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

***The ensemble sings the following hymn, verses 1, & 3 on behalf of the assembly.***

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### Thy Holy Wings (Verses 1 & 3)

ELW # 613



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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## **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence. After each petition:*

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

P: God our Father, in your love and goodness you have taught us to come close to you in penitence with prayer, fasting and generosity; accept our Lenten discipline, and when we fall by our weakness, raise us up by your unfailing mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

## **PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*The assembly is seated.*



## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### Invitation to Offering

### SETTING THE TABLE

**The Offering Song is sung by a leader on behalf of the assembly.**

### OFFERING SONG:

### As the Deer Runs to the River

ELW# 331



- 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.



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

### SENDING OF QUILTS

*The quilts are blessed.*

### OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life.  
 Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ  
 our Lord. **Amen.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.*

The Lord be with you.

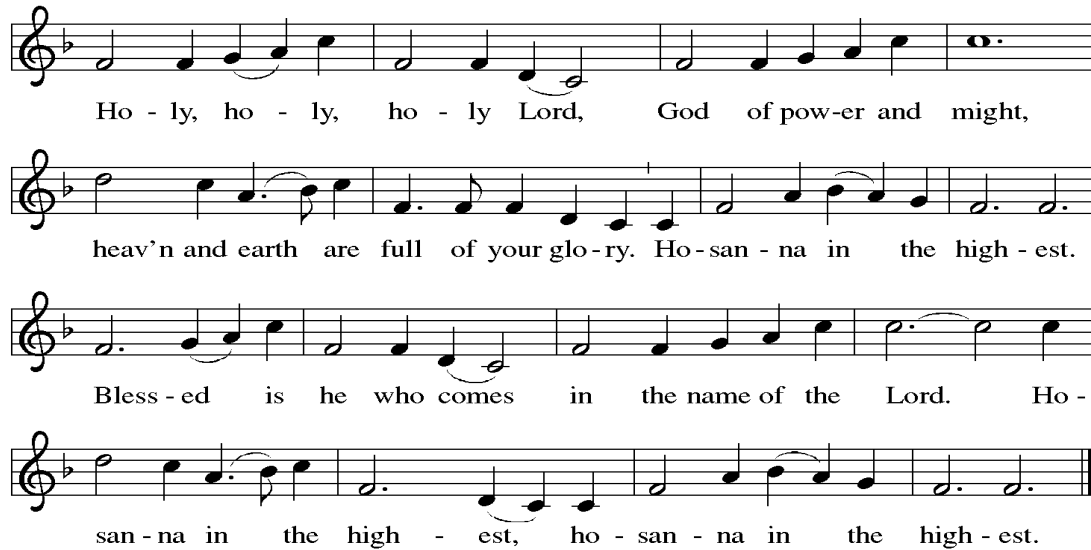
**And also with you.**

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...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The presiding minister continues to give thanks:*

Blessed are you, O God of the universe... 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... Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.... Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

... we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

## **Communion**

*The bread is broken for the communion*

P: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

*The assembly is seated.*



**Lamb of God and the communion song are sung by a leader on behalf of the assembly.**

## Lamb of God



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## Communion Song:

## Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty

ELW# 777



- 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  
Text © 1992, 1996 Sisters of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN

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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray. We thank you, living God, for the body and blood of your Son, which sustains us in the wilderness and the garden alike. As Christ has loved us in this feast, so send us to love Christ in our neighbors. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. **Amen.**



## Sending

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

### Announcements

#### SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE AND BLESSING

*The assembly stands as the presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.*

Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit bless you, now and forever.

**Amen.**

***Verses 1 and 3 of the Sending Song is sung by the ensemble on behalf of the assembly. The assembly turns to face the cross as it passes by.***

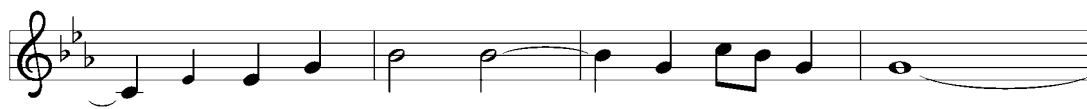
#### SENDING SONG:

#### I Want Jesus to Walk with Me (Verses 1 & 3)

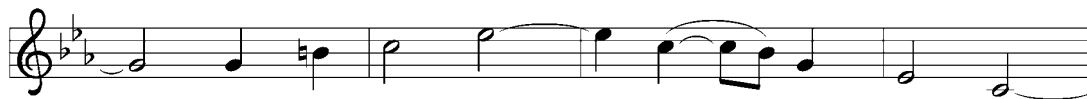
ELW# 325



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

## DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



*In response to the amazing love, mercy and grace of God, St. Stephen Lutheran Church is a community that openly welcomes all who are seeking God's divine love and grace. All are welcome in this place regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation or gender identity, economic situation or life situation, marital or relationship status, or your doubts about faith and church. Our unity is in Christ. Your family, children, friends, spouses and partners are welcome. Your diversity and uniqueness enriches and expands our community. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation.*

### IN OUR PRAYERS...

In our prayers today are these members of our homebound and others of our parish family in need of healing: Roger Hinkley, Kathy Paff, Constance Brown, Natalie Prego, Carol Chmelynski, Marti Stroberg, Dolores Lauterberg, Laurel Blake, Dorothy Johnson, Don Schutt, Normagene Richardson, Mildred Grady, Jimmy Fennelli.

### PRAYERS FOR FRIENDS OF THE PARISH

✠ Gene, Amanda, Annette, Madison, Mason, Betty, Joanna, Susan, Betty, Chuck, Donna, Ford family, Pat, Bruce, Denny, Bill, Valerie, Annie, Greg, Wanda, Jason, Melissa, Jon, Carlyne, James, Camille, Carol, and Errol ✠ Jerry, Craig, Cheryl, Robert, Aiden, Chandler, Becky, Braemen, Betty, Sharon, Carol, Janice, Rae, Hudson, Eric.

### IN A FACILITY OR HOMEBOUND:

Evelyn Braun – 6152 Verde Trail Room 106 Boca Raton, Fl. 33433

Jim Loggins - John Knox Village – Woodlands 700 SW 4th St, Pompano Beach, FL 33060

Bud Danker - 3020 N. Ridge Road Apartment W-316 Ellicott City, MD 21043.

### ***Welcome to in person worship!!! Please respect our guidelines:***

We expect everyone to use face masks when in the building. If you forget your face covering, we have extras for you, but no one can enter the building without a face covering and they must be worn at all times except at the moment of communion. At the time of holy communion, exit the pew via the side isles, and go to the rear of the church, sanitizing your hands as you approach the center aisle.

### ***Quilt Sunday***

Today we celebrate quilt Sunday. Envelopes are available in the back of the church to support this important work. You may also give on-line on our St. Stephen website.

### ***Farewell Aidee and family....***

...Our Administrative Assistant, Aidee Koach, and her family are moving back to her native Ecuador soon. We are however, happy for Aidee and want to send her and the family off with our love and prayers! Join us immediately following the 10:15 Eucharist for a socially distanced reception outside in front of the church.

## ***Live Lent Evening Prayer starts next Wednesday***

Join us live online every Wednesday in Lent at **5:00pm** for Evening Prayer. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/SSLCPompano/> or <https://www.ststephenlutheran.net> to participate live in this week's prayer service. The theme of our mid-week Vespers will be ***Perfect Love Casts Out Fear***. The scripture readings each week will explore dimensions of God's love for us and the love of Christ we share.

## ***Zoom into a Bible Study on the Gospel of John***

We continue our online live Zoom Bible Study of the Gospel of John this Thursday, at 7:00pm. All you need is the Zoom link (it's in the E-Update) and your own (preferably) New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the bible. If you don't have a bible at home, be in touch with me and I will get you one. We will gather for about an hour each week for this 12-week bible study on the fourth gospel. John is the last gospel to be written and is different in character from the other three synoptic gospels. Join us and why John is so different and what we learn from this theologically developed gospel.

## ***40 Days of Giving—Change for Change during Lent***

We journey alongside our partners and companions in the United States and 60 other countries with our donations. As the world has reeled from the effects of a deadly pandemic, we have seen the number of hungry people around the world rise, watched as food pantries and soup kitchens expanded to serve an ever-growing number of guests. You may use the Change for Change Tower in person or donate on line!

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