



St. Stephen Lutheran Church

7800 Erie Street

Sylvania, OH 43560

www.ststephenlutheran.church

419-885-1551

March 15, 2026 10:30 A.M.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Stand

Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen

P Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

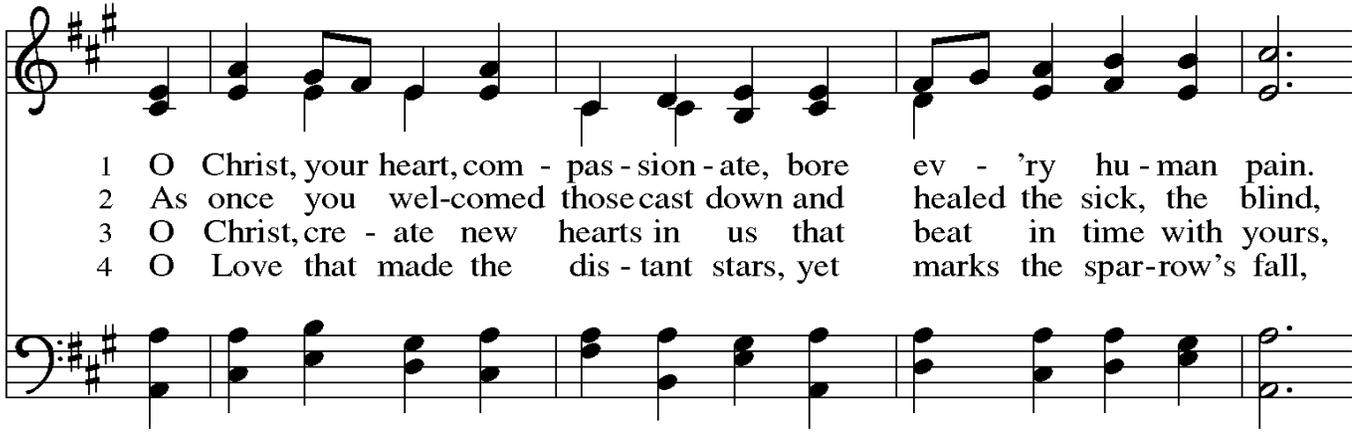
P For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

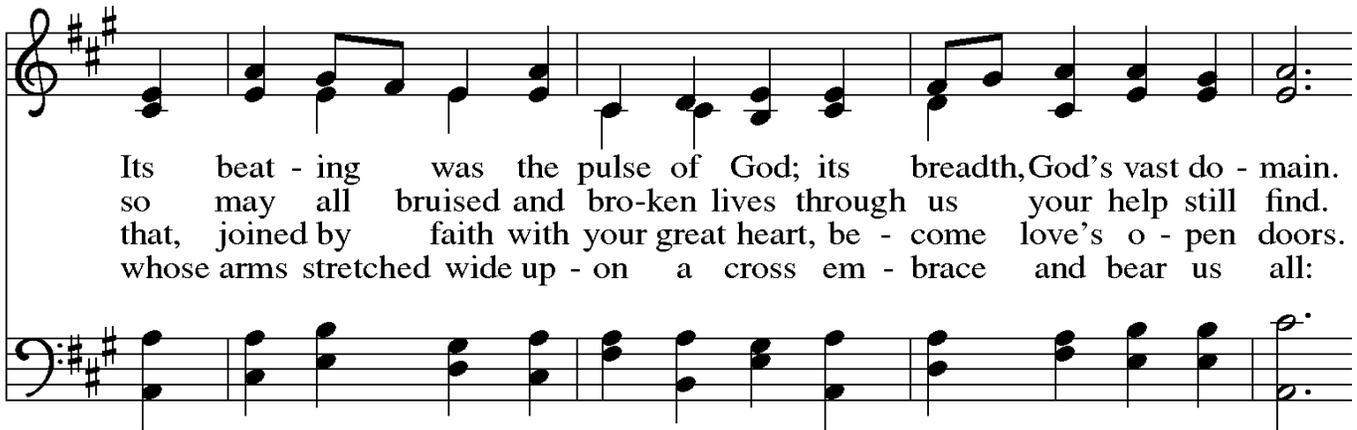
P God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
Through faith, the free gift of God,
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
dwells in you,
pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace.

C Amen.

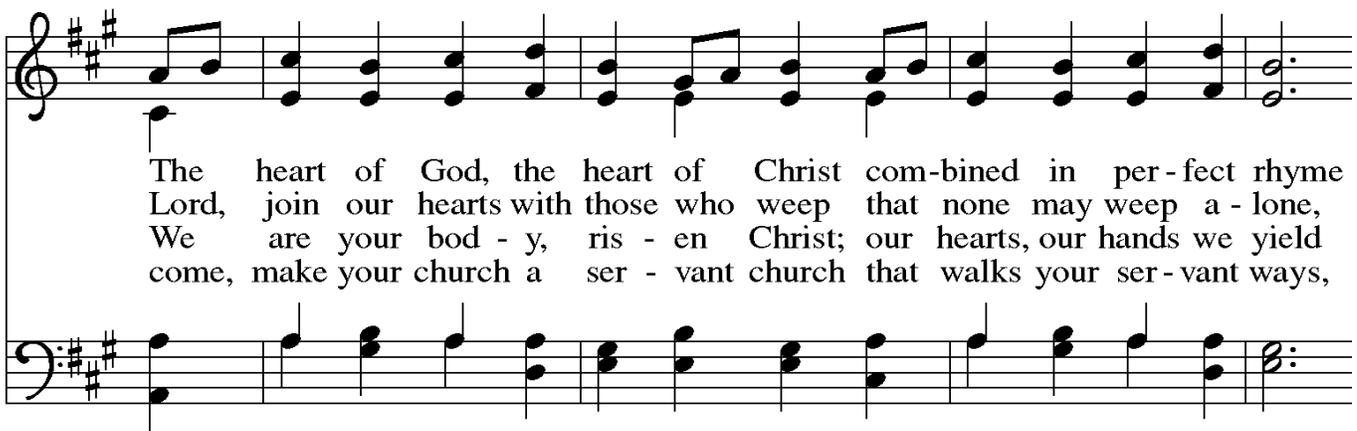
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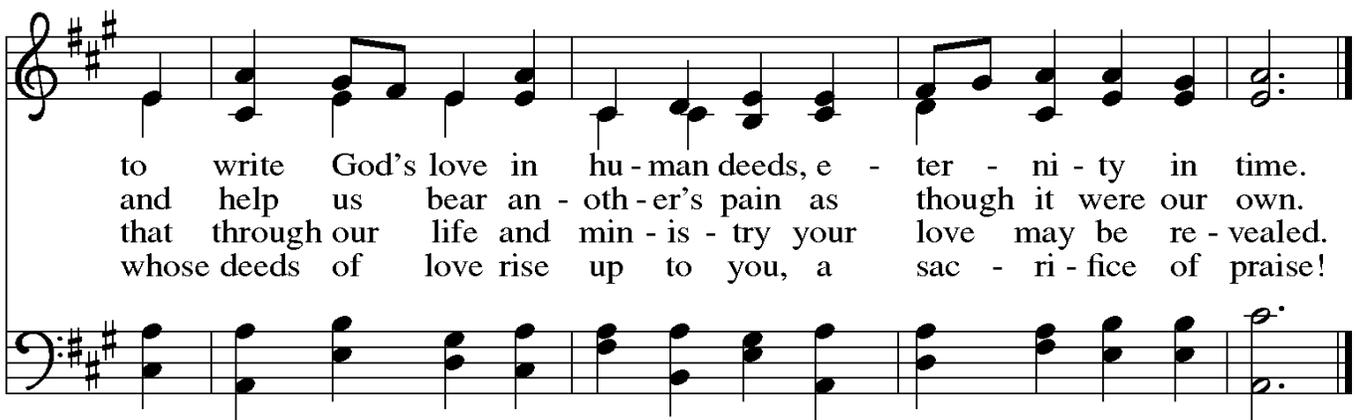
1 O Christ, your heart, com - pas - sion - ate, bore ev - 'ry hu - man pain.
 2 As once you wel - comed those cast down and healed the sick, the blind,
 3 O Christ, cre - ate new hearts in us that beat in time with yours,
 4 O Love that made the dis - tant stars, yet marks the spar - row's fall,



Its beat - ing was the pulse of God; its breadth, God's vast do - main.
 so may all bruised and bro - ken lives through us your help still find.
 that, joined by faith with your great heart, be - come love's o - pen doors.
 whose arms stretched wide up - on a cross em - brace and bear us all:



The heart of God, the heart of Christ com - bined in per - fect rhyme
 Lord, join our hearts with those who weep that none may weep a - lone,
 We are your bod - y, ris - en Christ; our hearts, our hands we yield
 come, make your church a ser - vant church that walks your ser - vant ways,



to write God's love in hu - man deeds, e - ter - ni - ty in time.
 and help us bear an - oth - er's pain, as though it were our own.
 that through our life and min - is - try your love may be re - vealed.
 whose deeds of love rise up to you, a sac - ri - fice of praise!

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

Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

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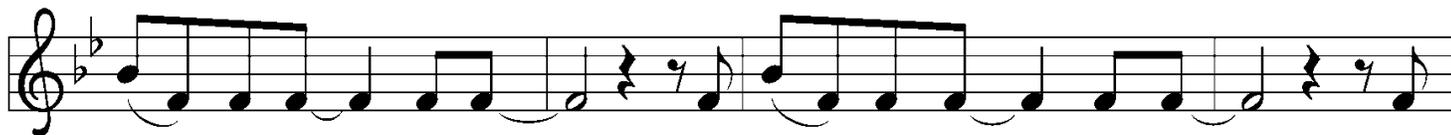
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GREETING

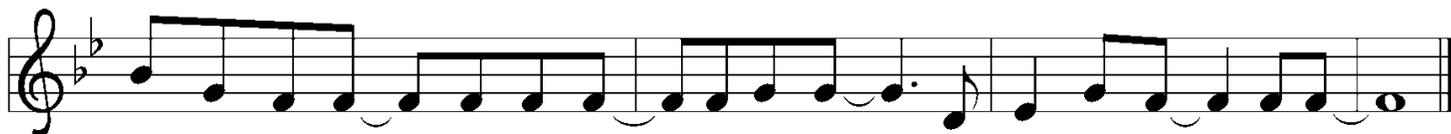
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

NOW BEHOLD THE LAMB



1 Now be - hold the Lamb, the pre - cious Lamb of God, who
2 Ho - ly is the Lamb, the pre - cious Lamb of God. Why
3 Thank you for the Lamb, the pre - cious Lamb of God. Be -



bore all my sin, that I may live a - gain: the pre-cious Lamb of God.
you love me so, Lord, I shall nev - er know; the pre-cious Lamb of God.
cause of your grace I can fin - ish the race; the pre-cious Lamb of God.

Text: Kirk Franklin, b. 1970

Music: NOW BEHOLD THE LAMB, Kirk Franklin

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

A The Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Psalm 23

- ¹ The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
- ² **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**
- ³ You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
- ⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I
shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.**
- ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- ⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my
life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

According to John 9:1-41

p. 871

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

the gospel is read

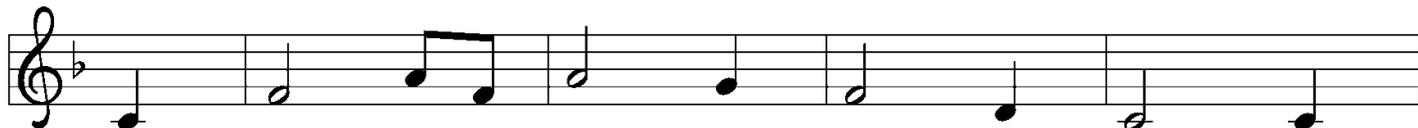
P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sit

SERMON

Stand



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

APOSTLE'S CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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 †**

Sit

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor concludes each petition with: "Hear us, O God,"

C "Your mercy is great."

Pastor concludes with:

P Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and
salvation.

C **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

If you are in our sanctuary please wave or give a peace sign to those around you. If you are worshipping online, please type a greeting of peace to others.

Stand

If you wish to contribute to St. Stephen's ministry you can give electronically with the QR code on the blue folder in each aisle, place offerings in the offering box in the Narthex or mail your offerings to 7800 Erie St., Sylvania, OH 43560.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Sit

COMMUNION:

All people who believe in Jesus Christ are welcome to come and receive Christ's body and blood. Regardless of your church background or affiliation, you are welcome to come forward. We will begin with those seated on the pulpit side of the congregation then those seated on the keyboard side then those that are in the back section. You may come down the center aisle to receive the bread. Choose an individual cup (red is wine, white is grape juice) to receive and place your empty glass in the bowl as you return to your seat using the side aisles. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

If you do not wish to receive communion, but wish to receive a blessing, please come forward and keep your hands at your sides.

Communion Hymn

“Be Unto Your Name”

We are a moment, You are forever
Lord of the Ages, God before time
We are a vapor, You are eternal
Love everlasting, reigning on high

Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain
Highest praises, honor and glory
Be unto Your name, be unto Your name

We are the broken, You are the healer
Jesus, Redeemer, mighty to save
You are the love song we'll sing forever
Bowing before You, blessing Your name

Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain
Highest praises, honor and glory
Be unto Your name, be unto Your name

“Be Unto Your Name” Words and Music: Lynn DeShazo and Gary Sadler © 1998 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music CCLI
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Stand

Sending Forth

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Prayer

**God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ’s body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

Benediction

P Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always.

C **Amen.**

Closing Song

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" ELW 815



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
2 I want to see . . . the bright - ness of God.
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.
Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,
When we have run with pa - tience the race,

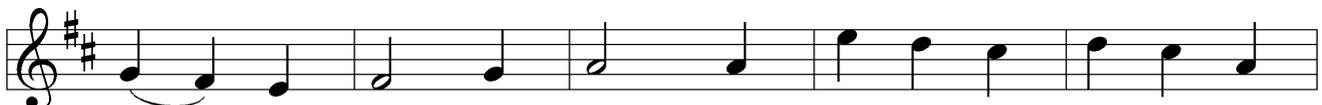


The star of my life is Je - sus.
and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark - ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

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DEPARTURE BID

A Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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