



Sunday, January 26, 2025  
Third Sunday after Epiphany  
St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Rooted in our Tradition, Open to Yours  
Welcome and Prelude

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, our creator, our protector,  
our wellspring of life.

**Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess  
our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,

**you speak blessing and compassion into the world.**

**Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice;  
we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another.**

**Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp.**

**Show us your lovingkindness.**

**Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways.**

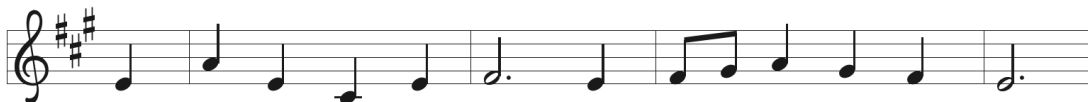
**Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by name. You are mine." In ✚ Christ, you are forgiven.  
In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy,  
live anew as beloved children of God.

**Amen.**

# Arise, Your Light Has Come!

ELW 314



- 1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
- 2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
- 3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
- 4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

## Greeting

The grace of Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Assisting minister



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

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup> Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup> If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup> whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup> that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup> And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work

miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31a</sup> But strive for the greater gifts.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



**Gospel: Luke 4:14-21 Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup> He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

<sup>16</sup> When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, <sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

<sup>20</sup> And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup> Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

ELW 843



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.  
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.  
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,  
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;  
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.  
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

## Baptism

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Who presents **Mina Elaine Toro** and **Nasreen Amira Toro** for baptism?

Sponsors: We present Mina and Nasreen for Holy Baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you, Andrew and Jessica, desire to have Mina and Nasreen baptized into Christ?

Parents: We do.

As you bring your children to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer, so that they may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help your children grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: We do.

Do you, Herb and Carol, promise to nurture Mina and Nasreen in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: We do.

People of God, do you promise to support Mina and Nasreen and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

**We do.**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**We renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**We renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**We renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Thanksgiving at the Font

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Baptism

Mina, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Nasreen, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Mina and Nasreen, with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

Mina, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**Amen.**

Nasreen, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**Amen.**

### Welcome

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

## Prayers of the People

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

As your word is opened in our midst, we give thanks for all who share scripture: for parents, grandparents, and godparents; teachers and mentors; deacons, pastors, bishops, and scholars. **Inspire passion for the stories of faith.**

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As heavens declare your glory and the sky proclaims your work, we lift our voices in awe of quarks and atoms, vast stars and solar systems. **Guide us to speak on behalf of your handiwork.**

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As Jesus proclaimed life and freedom in his community, energize communities and nations to eliminate poverty, **engage in prison ministry and transformative justice, and envision new ways of working together for your promised reign.**

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As your word and presence revive the soul, accompany all experiencing depression, anxiety, or eating disorders; be a source of strength for all affected by memory loss and their caregivers; draw near to all undergoing medical treatment or surgery, especially Lindsey, Ginny Dorsey, Jon Paul, Carl Ohnmeiss, Dan & Mary Gleghorn, John & Tacy Raymaley, Debbie, Katie, Shelly, Shari, Stephanie, Alex, Juan, and all those we hold in our hearts. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As we are made one body in baptism, strengthen all who serve. **Renew and inspire all who use their gifts in this congregation, community, and the world.**

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As our faith is strengthened by saints who have gone before us, **we remember leaders of the early church.**

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

## The Sharing of the Peace

Special Music

**Down to the River to Pray**

St. Stephen Choir

Meal

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

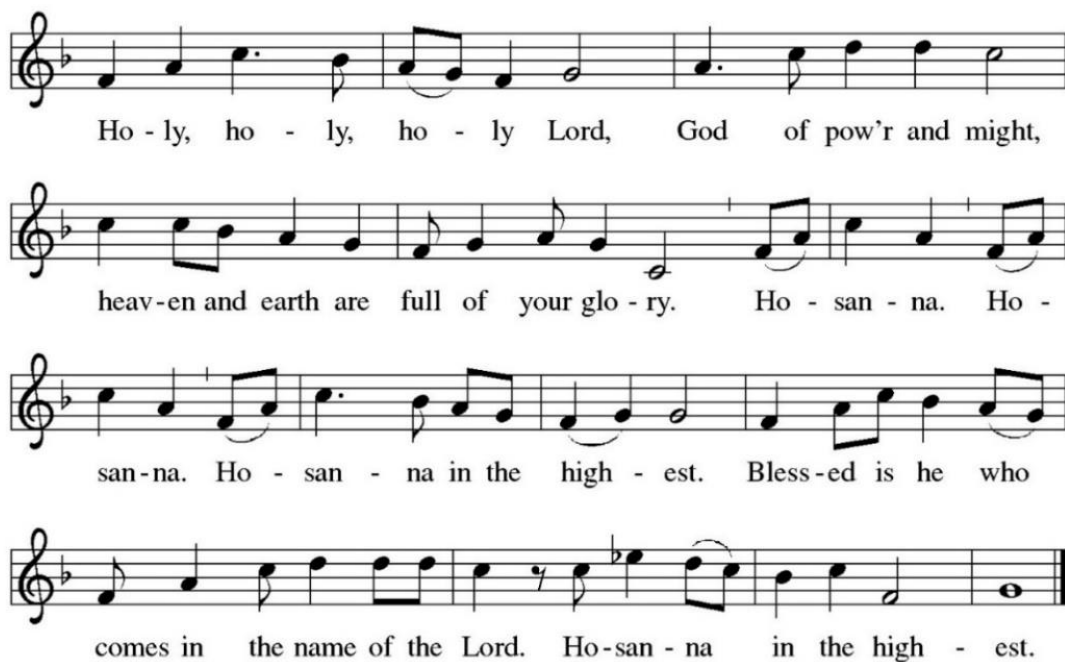
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Preface

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; who on this day overcomes death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opens to us the way of everlasting life. 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.

### The Words of Institution

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.**

## The 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.**

## Communion

*All baptized Christians are welcome to participate in Holy Communion. We ask children who have not had First Communion instruction, or adults who do not wish to receive communion, to keep their hands folded and they will receive a blessing.*



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.

## Post-Communion Prayer

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

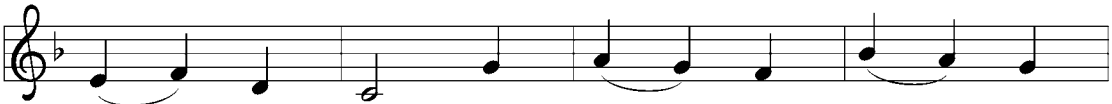
**Amen.**

## The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

ELW 551



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in  
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the  
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter  
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings  
bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to  
joy like seed and, all our days, to  
to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.  
share a dream and help the blind to see.  
cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.  
pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace. **Thanks be to God.**

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**

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