

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Lord's Day, January 19, 2025

Welcome and Announcements

***God Calls Us to Worship Him:** Responsive Reading of Psalm 95:1-7c

Pastor: Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Congregation: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

Pastor: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

Congregation: The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

Pastor: Oh come, let us worship and bow down.

All: Let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

*** We Sing in Response:** #135 Black Hymnal "O Worship the King"

* We Seek God's Presence in Prayer

We Confess Our Sins Together : Most holy and merciful Father, we confess to you and to one another, that we have sinned against you by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not fully loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not always had in us the mind of Christ. You alone know how often we have grieved you by wasting your gifts, by wandering from your ways. Forgive us, we pray you, most merciful Father; and free us from our sin. Renew in us the grace and strength of your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son our Savior. Amen.

We Pray Silent Prayers of Confession

God Assures Us We Are Forgiven: John 3:16-17

*** We Sing In Response to God's Forgiveness:** #80 Black Hymnal "How Deep the Father's Love for Us"

*** We Confess Our Faith Together:** Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 1

Pastor: *Believer, what is your only comfort in life and death?*

Congregation: That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

We Read From God's Word: Hebrews 11

We Pray For The Congregation and Community

We Memorize God's Word: Romans 8:1-2 "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death."

We Present Our Tithes & Offerings In Worship

We Worship Through the Music of Offertory

* **We Sing the Doxology:** #731 Red Hymnal "*Doxology*"

* **We Give Thanks to the Lord**

* **We Sing In Preparation for the Word:** #726 Red Hymnal "*Spirit of the Living God*"

Children ages 4 through kindergarten dismissed to Children's Worship. Parents, please pick up your child in the lobby on your way to the Lord's Supper.

Pastor Reads the Sermon Text: Acts 7:54-8:3

Pastor Preaches God's Word: "*Stephen Gazed and Beheld the Glory of God*"
– Pastor Wes James

We Celebrate the Lord's Supper

* **We Sing In Response to the Word:** #126 Black Hymnal "*Behold Our God*"

* **The Lord Sends Us Out (Benediction)**

Sermon Outline

Acts 7:54-8:3

“Stephen Gazed and Beheld the Glory of God”

01-19-25

Proposition: The Lord grants the strength of His grace to persevere in faith to those who seek and behold the Glory of God in the face of Christ.

Main Point One: Stephen’s Gaze

Sub Point One: The Rage of the Jews

Sub Point Two: Stephen’s Sight

Sub Point Three: Stephen’s Departure

Sub Point Four: The Witnesses unto Saul

Main Point Two: Stephen’s Cry

Sub Point One: A Cry for Mercy

Sub Point Two: Stephen’s Plea for Forgiveness

Main Point Three: Stephen’s Death

Sub Point One: Saul’s Approval

Sub Point Two: The Jews’ Persecution

Sub Point Three: Stephen’s Burial

Sub Point Four: Saul’s Rage