



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

HOLY COMMUNION

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 22, 2024

You are welcome here! As a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the ELCA, we believe that the gospel is God's gift to all people, shared unconditionally and without regard to race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, socio-economic or family status, age, physical or mental abilities, outward appearance, or religious affiliation. We seek racial equality and justice. In this way, we live into the truth written in Ephesians (2:14)—that Christ breaks down the dividing walls between us and makes us one.

Gathering

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

Prelude

Welcome

Joys & Concerns

**** Confession and Forgiveness**

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

Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
 have mercy on us.
 We confess that we have honored you with our lips,
 but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.
 The cravings at war within us
 cause conflicts and disputes.
 In our desire to be first
 we make distinctions among ourselves.
 We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.
 In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.
 Draw near to us with grace in time of need,
 and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
 our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God promises to forgive our iniquity
 and to remember our sin no more.
 By grace you have been saved.
 In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ,
 the source of eternal healing,
 your sins are forgiven. Amen.

**** Gathering Hymn**

Christ Is Alive, Let Christians Sing verses 1-3, 5

ELW 389

The musical score is written on two staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The bottom staff is a bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with some chords in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

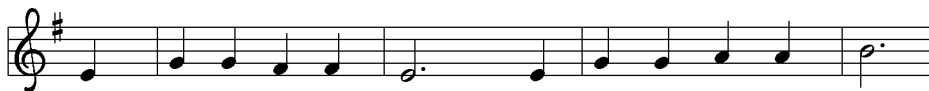
Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
 Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789
 Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

** Greeting

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

** Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

** Kyrie



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

** Hymn of Praise



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

**** Prayer of the Day**

Assisting Minister leads the prayer of the day and the assembly responds: Amen.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

First Reading

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 54

¹Save me, O God, by your name,
and vindicate me by your might.

**²Hear my prayer, O God;
give ear to the words of my mouth.**

³For the insolent have risen against me,
the ruthless seek my life;
they do not set God before them.

**⁴But surely, God is my helper;
the LORD is the upholder of my life.**

⁵He will repay my enemies for their evil.
In your faithfulness, put an end to them.

**⁶With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you;
I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good.**

⁷For he has delivered me from every trouble,
and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

**** Gospel Acclamation**



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

**** Gospel**

Mark 9:30-37

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

**** Gospel Acclamation**

Please see gospel acclamation above.

Sermon

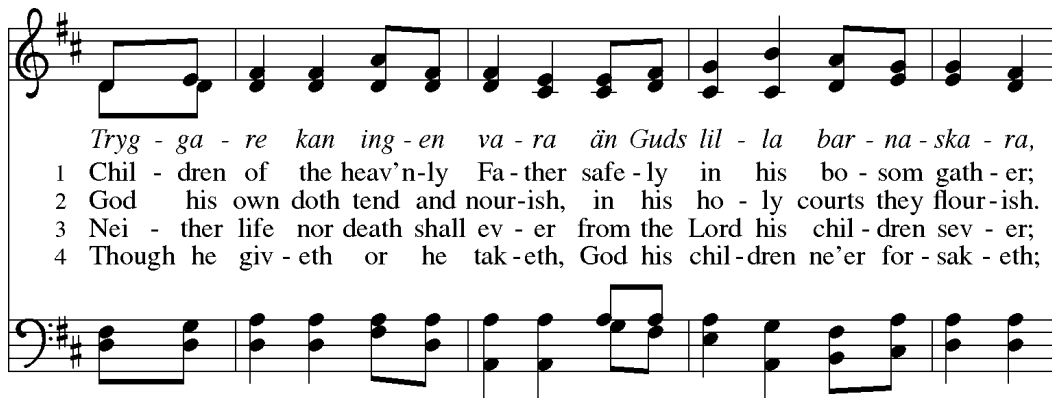
The Rev. Susan Loney

**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

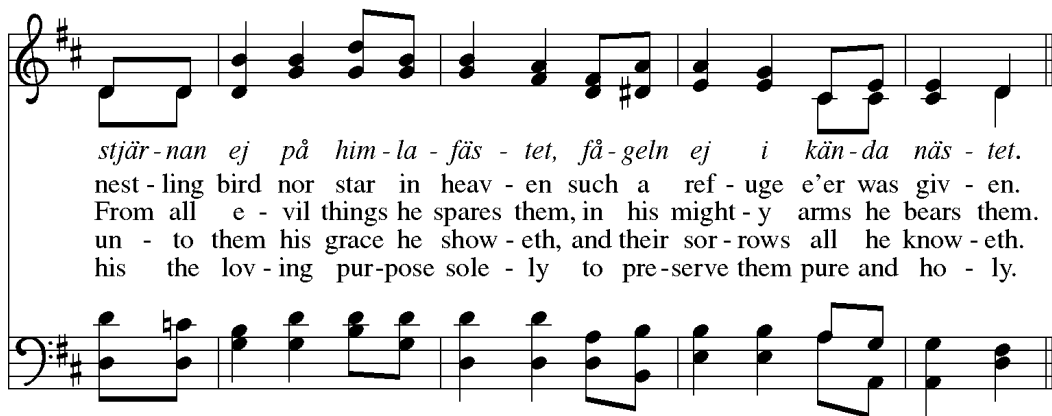
** Hymn of the Day

Children of the Heavenly Father

ELW 781



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958
Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune
Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

**** Apostles' 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.

**** Prayers of the People**

Each portion of the prayer ends with:

Response: Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Meal

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Offering

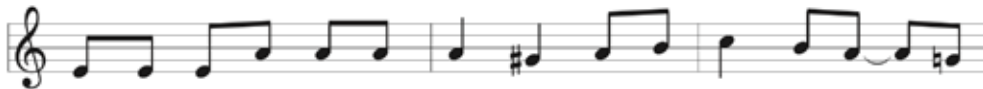
Each week we give thanks to God for what God has given us: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. A financial gift to St Stephen's supports the work of the congregation in our community.

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

** Offering Song

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

ELW 489



Ven - goa ti, Je - sús a - ma - do: lí - bra - me de mi pe -

- 1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, leave the gloom - y haunts of
- 2 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der o - ver this sur - pass - ing
- 3 Je - sus, source of last - ing plea - sure, tru - est friend, and dear - est

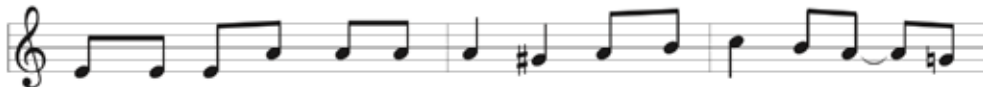


ca - do. Cal - ma, Re - den - tor, mi llan - to;

sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's splen - dor,
won - der that the bread of life is bound - less
trea - sure, peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing,



he pe - ca - do tan - to, tan - to.
there with joy your prais - es ren - der.
though the souls it feeds are count - less;
joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing:



Con la san - gre que ver - tis - te das con - sue - loal al - ma
Bless the one whose grace un - bound - ed this a - maz - ing ban - quet
with the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to us is
hum - bly now, I bow be - fore you, love in - car - nate, I a -



tris - te; *ham - bre tor - nas en har - tu - ra,*
found - ed; Christ, though heav'n - ly, high, and ho - ly,
giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious con - so - la - tion,
dore you; wor - thi - ly let me re - ceive you,

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.



sal - va - ción me das se - gu - ra.
deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.
and, so fa - vored, nev - er leave you.



Refrain/Estrillo
¡Oh Cris - to! ¡Oh Cris - to!
Be thank - ful! Be thank - ful!



Ge - ne - ros - o tú meo - fre - ces la sa - lud,
Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, and re - joice!



quea los tu - yos siem - pre das con ple - ni - tud.
Bless the one whose grace un - bound - ed is our joy.

2 Vida ofrece, y paz preciosa
tu palabra poderosa;
por unirse al elemento
hace el santo sacramento.
Con el pan y vino adquiero
cuerpo y sangre del Cordero.
¡Oh, misterio tan profundo!
¿Quién lo entiende en este mundo? *Estrillo*

3 Ya mi alma tú libraste,
y el pecado tú quitaste,
cual preludio de tu cielo,
hoy me gozo en tu consuelo.
Cielos, tierra, noche y día
te den gracias a porfía:
"Por tus múltiples favores,
¡gracias mil y mil loores!" *Estrillo*

Text: Johann Franck, 1618-1677, stanzas; Esther Berticaux, b. 1944, refrain; tr. composite
Spanish stanza text © 1964 Publicaciones "El Escudo," admin. Augsburg Fortress.
English stanza text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Refrain text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

**** Offering Prayer**

Assisting Minister leads the offering prayer and the assembly responds: Amen.

**** Dialogue**

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**

**** Holy, Holy, Holy**



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.

**** Thanksgiving at the Table**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,...be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

** Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

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

Holy Communion is a free gift of God's grace and love. Everyone is welcome to share in this meal. Receive bread and dip it into a chalice, consuming both elements at once. Our chalices contain red wine and amber-colored fruit juice. If you wish to receive words of blessing, simply tell the minister.

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

Communion Hymn

Come, Let Us Eat

ELW 491



- 1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
- 2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
- 3 In Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest,
- 4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word,



come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
in Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest.
rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.



Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,
In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,



our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.
in the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom.

Text: Billema Kwillia, b. 1925, sts. 1–3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1–3, alt.

Music: A VA DE, Billema Kwillia, adapt.

Text sts. 1–3 and tune © Lutheran World Federation; text st. 4 and music adapt. © 1972 *Contemporary Worship 4*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Communion Blessing

** Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

** Post Communion Prayer

Together, let us pray.

Holy God,
you have welcomed us to this meal
and fed us with dignity at your table.
Send us now to welcome others
and to be at peace with one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements

Sending

We are sent into the world to serve.

** Blessing

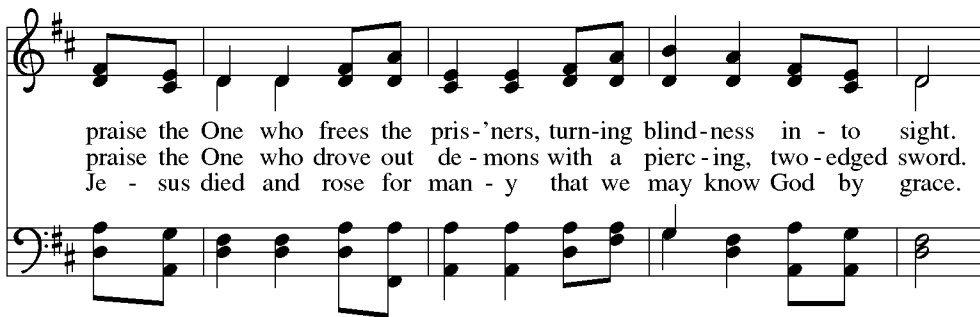
** Sending Hymn

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

ELW 843

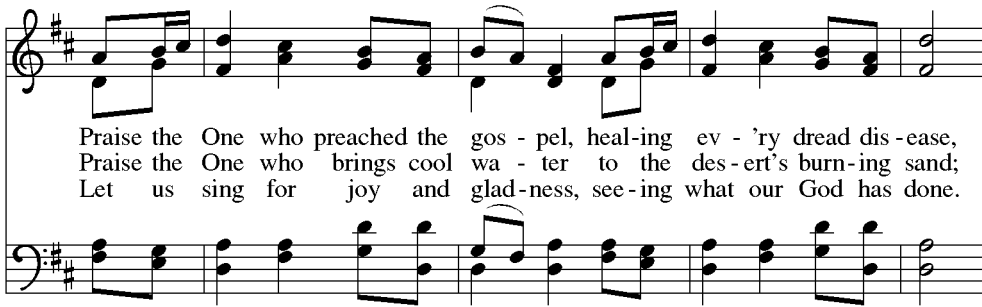


1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;

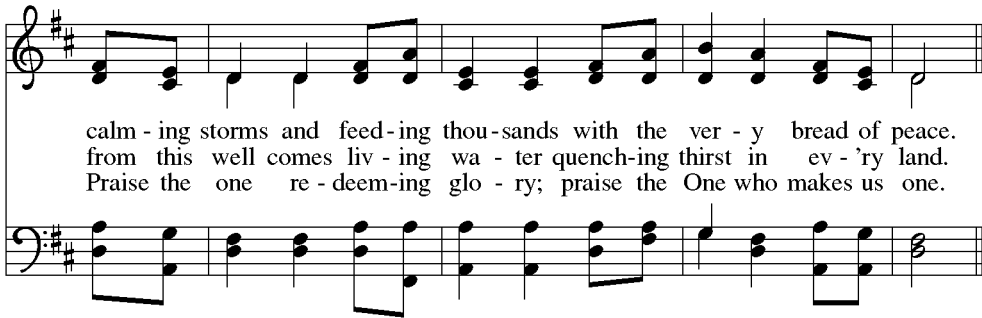


praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.



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.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955
 Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813
 Text © 1987 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**** Dismissal**

Go in peace,
To Love, To Invite, To Serve.

Let us follow Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Flowers are given by Bethany Canver in memory of Xavier Deeney.

** Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

Participants in Today's Service

Pastor:

The Rev. Susan Loney
pastor@ststeph.org

Music Director:

Claudio Espejo

Assisting Minister/Lector:

Bob Linderman

Altar Guild:

Michele Torchia

Usher:

John Gordon

Camera:

John Gordon

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

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Text the word "welcome" to 855-965-5200 to receive our weekly e-newsletter.

May God go with you today and every day.

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St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
1301 N Broom St. Wilmington, DE 19806 302-652-7623
www.ststeph.org office@ststeph.org