

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

HOLY COMMUNION

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 15, 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**

O God, My Faithful God verses 1, 3, 4

ELW 806

1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun - tain ev - er flow - ing,
 2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing
 3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;
 4 When dan - gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;

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

with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
 what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—
 guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;
 help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;

give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
 to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless
 but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,
 help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,

a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.
 what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.
 then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.
 and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT, Ahasuerus Fritsch, 1629–1701

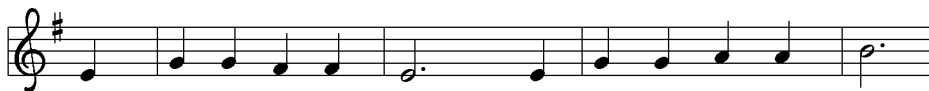
** Greeting

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 3:1-12

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 116:1-9

¹I love the LORD, because he has heard
my voice and my supplications.

²**Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

³The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.

⁴**Then I called on the name of the LORD:
“O LORD, I pray, save my life!”**

⁵Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
our God is merciful.

⁶**The LORD protects the simple;
when I was brought low, he saved me.**

⁷Return, O my soul, to your rest,
for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

⁸**For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling.**

⁹I walk before the LORD
in the land of the living.

**** 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 8:27-38

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

**** Hymn of the Day**

Will You Come and Follow Me

ELW 798



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call

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



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
 Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional
 Text © 1987 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
 www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

** 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

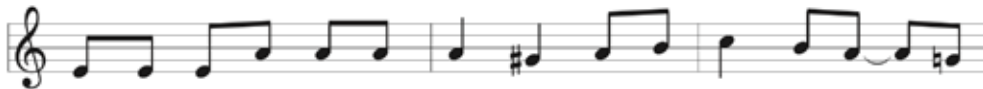
Each week we give thanks to God for what God has given us: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. A financial gift to St Stephen's supports the work of the congregation in our community.

**** 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

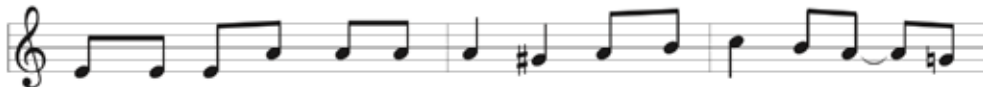


ca - do. Cal - ma, Re - den - tor, mi llan - to;

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:

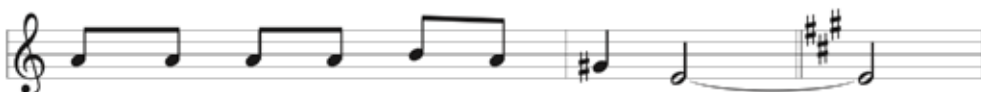


Con la san - gre que ver - tis - te das con - sue - loal al - ma
Bless the one whose grace un - bound - ed this a - maz - ing ban - quet
with the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to us is
hum - bly now, I bow be - fore you, love in - car - nate, I a -



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/Estribillo

¡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? *Estribillo*

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!" *Estribillo*

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.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

**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.

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

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.

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.

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

Communion Blessing

** 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

Lift High the Cross verses 1, 3, 4

ELW 660

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

The image shows the first line of musical notation for the hymn. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melody with a dotted quarter note, followed by eighth notes, and a half note. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. The lyrics 'Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till' are written below the treble staff.

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

The image shows the second line of musical notation for the hymn. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff continues the melody from the first line, ending with a half note. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics 'all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.' are written below the treble staff.

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

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as praise thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956
 Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947
 Text and music © 1974 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 Chuck & Carol Landry
 in celebration of Carol's birthday*

** 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:

Ann Dransfield

Altar Guild:

Michele Torchia

Usher:

John Gordon

Camera:

John Gordon

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

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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