

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

Reformation Sunday

Worship Service with Holy Communion



WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Reflection on "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

Bryon Dockter

Welcome

* Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross,
the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

Faithful God,
have mercy on us.

**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you**

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.

Amen.

WE GIVE OUR PRAISE

* Hymn

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

ELW #504 vs. 1, 4

**A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe**

has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

God's Word forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away,
they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
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*** Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, gracious Lord,
we thank you that your Holy Spirit
renews the church in every age.
Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people.
Keep them steadfast in your word,
protect and comfort them in times of trial,
defend them against all enemies of the gospel,
and bestow on the church your saving peace,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

The Holy Gospel according to St. John,
Glory to you, O Lord

*** Gospel**

John 8:31-36

31 Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." 33 They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free?'" 34 Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

The Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor John

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*** Prayers of Intercession**

Petition response Leader: ... Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

*** 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.

WE GO INTO THE WORLD

* **Blessing**

Mothering God,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

Hymn

“Go My Children, With My Blessing”

#543 vs. 1, 3

**“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”**

**“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”**

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* **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.
Thanks be to God.

* **Postlude**

Celebration of “Go My Children, With My Blessing”

Bryon Dockter





Congratulations to all our Confirmands!

Today eleven of our youth have affirmed their faith in Christ.

Please keep these young people in your prayers.

May God bless them as they continue on their faith journey.

Nara Anderson

Dylan Donahue

Alexandra Frid

Chance Gillman

Mitchell Gillman

Allison Henning

Kimberlee Kieser

Lucas Larson

Olivia Molumby

Zachary Molumby

Anna Wilson

Confirmands Chosen Scriptures

Nara Anderson

-2 Samuel 14:14

"We must all die; we are like spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. But God will not take away life, and he devises means so that the banished one will not remain an outcast."

Dylan Donahue

-Psalm 31:5

"Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God."

Alexandra Frid

-Psalm 37:5

"God has a reason for allowing things to happen. We may never understand his wisdom, but we simply have to trust his will."

Chance Gillman

-Ephesians 6:10-11

"Finally be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

Mitchell Gillman

-Timothy 11:14

"Do not neglect the gift that is in you which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on hands of the council of elders."

Allison Henning

-Joshua 1:9

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Kimberlee Kieser

-1 Peter 5:7

"Casting all your anxieties on him/her, because he/she cares for you."

Lucas Larson

-Joshua 1:9

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Olivia Molumby

-Psalm 9:9-10

"The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you."

Zachary Molumby

-Luke 12:22

"He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear.'"

Anna Wilson

-1 John 4:16

"And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them."

Jesus said ...

"My Father's House shall be a house of prayer."

Please include the following people in your prayers this week: **Ann, Dorothy, Sara, Dorrie, Helen, Kay, Bernice, Betty, Steve, Ann, Becca, John.**

Each week different families will be included in special prayers. Please hold in your prayers: **David and Diane, Phil, Joanna and Steve, Laurie and Blake, Gary and Tracy, Bryon and Jane.**

Each week different missions that St. Stephen's support through our Sunday offerings. This week we offer prayers for **Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota** who expresses the love of Christ for all people through service that inspires hope, changes lives, and builds community.

We also offer prayers for our **brothers and sisters in Christ in the villages of Iwonde and Ihimbo, Tanzania.**

We pray for **residents and staff of group homes and care facilities, and all healthcare workers.**

We pray also for those away from home serving in the military: **Ben, Nick, Jeremy, Matthew, Zachary, Sam, Troy, Tricia, Adam, Nick, Peter D. J., Christopher, Gene, Sam, Andrew.** (Please help us keep our military member listing up to date. Thank you.)

St. Stephen's invites you to add your prayer requests to our daily prayers. We hope that this list is placed inside everyone's Bible or devotional material. All prayer requests will be listed for three weeks. Please contact the church office if additional time is needed.



Today's Altar Flowers

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD,
plans for your welfare and not for harm,
to give you a future with hope.
Jeremiah 29:11 (NRSV)

Our condolences to **Lupe Lopez and Family**
in the death of her husband Roman.

**May God's loving presence bring comfort,
strength and peace to all.**

Leaders in Today's Service

Pastor The Rev. Dr. John Snider
Lay LiturgistDebbie Pirkl
Organist /Pianist..... Bryon Dockter
Song LeaderDeborah Ellis
Audio Visual Ministry Keith Gregory
Prayer Chain..... Rachel Circle, Mary Circle, Kathy Ericson, Abby Vavra



ST STEPHEN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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