



# St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

## Reformation Sunday

### Worship Service with Holy Communion

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#### WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Reflection on "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

Bryon Dockter

Welcome

Singing Bowl

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

#### 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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\* Greeting

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

\* Hymn of Praise

"Shout to the Lord"

ELW #821

My Jesus, my Savior,  
Lord, there is none like you.  
All of my days I want to praise  
the wonders of your mighty love.  
My comfort, my shelter,

tower of refuge and strength;  
let ev'ry breath, all that I am  
never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing  
power and majesty, praise to the King.  
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar  
at the sound of your name.  
I sing for joy at the work of your hands;  
forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.  
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

CCLI Song # 1406918 Darlene Zschech  
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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**

**First Reading**

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

31 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Word of God, Word of Life.

*Thanks be to God*

**Psalm**

**Psalm 46**

1 God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
3 though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.  
4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.  
5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;  
God will help it when the morning dawns.  
6 The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;  
he utters his voice, the earth melts.  
7 The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.  
8 Come, behold the works of the LORD;  
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.  
9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;

he burns the shields with fire.  
10 "Be still, and know that I am God!  
I am exalted among the nations,  
I am exalted in the earth."  
11 The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

**\* Gospel Acclamation**

**"Ubi caritas et amor"**  
*"Where True Charity and Love Abide"*

**ELW #642**

**Ubi caritas et amor,  
ubi caritas, Deus ibi est.**

**Where true charity and love abide,  
God is dwelling there; God is dwelling there.**

Text: Latin antiphon, 9th cent.; Taizé Community; tr. *With One Voice*  
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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**

**Hymn**

**"Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters"**

**ELW #445 vs. 1, 3**

**Wash O God our sons and daughters  
Where Your cleansing waters flow  
Number them among Your people  
Bless as Christ blessed long ago  
Weave them garments bright and sparkling  
Compass them with love and light  
Fill anoint them send Your Spirit  
Holy dove and heart's delight  
  
Oh how deep Your holy wisdom  
Unimagined all Your ways  
To Your name be glory honor  
With our lives we worship praise  
We Your people stand before You  
Water washed and Spirit-born  
By Your grace our lives we offer  
Recreate us God transform**

CCLI Song # 4593474 Ruth C. Duck  
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**\* Prayers of Intercession**

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

[Video recording]

I present **Nara Anderson, Dylan Donahue, Alexandra Frid, Chance Gillman, Mitchell Gillman, Allison Henning, Kimberlee Kieser, Lucas Larson, Olivia Molumby, Zachary Molumby, Anna Wilson** who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.



Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

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?

Response: *I renounce them.*

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

Response: *I renounce them.*

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

Response: *I 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.**

You have made public profession of your faith.

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,  
to hear his word and share in the Lord's supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,  
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

*(each person answers in turn)  
I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*

People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. **Amen.**

Stir up in (*Nara, Dylan, Alexandra, Chance, Mitchell, Allison, Kimberlee, Lucas, Olivia, Zachary, Anna*) 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.**

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.**

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God  
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

[End of Video recording]

\* **Sharing the Peace**

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

*We invite you to share the peace with those with you  
and with us with "thumbs up" or comments on our Facebook page.  
Text someone you care about.*

**Offering** [Invitation to support ongoing ministries of St. Stephen's]

\* **Offertory Response**

**"Change My Heart O God"**

**ELW #801**

Chorus

**Change my heart oh God**

**Make it ever true**

**Change my heart oh God**

**May I be like You**

Verse

**You are the potter**

**I am the clay**

**Mold me and make me**

**This is what I pray**

CCLI Song # 1565 Eddie Espinosa

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\* **Words of Institution**

\* **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.**

\* **Invitation to Communion**

Come to the banquet table  
where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

**Communion is Received**

**ELW Page 112**

*The body of Christ, given for you*

*The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

**Amen.**

Here is bread here is wine  
Christ is with us He is with us  
Break the bread drink the wine  
Christ is with us here

Refrain

In this bread there is healing  
In this cup there's life forever  
In this moment by the Spirit  
Christ is with us here

Here is grace here is peace  
Christ is with us He is with us  
Know His grace find His peace  
Feast on Jesus here (*refrain*)

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Graham Kendrick  
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**\* Prayer after Communion**

We give you thanks, gracious God,  
that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare,  
the body and blood of Christ.  
Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,  
into your beloved vineyard  
to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst,  
guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ  
and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**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 Liturgist ..... Debbie Pirkel  
Director of Worship Arts ..... Bryon Dockter  
Song Leader ..... Deborah Ellis  
Lectors ..... Jackie Hanson, Erica Oswald  
Confirmands ..... Nara Anderson, Dylan Donahue, Alexandra Frid  
..... Chance Gillman, Mitchell Gillman, Allison Henning  
..... Kimberlee Kieser, Lucas Larson, Olivia Molumby  
..... Zachary Molumby, Anna Wilson  
Audio Visual Ministry ..... Norm Goetzke, Keith Gregory, Jan Perkins  
Prayer Chain ..... Rachel Circle, Mary Circle, Kathy Ericson, Abby Vavra



ST STEPHEN'S  
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