



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday, November 15, 2020 ■ 9:30 a.m.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Worship Service with Holy Communion



WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP

Prelude

“La Cinquantaine”

Gabriel Marie

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Welcome

Temple Talk

Singing Bowl

Silence is kept for reflection.

* 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,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.
Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection

Holy One,
we confess that we are not always awake to you.
We are not always faithful in using your gifts.
We often forget the least of our siblings.
We do not see your beautiful image in one another.
We divide your beloved community.
Open our hearts to your coming,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.
Through † Jesus you are forgiven,
by Jesus you are welcome,
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!
Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world.
Amen.

WE GIVE OUR PRAISE

* Hymn

“Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand”

ELW #441 vs. 1, 3

Oh, happy day when we shall stand
amid the heav'nly throng;
and sing with hosts from ev'ry land
the new celestial song,
the new celestial song.

Oh, what a mighty rushing flood
of joy and love and peace
will roll down over us with good
and blessedness and grace,
and blessedness and grace.

Text: Wilhelm A. Wexels, 1797-1866; tr. composite
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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.

* Kyrie

ELW Page 138

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
And for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

* Prayer of the Day

Righteous God, our merciful master,
**you own the earth and all its peoples,
and you give us all that we have.**
**Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom,
and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**
Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Psalm

Psalm 90:1-8, 12

- 1 Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.
- 2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- 3 You turn us back to dust,
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."
- 4 For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.
- 5 You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;

6 in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.
7 For we are consumed by your anger;
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.
8 You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
12 So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.

Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4 But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; 7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Word of God, Word of Life.
Thanks be to God

* 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. Matthew,
Glory to you, O Lord

* Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus said ... 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30 As

for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

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

Sermon

Pastor Tim

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn

"When Peace Like a River"

ELW #785 vs. 1, 4

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well (it is well)
with my soul, (with my soul,)
it is well, it is well with my soul.
Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul. *Refrain*

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* Prayers of Intercession

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

* 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

"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

ELW #184

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

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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**

There is a place for you at the banquet.
Come and feast at Jesus' table.

Communion is Received

ELW Page 112

The body of Christ, given for you
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

ELW #674

Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. *Refrain*

Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! *Refrain*

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The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
Strengthens you and keeps you in his grace
Today, tomorrow and forever. Amen.

*** Prayer after Communion**

Lord Jesus,
in this simple meal you have set a banquet.
Sustain us on the journey,
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
and give us glad and generous hearts
as we meet you on the way.
Amen.

WE GO INTO THE WORLD

*** Blessing**

May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God,
Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.
Amen.

Hymn

“Thine the Amen”

#826 vs. 1, 2

Thine the amen thine the praise
alleluias angels raise
thine the everlasting head
thine the breaking of the bread
thine the glory thine the story
thine the harvest then the cup
thine the vineyard then the cup
is lifted up lifted up.

Thine the life eternally
thine the promise let there be
thine the vision thine the tree
all the earth on bended knee
gone the nailing gone the railing
gone the pleading gone the cry
gone the sighing gone the dying
what was loss lifted high.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
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*** Dismissal**

Beloved of God,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*** Postlude**

Reflection on “Thine the Amen”

Ben D.



Leaders in Today’s Service

Pastor..... The Rev. Tim Thompson Ph.D
Lay Liturgist Debbie Pirkl
Christian Music Leader Ben D.
Musicians Jason W., Andrew H.
Temple Talk Gary Westman, Merrill Zieman, Debbie Pirkl
Lectors Dave and Lynda Bergeson
Audio Visual Ministry Tom Tschida, Dean Hostager, Jan Perkins
Prayer Chain Rachel Circle, Mary Circle, Kathy Ericson, Abby Vavra

Jesus said ...

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

Please include the following people in your prayers this week: **Dorrie, Helen, Steve.**

Each week different families will be included in special prayers. Please hold in your prayers: **Steve and Robyn, Stacy, Dave, Kally and Ellie, Tony, Amy and Lillian, Andy, Sara, Anthony, Kelly, James and Daniel.**

Each week different missions that St. Stephen's supports through our Sunday offerings are included in our prayers. This week we offer prayers for the **Minnesota Council of Churches**, our partner in living out unity in faith in the community through connecting, engaging and renewing partnerships.

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

*In honor of Phyllis Elmquist's 98th Birthday
Happy Birthday Phyllis!*

Given by: Dottie Culbert

Our condolences to **Dorothy Hassenfratz and Family** on the death of her mom, **Ann Wilken** on Monday, November 9th. In the midst of their sorrow may they find comfort in God's promise of life everlasting.



Senior Pastor John Snider | Associate Pastor of Discipleship Tim Thompson
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Bulletin Acknowledgements

Liturgical texts, prayers: Sunday and Seasons.

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