



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Worship Service with Holy Communion
Wednesday, November 25, 2020 ■ 3:00 p.m.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service
Worship Service with Holy Communion



WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Improvisation on "Amazing Grace"

Ben D.

Welcome

Singing Bowl

Silence is kept for reflection.

* Thanksgiving Prayer of Confession/Call To Worship:

Unclutter our lives, Lord
we have so much, consume so much, expect so much.

Grant us perspective;
to see your world, recognizing you in the midst of it all.

Grant us compassion;
**where there is need, to play our part,
to turn towards rather than away from.**

Grant us gratitude
for your presence in what we have, in our daily bread, in the gift of life.

Unclutter our lives, Lord,
**give us space, simplicity, and thankful hearts,
may we pour ourselves out for our neighbor.**

WE GIVE OUR PRAISE

* Hymn

"We Praise You, O God"

ELW #870

**We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.**

**We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.**

**With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!**

*** 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**

“This is the Feast”

ELW Page 140

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain
has begun his reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*** Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God our Father,
**your generous goodness comes to us new every day.
By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness,
give thanks for your benefits,
and serve you in willing obedience,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

First Reading

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

6 The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 9 As it is written,
"He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."
10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; 12 for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. 13 Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, 14 while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. 15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

1 Praise is due to you,
 O God, in Zion;
 and to you shall vows be performed,
 2 O you who answer prayer!
 To you all flesh shall come.
 3 When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,
 you forgive our transgressions.
 4 Happy are those whom you choose and bring near
 to live in your courts.
 We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,
 your holy temple.
 5 By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,
 O God of our salvation;
 you are the hope of all the ends of the earth
 and of the farthest seas.
 6 By your strength you established the mountains;
 you are girded with might.
 7 You silence the roaring of the seas,
 the roaring of their waves,
 the tumult of the peoples.
 8 Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;
 you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.
 9 You visit the earth and water it,
 you greatly enrich it;
 the river of God is full of water;
 you provide the people with grain,
 for so you have prepared it.
 10 You water its furrows abundantly,
 settling its ridges,
 softening it with showers,
 and blessing its growth.
 11 You crown the year with your bounty;
 your wagon tracks overflow with richness.
 12 The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
 the hills gird themselves with joy,
 13 the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
 the valleys deck themselves with grain,
 they shout and sing together for joy.

* 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. Luke,
Glory to you, O Lord

* Gospel

Luke 17:11-19

11 On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. 12 As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, 13 they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" 14 When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. 15 Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. 16 He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. 17 Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other

nine, where are they? 18 Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" 19 Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

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

Sermon

Pastor John

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

ELW #858 vs. 1, 4

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!**

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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

"Give Thanks"

Henry Smith

**Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ His Son**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ His Son**

Chorus

**And now let the weak say I am strong
Let the poor say I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us**

**And now let the weak say I am strong
Let the poor say I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us**

Ending

Give thanks

*** 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.

"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

ELW #484 vs. 1, 4

Refrain

You satisfy the hungry heart
with gift of finest wheat.
Come give to us, O saving Lord,
the bread of life to eat.

As when the shepherd calls his sheep,
they know and heed his voice;
so when you call your fam'ly, Lord,
we follow and rejoice. *Refrain*

The myst'ry of your presence, Lord,
no mortal tongue can tell:
whom all the world cannot contain
comes in our hearts to dwell. *Refrain*

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997
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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

“Now Thank We All Our God”

#840

**Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms,
has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.**

**Oh, may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us all in grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm
in this world and the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.**

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* **Dismissal**

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

* **Postlude**

Reflections on “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Ben D.



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, Jerry.**

Each week different families will be included in special prayers. Please hold in your prayers: **Barbara, Bruce and Diane, Delores, Janel, Lynda.**

Each week we offer prayers for different missions that St. Stephen's supports through our offerings this week we offer prayers for our brothers and sisters working throughout our community helping those in need and the hungry through **The Walk to End Hunger** a family-friendly fun walk that takes place every Thanksgiving at the Mall of America—however this year due to COVID-19 will be a virtual experience. One of the beneficiaries is our Neighbors Inc. food shelf. A great way to start your holiday off right—giving back before you give thanks.

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 Loving Memory of Nancy Villars
a Mom, Wife and Grandma.*

Given by: Cathy and Brent Harms
and Connie Villars

Leaders in Today's Service

Pastor	The Rev. Dr. John Snider
Lay Liturgist	Debbie Pirkel
Director of Worship	Bryon Dockter
Christian Music Leader	Ben D.
Musicians.....	Jason W., Andrew H.
Lectors.....	Dylan Donahue, Vicki Jackson
Audio Visual Ministry.....	Norm Goetzke, Keith Gregory, Jan Perkins
Prayer Chain	Rachel Circle, Mary Circle, Kathy Ericson, Abby Vavra
Altar Guild	Lori Ritt



ST STEPHEN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Senior Pastor John Snider | Associate Pastor of Discipleship Tim Thompson
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