



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday, November 8, 2020 ■ 9:30 a.m.

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



WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Reflection on "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Ben D.

Welcome

Temple Talk — Ministry Focus: Youth

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

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

ELW #632 vs. 1, 2, 4

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

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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.

* 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**

O God of justice and love,
**you illumine our way through life
with the words of your Son.
Give us the light we need,
and awaken us to the needs of others,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

*** Children's Sermon**

Tracy Westman

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading

Amos 5:18-24

18 Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; 19 as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. 20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? 21 I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. 22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. 23 Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. 24 But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Psalm

Psalm 70

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me.
O LORD, make haste to help me!
2 Let those be put to shame and confusion
who seek my life.
Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor
who desire to hurt me.
3 Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!"
turn back because of their shame.
4 Let all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you.
Let those who love your salvation
say evermore, "God is great!"
5 But I am poor and needy;
hasten to me, O God!
You are my help and my deliverer;
O LORD, do not delay!

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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,
Glorify to you, O Lord

* **Gospel**

Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus said ... 1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. 11 Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' 12 But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' 13 Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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

Sermon

Pastor Tim

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn

“All Who Love and Serve Your City”

ELW #724 vs. 1, 4

**All who love and serve your city,
all who bear its daily stress,
all who cry for peace and justice,
all who curse and all who bless,**

**For all days are days of judgment,
and the Lord is waiting still,
drawing near a world that spurns him,
off'ring peace from Calv'ry's hill.**

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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.

“Wait For the Lord”

ELW #262

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

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* **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

“We Walk by Faith”

#635 vs. 1, 2, 3

We walk by faith and not by sight;
with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke:
"My peace be with you here."

We may not touch your hands and side,
nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near
and seek where you are found:

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*** Dismissal**

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

*** Postlude**

Reflection on “We Walk by Faith”

Ben D.



Leaders in Today’s Service

Presiding Pastor The Rev. Dr. John Snider
Preaching Pastor The Rev. Tim Thompson Ph.D
Director of Worship Arts Ben D.
Temple Talk Ali Schloesser, Ryan Abby and Helen Vavra, Nara Anderson
..... Jessica Donahue, Camilla Millett, Max Gregory, Ava Donahue
..... Jessica Gregory, Tracy Westman, John Anderson
Children’s Sermon Tracy Westman
Lectors Kathy Packer, Mary Brunkow, Sara Ruff
Audio Visual Ministry Norm Goetzke, Matt Kirkwood, 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: **Dorothy, Sara, Dorrie, Helen, Steve.**

Each week different families will be included in special prayers. Please hold in your prayers: **Darcy, Brent, Amy, Jacob, Anna and Bennett, Harland and Joyce, Lowell, Margaret, Sam and Georgia, Lonna.**

Each week different missions that St. Stephen's support through our Sunday offerings this week we offer prayers for the **Union Gospel Mission of the Twin Cities**, a Christian ministry dedicated to serving people who are struggling with homelessness, poverty, and addiction in our community. The Gospel Mission is helping men, women, and children rebuild their lives—physically, emotionally, spiritually and educationally.

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

*Honoring the 245th Birthday of the
United States Marine Corp.*

Given by: Marine LCpl McKenzie, Peter



Senior Pastor John Snider | Associate Pastor of Discipleship Tim Thompson
1575 Charlton Street ■ West St. Paul, MN 55118



Bulletin Acknowledgements

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