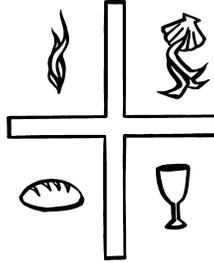




St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday, May 16, 2021 ■ 9:30 a.m.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Worship Service with Holy Communion



WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Improvisation on "What Wondrous Love Is This"

Ben D.

Welcome

Singing Bowl

Silence is kept for reflection.

* Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.

Amen.

WE GIVE OUR PRAISE

Hymn

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

ELW #843 vs. 1, 3

Praise the One who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light;
praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel,
healing ev'ry dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands
with the very bread of peace.

Praise the one true love incarnate:
Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose for many
that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory;
praise the One who makes us one.

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* Greeting

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

* Hymn of Praise

“The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing”
The Feast Is Ready

ELW #531

The trumpets sound, the angels sing,
The feast is ready to begin.
The gates of heav'n are open wide,
and Jesus welcomes you inside.

Tables are laden with good things;
oh, taste the peace and joy He brings.
He'll fill you up with love divine;
he'll turn your water into wine.

Refrain

Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight.
Come and revel in heaven's love and light.
Take your place at the table of the King.
The feast is ready to begin;
the feast is ready to begin.

The hungry heart He satisfies,
offers the poor His paradise.
Now hear all heaven and earth applaud
the amazing goodness of the Lord.

Refrain

Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight.
Come and revel in heaven's love and light.
Take your place at the table of the King.
The feast is ready to begin;
the feast is ready to begin.

CCLI Song # 190672 Graham Kendrick
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*** Prayer of the Day**

Gracious and glorious God,
**you have chosen us as your own,
and by the powerful name of Christ
you protect us from evil.
By your Spirit transform us
and your beloved world,
that we may find our joy in your Son,
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

1 John 5:9-13

9 If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. 10 Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. 11 And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

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

Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 1

Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;
but their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law they meditate day and night.
They are like trees
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.
The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

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

Gospel Acclamation

"Yours, Lord, Is the Glory"

ELW #849 vs. 2

**Yours, Lord, the dominions, and power as well;
yours, Lord, now and always. Amen, amen.**

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

*** Gospel**

John 17:6-19

Jesus said ... 6 "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; 8 for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. 9 I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. 10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in

them. 11 And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. 12 While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. 13 But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. 14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 15 I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. 16 They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

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

Gospel Acclamation

“Yours, Lord, Is the Glory”

ELW #849 vs. 4

**Glory in the highest, and on earth as well.
Glory, alleluia. Amen, amen.**

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Music: Traditional

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Sermon

Pastor John

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn

“A Hymn of Glory, Let Us Sing!”

ELW #393 vs. 1, 4

**A hymn of glory let us sing!
New hymns throughout the world shall ring:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ, by a road before untrod,
ascends unto the throne of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**"You see him now, ascending high
up to the portals of the sky."
Alleluia! Alleluia!
"Hereafter Jesus you shall see
returning in great majesty."
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Text: Bede, 673-735; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
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*** Prayers of Intercession**

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

Reception of New Members

ELW Page 234-235, 237

I present **Tim and Janet Gibson, Genelle Kirk and Jason, Jackson and Carter Dodes**
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 everyone to profess their 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.*

Let us confess our faith together.

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.**

Tim and Janet, Genelle and Jason
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?

If so, please answer:

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

[Video recording]

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your 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 your people 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.**

[Screen shot pictures of new members]

Introductions made by Pastor John

* **Sharing the Peace**

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

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

Missions Video: Lutheran Social Services: meeting food insecurity across Minnesota

Offertory Response "The Numberless Gifts of God's Mercies"

ELW #683 vs. 3

I'll never count all of God's mercies,
but oh, I can give God my praise
for all of that love, my thanksgiving
and love to the end of my days.
I'll never count all of God's mercies,
but oh, I can give God my praise!

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* **Offertory Prayer**

God of love,
you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.
Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.
Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;
for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

* **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**

The risen Christ invites us to this table.
Come, eat and be satisfied.

Communion is Received

The body of Christ, given for you

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

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

* **Prayer after Communion**

Wellspring of joy,
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.
Satisfy the hunger still around us,
and send us as joyful witnesses,
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

WE GO INTO THE WORLD

* Blessing

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life,
Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Hymn

“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”

ELW #857

Verse

Lord I lift Your name on high
Lord I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us

Chorus

You came from heaven to earth
To show the way
From the earth to the cross
My debt to pay
From the cross to the grave
From the grave to the sky
Lord I lift Your name on high

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* Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

* Postlude

Improvisation on “Amazing Grace”

Ben D.



To sponsor Sunday Altar Flowers please sign up either
Online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0945ada822aafb6-sunday>
Stop by the church and add your name to the flower chart outside Fellowship Hall
or **Call the church office** at 651-457-6541.
Cost for two bouquets is \$29.50
Thank you!

Jesus said ...

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

Please include the following people in your prayers this week:

Barbara, Perk (Merwin), Janel, Delores, Laura, Leslie, Jim, Carol, Dan, Barbara.

Each week different families will be included in special prayers. Please hold in your prayers:

Craig and Christine, Teresa, Norm and Paula, Eileen, Barbara.

Each week different missions that St. Stephen's supports through our Sunday offerings are included in our prayers. This week we offer prayers for **Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp (Camp WAPO)** — a place where fun and faith collide, where our youth encounter God's word, make friends and create memories to last a lifetime.

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: **Tim, Ben, Nick, Jeremy, Matthew, Zachary, Sam, Troy, Tricia, Adam, Nick, Peter DJ, 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.



We offer our deepest and most sincere condolences to:

The Family and friends of Ann Anderson who passed away Saturday, May 7. A celebration of Ann's life is planned for early July.

In the midst of their sorrow may all find comfort in God's promise of life everlasting.

Leaders in Today's Service

Pastor The Rev. Dr. John Snider
Lay Liturgist Debbie PirkI
Director of Worship Bryon Dockter
Music and Choir Leader..... Ben D.
Lectors..... Chris Becker, Kim Richter
Audio Visual Ministry Norm Goetzke, Dean Hostager, Jenny Van Pelt
Communications and Media Coordinator..... Garrett Masters
Prayer Chain..... Rachel Circle, Mary Circle, Kathy Ericson, Abby Vavra
Altar Guild..... Lori Ritt
Outdoor Street Sign..... Jerry Thoreson



ST STEPHEN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Senior Pastor John Snider | Associate Pastor of Discipleship Tim Thompson
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