



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

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



WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Improvisation on "Love Divine, All Love's Excelling"

Ben D.

Welcome

Singing Bowl

Silence is kept for reflection.

* Hymn

"Dearest Jesus, We Are Here"

ELW #443 vs. 1

Dearest Jesus, we are here,
gladly your command obeying.
With this child we now draw near
in response to your own saying
that to you it shall be given
as a child and heir of heaven.

[Insert Baptism Video Clip here]

Baptism—*Brooks Thomas Kemper*

* Hymn

"Dearest Jesus, We Are Here"

ELW #443 vs. 3

Therefore we have come to you,
in our arms this infant bearing;
truly here your grace we view;
may this child, your mercy sharing,
in your arms be shielded ever,
yours on earth and yours forever.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1737;
tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
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WE GIVE OUR PRAISE

Hymn

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

ELW #631 vs. 1, 3

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887
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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**

O God,
you have prepared for those who love you
joys beyond understanding.
Pour into our hearts such love for you that,
loving you above all things,
we may obtain your promises,
which exceed all we can desire;
through Jesus Christ, your Son and our 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 5:1-6

1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3 For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, 4 for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. 5 Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? 6 This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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

Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 98

O sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have gotten him victory.
The LORD has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.
Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.
Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.
Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming
to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

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 15:9-17

Jesus said ... 9 As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16 You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

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.

Text: Traditional; tr. Gerhard M. Carlford, b. 1923

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Sermon

Pastor Tim

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

ELW #343 vs. 1, 2

**My song is love unknown,
my Savior's love to me,
love to the loveless shown
that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?**

**He came from his blest throne
salvation to bestow;
the world that was his own
would not its Savior know.
But, oh, my friend, my friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend!**

Text: Samuel Crossman, 1624-1683, alt.

Music: John Ireland, 1879-1962.

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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.

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

Missions Video: Lutheran Social Services: Helping Communities After Unrest

Offertory Response

“The Numberless Gifts of God’s Mercies”

ELW #683 vs. 2

**Like all of the stars in the heavens,
God's mercies can never be told.
They shine through the darkness of midnight;
their beauties can never grow old.
Like all of the stars in the heavens,
God's mercies can never be told.**

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943

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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

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

ELW #836 vs. 1, 3

Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!

* **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 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Ben D.



Today we welcome into the body of Christ through baptism
**Brooks Thomas Kemper, son of Tom and Missy Kemper
and brother to Hallie.**

May we all be reminded of
God's grace in our own baptism.
Thanks be to God!



Today's Altar Flowers

In Loving Memory of Our Mother, Deloris Olson
Given by Deborah Ellis and Joan Baer

**We offer our deepest and most sincere condolences to the
Family and friends of Mike Niedermaier** who passed away
Thursday, April 22. A private family celebration of Mike's life
Will be held here at St Stephen's on Friday, May 14th at 11am.
This service will also be live-streamed
on St. Stephen's Facebook page.

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

Jesus said ...

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

Please include the following people in your prayers this week:
Ann, Barbara, Perk (Merwin), Laura, Leslie, Kathy, Jim, Carol, Dan.

Each week different families will be included in special prayers. Please hold in your prayers:
Dwayne, Sandra and Jennifer, Reid, Crystal, Dirks and Hazel, Andrew, Ashley and Lennon, Carol.

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.** Pastor Yona recently communicated the following prayer requests:

- Pray for my children and the children of the servants in the congregation to continue to grow in faith.
- Pray for Atwitye and I God help us to meet our basic needs.
- Pray for all Christians to continue to hold true faith. Also pray for all preaching points so that its can grow and its people be strengthened in the Christian hearts. Pray for construction work in our preaching points to be completed especially servant house at Utengule.

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.



Leaders in Today's Service

Pastor	The Rev. Tim Thompson, Ph.D
Lay Liturgist	Debbie Pirkel
Director of Worship	Bryon Dockter
Music and Choir Leader	Ben D.
Lectors	Tracy and Gary Westman
Audio Visual Ministry	Norm Goetzke, Jan Perkins
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

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