



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday, July 11, 2021 ■ 9:30 a.m.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Worship Service with Holy Communion



WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Improvisation on "Just a Closer Walk With Thee"

Ben D.

Welcome

* 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,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.
Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,
help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.**

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you.

Where else can we turn?

**Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, † the bread of life,
you are shown God's mercy:

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.

WE GIVE OUR PRAISE

Hymn

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

ELW #697 (Refrain, vs. 1-3)

Refrain

Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it, Jesus, is my plea;
daily walking close to thee,
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

I am weak but thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
as I walk, let me walk close to thee.

Through this world of toil and snares,
if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.

When my feeble life is o'er,
time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er
to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore.

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Music: North American traditional
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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.

Kyrie

ELW Page 184 vs. 3, 4

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

Hymn of Praise

“This is the Feast”

ELW Page 187

**This is the feast of vict'ry for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of vict'ry for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. 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 vict'ry for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.**

Prayer of the Day

O God, from you come all holy desires,
all good counsels, and all just works.
**Give to us, your servants,
that peace which the world cannot give,
that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments;
and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies,
may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading

Ephesians 1:3-14

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spir-
itual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world
to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5 He destined us for adoption as his children through Je-
sus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace that he
freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness
of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and in-
sight 9 he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set
forth in Christ, 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven
and things on earth. 11 In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according
to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, 12 so that we,
who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also,
when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were
marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; 14 this is the pledge of our inheritance toward re-
demption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Reading from the Psalms

Psalms 85:8-13

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
The LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

*** Gospel Acclamation**

ELW Page 188

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia.**

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

*** Gospel**

Mark 6:14-29

14 King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." 15 But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." 16 But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." 17 For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. 18 For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." 19 And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, 20 for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. 21 But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. 22 When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." 23 And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." 24 She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." 25 Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." 26 The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. 27 Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, 28 brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. 29 When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

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

Sermon

Pastor Tim

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

ELW #666 vs. 1, 2

What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse
for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

When I was sinking down,
sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down
beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown
for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

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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]

Discerning God's Call—Vision Reflection

Jesus called Paul to a life that was a radical departure from what he had been doing. Can you imagine a vision from God for St. Stephen's that would feel like a radical change for us?

Offertory Response

"Praise, Praise! You Are My Rock"

ELW #862 vs. 1, 4

**Praise, praise! You are my rock.
The wind, the waves are high.
You hold me when the waves are strong.
You hold me lest I die, I die.
Praise, praise! O God, you are my rock.**

**Praise, praise! You are my rock.
You host the table set.
We break the bread, we drink the cup;
we know whom we have met, have met.
Praise, praise! O God, you are my rock.**

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Offertory Prayer

Jesus, Bread of life,
you have set this table with your very self,
and called us to the feast of plenty.
Gather what has been sown among us,
and strengthen us in this meal.
Make us to be what we receive here,
your body for the life of the world.
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

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
Come!

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

Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your name we pray.
Amen.

WE GO INTO THE WORLD

Blessing

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us,
and journeys with us,
✚ be upon you now and forever.
Amen.

Hymn

“God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”

ELW #771 vs. 1, 3

**God, who stretched the spangled heavens
infinite in time and place,
flung the suns in burning radiance
through the silent fields of space:
we, your children in your likeness,
share inventive pow'rs with you;
great Creator, still creating,
show us what we yet may do.**

**As each far horizon beckons,
may it challenge us anew:
children of creative purpose,
serving others, hon'ring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise;
each endeavor well begun;
great Creator, give us guidance
till our goals and yours are one.**

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*** Dismissal**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

*** Postlude**

Celebration on “Here Is Bread”

Ben D



| Leaders in Today’s Service | |
|--|---|
| Pastor | The Rev. Tim Thompson, Ph.D |
| Lay Liturgist | Debbie PirkI |
| Director of Worship | Bryon Dockter |
| Music and Choir Leader | Ben D. |
| Guest Musicians | Mary L., Andrew H., Jason W., Corinne S. |
| Lectors | Janice and Brett Culver |
| Communications and Media Coordinator | Garrett Masters |
| Audio Visual Ministry | Norm Goetzke, Jan Perkins |
| Prayer Chain | Rachel Circle, Mary Circle, Kathy Ericson, Abby Vavra |
| Altar Guild | Mary Jo Martinek, Lori Ritt |
| Fellowship Hour | Steve Gebauer |
| Outdoor Street Sign | Jerry Thoreson |

Jesus said ...

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

Please include the following people in your prayers this week: **Barbara, Laura.**

Each week different families will be included in special prayers. Please hold in your prayers: **Larry, Patty, Maya (Scarlet), and Lyra, Michael and Lael, Mary, Molly, Camilla, Marigold and Calvin, Janice and Ricardo.**

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 also for those away from home serving in the military: **Tim, Ben, Nick, Jeremy, Matthew, Zachary, Sam, Troy, Tricia, Adam, Nick, Peter D. J., Christopher, Gene, Sam, Andrew, Lindsey.** (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 Susan Dalhed
who recently passed away. A service celebrating Susan's life
will be held at St. Stephen's on **Wednesday, July 14 at 11am**
with visitation one hour prior to the service.

We would also like to remind everyone that a service celebrating the
life of **Steve Morganson** will be held at St. Stephen's on **Thursday,**
July 15 at 11am with visitation one hour prior to the service.

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



Today's Altar Flowers

In Memory of Lee and Marilyn Erickson
Given by Kisten Erickson and Patrick Kemna



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



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