



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday, July 4, 2021 ■ 9:30 a.m.

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



WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Reflection on "O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True"

Bryon Dockter

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

“O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True”

ELW #675 vs. 1, 4

**O Christ, our light, O Radiance true,
shine forth on those estranged from you,
and bring them to your home again,
where their delight shall never end.**

**Lord, let your mercy’s gentle ray
shine down on others strayed away.
To those in conscience wounded sore
show heaven’s waiting, open door.**

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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 1, 2

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

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
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.**

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
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

God of the covenant,
**in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom.
Give us the courage you gave the apostles,
that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace
in every circumstance of life,
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading

Ezekiel 2:1-5

1 He said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. 2 And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. 3 He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. 4 The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord God." 5 Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

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

Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 123

To you I lift up my eyes,
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!
As the eyes of servants
look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a maid
to the hand of her mistress,
until he has mercy upon us.
Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us,
for we have had more than enough of contempt.
Our soul has had more than its fill
of the scorn of those who are at ease,
of the contempt of the proud.

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 6:1-13

1 He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. 2 On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! 3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. 4 Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." 5 And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. 6 And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. 7 He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. 8 He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; 9 but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. 10 He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. 11 If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." 12 So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. 13 They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

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

Sermon

Pastor Tim

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn

“Lord, You Give the Great Commission”

ELW #579 vs. 1, 4

Lord, you give the great commission:
"Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the church neglect its mission,
and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose
with renewed integrity:

Refrain

With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.

Lord, you show us love's true measure:
"Father, what they do, forgive."
Yet we hoard as private treasure
all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us
to a just society: *Refrain*

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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

In the early days of the Church, seven faithful, gifted people including our namesake Stephen, were selected to take care of the practical, “behind the scenes” work. What new areas of service might St. Stephen's be called to?

Offertory Response

“Praise, Praise! You Are My Rock”

ELW #862 vs. 1, 3

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 calm the fear and pain.
One word of faith and I am well,
I rise to praise and walk again.
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

“O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”

ELW #888

O beautiful for spacious skies,
for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties
above the fruited plain:
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood
from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for heroes proved
in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved,
and mercy more than life:
America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
till all success be nobleness,
and ev'ry gain divine.

O beautiful for patriot dream
that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam,
undimmed by human tears:
America! America!
God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control,
thy liberty in law.

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* **Dismissal**

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

* **Postlude**

Celebration on "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

Bryon Dockter



To sponsor Sunday Altar Flowers please sign up either
Online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0945ada822aafb6-sunday>
or **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, Susan, Laura.**

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

Ed and Sharon, Jerry and Robin, Keith, Jessica and Max, Jon, Diana and Lydia, Josh, Kari, Kiley, Bailey and Charley.

Each week different missions that St. Stephen's supports through our Sunday offerings are included in our prayers.

This week we offer prayers for our brothers and sisters in Christ and the ministries of **The Saint Paul Area Synod.**

The Saint Paul Area Synod is made up of congregations, mission starts and institutions committed to growing in faith and trust in Jesus Christ. Living out of our identity as Lutheran, we recognize we are grasped by grace and are free to devote our energy to being church in a way that is rooted in tradition and open to experimentation.

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:

**Brent and Cathy Harms and Family
on the death of Brent's Mom, Darlene Harms, June 28, 2021.**

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

Leaders in Today's Service

Presiding Pastor	The Rev. Dr. John Snider
Preaching Pastor	The Rev. Tim Thompson, Ph.D
Director of Worship.....	Bryon Dockter
Song Leader	Deborah Ellis
Lectors	Vicki Jackson, Linda Becker
Communications and Media Coordinator.....	Garrett Masters
Audio Visual Ministry.....	Norm Goetzke, Dean Hostager, Keith Gregory
Prayer Chain	Rachel Circle, Mary Circle, Kathy Ericson, Abby Vavra
Altar Guild	Mary Jo Martinek, 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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