



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Worship Service with Communion
Worship August 22, 2021 ■ 9:30 a.m.

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



WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Reflection on "Yours, Lord, Is the Glory"

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

“Yours, Lord, Is the Glory”

ELW #849

Yours, Lord, is the glory,
and honor as well;
yours, Lord, now and always.
Amen, amen.

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

To you I surrender
my being, my life;
all, Lord, I surrender.
Amen, amen.

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

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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

Holy God,
your word feeds your people with life that is eternal.
Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth,
that, renouncing what is false and evil,
we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading

Ephesians 6:10-20

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. 15 As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. 16 With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. 19 Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Reading from the Psalms

Psalms 34:15-22

The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their cry.
The face of the LORD is against evildoers,
to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.
When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears,
and rescues them from all their troubles.
The LORD is near to the brokenhearted,
and saves the crushed in spirit.
Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD rescues them from them all.
He keeps all their bones;
not one of them will be broken.
Evil brings death to the wicked,
and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.
The LORD redeems the life of his servants;
none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

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. John,
Glory to you, O Lord

* Gospel

John 6:56-69

Jesus said ... 56 Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. 57 Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." 59 He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. 60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" 61 But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? 62 Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? 63 It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 64 But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. 65 And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father." 66 Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. 67 So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" 68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

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

Sermon

Pastor John

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

ELW#810 vs. 1, 3

O Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me,
my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle
if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.

Oh, let me hear you speaking
in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will.
Now speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
now speak and make me listen,
O Guardian of 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]

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.

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

“Blessed Assurance”

ELW #638

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior, all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain*

Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *Refrain*

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* Dismissal

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

* Postlude

Celebration on “Blessed Assurance”

Bryon Dockter



Leaders in Today’s Service

Pastor	The Rev. Dr. John Snider
Lay Liturgist	Debbie Pirkl
Director of Worship	Bryon Dockter
Song Leaders	Jane Dockter, Deborah Ellis, Hannah Ruikka
Lectors	Jenny Van Pelt, Sara Ruff
Communications and Media Coordinator	Garrett Masters
Audio Visual Ministry	Matt Kirkwood, Jenny Van Pelt
Ushers	Merrill Ziemann, Sue Clark
Altar Guild	Mary Jo Martinek
Fellowship	Patrice Katzenmaier
Prayer Chain.....	Rachel Circle, Mary Circle, Kathy Ericson, Abby Vavra, Janet Gibson
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: **Laura, Leslie, Linda, Mark, Angela.**

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

Betty and Mark, Rosalie, Andy and Nancy, Bernice and Tom, Kevin, Kathy, Brady and Haley.

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 Meals on Wheels program.** Fueled by a commitment to address senior hunger and isolation, they basic support that seniors need to maintain their health and independence in our community and virtually every other community in America.

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 D. J., Donald, 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.



Today's Altar Flowers

In loving memory of Bill Molumby's mother,
Mary Louise Molumby

Flowers dedicated by Mary Molumby



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



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