



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Worship Service with Communion
Worship September 26, 2021 ■ 9:30 a.m.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Eighteenth 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,
whose teaching is life,
whose presence is sure,
and whose love is endless.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God our comforter:

**like lost sheep, we have gone astray.
We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.
We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.
We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.
Free us from our sin, gracious God.
Listen when we call out to you for help.
Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.
Amen.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
By the gift of grace in ✚ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.
Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.
Amen.

WE GIVE OUR PRAISE

Hymn

"O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True"

ELW #675 vs. 1, 5

**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.**

**Make theirs with ours a single voice
uplifted, ever to rejoice
with wond'ring gratitude and praise
to you, O Lord, for boundless grace.**

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. composite
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Music: Gesangbuch, Nürnberg, 1676. All rights reserved. Used by permission under
AUGSBURG FORTRESS #SB158773 ONE LICENSE #A-708293, R-196364

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 147-148

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“This is the Feast of Victory”

ELW Page 149-150

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia.

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

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor and glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

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

Prayer of the Day

Generous God,
**your Son gave his life
that we might come to peace with you.
Give us a share of your Spirit,
and in all we do empower us
to bear the name of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

4 The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! 5 We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; 6 but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at." 10 Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the LORD became very angry, and Moses was displeased. 11 So Moses said to the LORD, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? 12 Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child,' to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors? 13 Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' 14 I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. 15 If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery." 16 So the LORD said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you. 24 So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. 25 Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again. 26 Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. 27 And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." 28 And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" 29 But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!"

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 19:7-14

The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure,
making wise the simple;
the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.
Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.
Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

*** Gospel Acclamation**

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

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

*** Gospel****Mark 9:38-50**

38 John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." 39 But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. 40 Whoever is not against us is for us. 41 For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. 42 "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. 43 If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. 45 And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. 47 And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, 48 where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. 49 "For everyone will be salted with fire. 50 Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

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

Sermon**Pastor Tim****WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD****Hymn****"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"****ELW#712 vs. 1, 3, 4**

Lord, whose love in humble service
 bore the weight of human need,
 who upon the cross, forsaken,
 worked your mercy's perfect deed:
 we, your servants, bring the worship
 not of voice alone, but heart;
 consecrating to your purpose
 ev'ry gift which you impart.

As we worship, grant us vision,
 till your love's revealing light
 in its height and depth and greatness
 dawns upon our quickened sight,
 making known the needs and burdens
 your compassion bids us bear,
 stirring us to ardent service,
 your abundant life to share.

Called by worship to your service,
 forth in your dear name we go,
 to the child, the youth, the aged,
 love in living deeds to show;
 hope and health, good will and comfort,
 counsel, aid and peace we give,
 that your servants, Lord, in freedom
 may your mercy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984
 Text © 1961 Oxford University Press.

Music: *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985
 All rights reserved. Used by permission. AUGSBURG FORTRESS #SB158773
 ONE LICENSE #A-708293, R-196364; CCLI #1664009 #20540802

*** Prayers of Intercession**

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

**O shelter me, O shelter me:
The way ahead is dark and difficult to see.
O shelter me, O shelter me:
All will be well if only you will shelter me.**

"Shelter Me" Michael Joncas (*refrain*)
Text and music © 2020, GIA Publications, Inc.
All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under
ONE LICENSE #A-708293, R-196364.

*** 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*]

*** Offertory Response**

"We Are an Offering"

ELW #692

**We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands,
Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering.
All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be,
we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices,
we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering, we are an offering.**

Text and music © 1984 Word Music, LLC.
All rights reserved. Used by Permission
CCLI #1664009 #20540802 AUGSBURG FORTRESS #SB158773

Offertory Prayer

God of abundance,
you cause streams to break forth in the desert
and manna to rain from the heavens.
Accept the gifts you have first given us.
Unite them with the offering of our lives
to nourish the world you love so dearly;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
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

All who hunger and thirst, come.
The table is ready.

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

Lord of life,
in the gift of your body and blood
you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.
Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,
bearing witness to the abundance of your love
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

WE GO INTO THE WORLD

Blessing

People of God,
you are Christ's body,
bringing new life to a suffering world.
The holy Trinity, + one God,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Hymn

"On Our Way Rejoicing"

ELW #537

**On our way rejoicing
gladly let us go.
Christ our Lord has conquered;
vanquished is the foe.
Christ without, our safety;
Christ within, our joy;
who, if we be faithful,
can our hope destroy?**

Refrain

**On our way rejoicing;
as we forward move,
hearken to our praises,
O blest God of love!**

**Unto God the Father
joyful songs we sing;
unto God the Savior
thankful hearts we bring;
unto God the Spirit
bow we and adore,
on our way rejoicing
now and evermore. *Refrain***

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.
Music: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879.
All rights reserved. Used by permission under
AUGSBURG FORTRESS #SB158773 Public Domain

* Dismissal

Go in peace.
The living Word dwells in you.
Thanks be to God.

* Postlude

Celebration of "On Our Way Rejoicing"

Bryon Dockter



Jesus said ...

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

Please include the following people in your prayers this week: **Piper, Jim, Merwin, Loren, Laura, Becky, Dave, Liz, Barbara, Alicia, Annette, Dorothy.**

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

Virginia, Eric, Shanley, Samuel, Calvin and Niall, Sandra, Craig, Timothy, Nicole, Brynn and Jack.

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 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.



Altar Flowers

**In Honor of PFC McKenzie, Donald
United States Marine Corp Graduation**

Given by,
The McKenzie Family

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 Leaders.....	Jane Dockter, Hannah Ruikka, Kathy Canniff, Debbie PirkI
Lectors.....	Janice Culver, Linda Becker
Communications and Media Coordinator.....	Garrett Masters
Audio Visual Ministry.....	Keith Gregory, Jenny Van Pelt
Ushers.....	Tim Gibson
Altar Guild.....	Diane Merrill
Fellowship.....	The Gregory Family
Prayer Chain.....	Rachel Circle, Mary Circle, Kathy Ericson, Abby Vavra, Janet Gibson
Outdoor Street Sign.....	Jerry Thoreson



ST STEPHEN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



Bulletin Acknowledgements

Liturgical texts, prayers, cover art and graphics: Sunday and Seasons.
Reprinted with permission under AUGSBURG FORTRESS #SB158773

Music and Streaming Licenses: AUGSBURG FORTRESS #SB158773;
ONELICENSE.NET License #A-708293 #R-196364; CCLI License #1664009 #20540802.