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St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Worship Service
Sunday, September 27, 2020 ■ 9:30 a.m.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Service



WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Reflection on "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"

Ben Dyleuth

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,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

Faithful God,
have mercy on us.
**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**
**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**
**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**
We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.
**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**
Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.
Hear the truth that God proclaims:
Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.
Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

WE GIVE OUR PRAISE

* Hymn

“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

ELW #712 vs. 1, 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.

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.

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* Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all.
And also with you.

* Kyrie

ELW Page 138

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”

ELW Page 140

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

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

*** Prayer of the Day**

God of love, giver of life,
**you know our frailties and failings.
Give us your grace to overcome them,
keep us from those things that harm us,
and guide us in the way of salvation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

*** Children's Sermon**

John Anderson

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

1 The word of the LORD came to me: 2 What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? 3 As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. 4 Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die. 25 Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? 26 When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. 27 Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. 28 Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. 29 Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? 30 Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. 31 Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? 32 For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

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

Psalm

Psalm 25:1-9

1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
2 O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.
3 Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
4 Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.
5 Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.
6 Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!
8 Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
9 He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

1 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, 2 make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. 5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, 7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, 8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 12 Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

* Gospel Acclamation

“Ubi caritas et amor”

ELW #642

“Where True Charity and Love Abide”

**Ubi caritas et amor,
ubi caritas, Deus ibi est.**

**Where true charity and love abide,
God is dwelling there; God is dwelling there.**

Text: Latin antiphon, 9th cent.; Taizé Community; tr. *With One Voice*
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The Holy Gospel according to St. Mathew,
Glorify to you, O Lord

* Gospel

Matthew 21:23-32

23 When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" 24 Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. 25 Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' 26 But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." 27 So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. 28 "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' 29 He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. 30 The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. 31 Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

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

Sermon

Pastor John

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

ELW #674 vs. 1, 3

Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! *Refrain*

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* Prayers of Intercession

Petition response Leader: ... Lord in your mercy,

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" ELW 752
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* Sharing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
*We invite you to share the peace with those with you
and with us with "thumbs up" or comments on our Facebook page.
Text someone you care about.*

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

* Offertory Response

"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

ELW #184

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

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* 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**

Come to the banquet table
where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

Communion is Received

The body of Christ, given for you
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

ELW Page 112

"Lamb of God"

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

ELW Page 146

*** Prayer after Communion**

We give you thanks, gracious God,
that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare,
the body and blood of Christ.
Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,
into your beloved vineyard
to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst,
guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ
and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

WE GO INTO THE WORLD

*** Blessing**

Mothering God,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

Hymn

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

#547

Sent forth by God's blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended.
Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching,
receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us,
your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

With praise and thanksgiving
to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—

our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring,
embracing God's children, the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us,
with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

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*** Dismissal**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.
Thanks be to God.

*** Postlude**

Celebration of "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

Ben Dyleuth



Leaders in Today's Service

Pastor The Rev. Dr. John Snider
Lay Liturgist Debbie Pirkl
Director of Worship Arts Ben Dyleuth
Lectors Mark Rogosheske, Abby Vavra, Jenny Van Pelt
Children's Sermon John Anderson
Audio Visual Ministry Keith Gregory, Norm Goetzke, Jan Perkins
Prayer Chain Rachel Circle, Mary Circle, Kathy Ericson, Abby Vavra

Jesus said ...

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

Please include the following people in your prayers this week: **Ann, Dorothy, Sara, Dorrie, Helen, Kay, Bernice, Betty, Steve, Ann.**

Each week different families will be included in special prayers. Please hold in your prayers: **Gregory and Bonnie Hawkins; Calvin Wachter; Cindy, Allen, Mario and Aurora Ricketts-Benjamin; Jon and Jerrilyn Mathisrud; Philip Dahl**

Each week different missions that St. Stephen's support through our Sunday offerings are included in our prayers. This week we offer prayers for **Lutheran Campus Ministry**. A ministry grounded in Christ, guided by the values of hospitality, service, justice, integrity and curiosity. Operating on university campuses throughout the country bringing together like minded individuals to share God's word.

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: **Ben Appenzeller, Nick Appenzeller, Jett DePalma; Jeremy Eittrheim, Matthew Eittrheim, Sam Gieser, Troy Hoban, Tricia Howe, Adam Kenny, Nick Lane, Peter D. J. McKenzie; Christopher Meyers, Gene Morton, Sam Paton, Andrew Reed.** (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.

Our condolences to Georgia Adkins and family on the death of her son, John. John passed away on Monday, September 21.

Our condolences also to Norm and Paula Goetzke on the death of Paula's son, Jim Murphy. Jim passed away on Wednesday, September 23.

May God's promise of peace that passes all understanding bring comfort to all.



Today's Altar Flowers

In Honor of our 45th Wedding Anniversary

Given by: Sue and Kevin Clark



Senior Pastor John Snider | Associate Pastor of Discipleship Tim Thompson
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Bulletin Acknowledgements

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