



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Worship Service with Communion
Worship September 5, 2021 ■ 9:30 a.m.

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



WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP

Prelude Improvisation on "All People That on Earth Do Dwell" Gerrit W. Lamain

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

"All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

ELW #883 vs. 1, 2, 5

All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;
come ye before him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make.
We are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.

**To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
the God whom heav'n and earth adore,
from us and from the angel host
be praise and glory evermore.**

Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1594
Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561
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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 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

Gracious God,
**throughout the ages you transform sickness
into health and death into life.
Open us to the power of your presence,
and make us a people ready to proclaim
your promises to the whole world,
through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.
Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 35:4-7a

4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6 then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; 7 the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 146

Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD, O my soul!
I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.
Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.
When their breath departs, they return to the earth
on that very day their plans perish.
Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God,
who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.
The LORD watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the LORD!

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

* Gospel Acclamation

ELW Page 151

**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 7:31-37

31 Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. 32 They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. 33 He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. 34 Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." 35 And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. 36 Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. 37 They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

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

Sermon

Pastor Tim

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn

“Baptized in Water”

ELW#456 vs. 1

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king:
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,
faithfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptism: Joanna Lori Hahn

ELW Pages 227-231

Hymn

“Baptized in Water”

ELW#456 vs. 2, 3

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our king:
one with his rising, freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our king:
born of the Spirit, we are God's children;
joyfully now God's praise we sing.

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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]

* 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.

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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

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

ELW #858 vs. 1, 2, 4

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
Music: *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665
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* Dismissal

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

* Postlude

Improvisation on “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Gerrit W. Lamain

Jesus said ...

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

Please include the following people in your prayers this week: **Jim, Laura, Leslie, Linda, Angela, Annette.**

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

Tiffany, Charles, Alexis and Mason, Steve and Jackie, Nancy, Mary Jo and Christopher, Veronica

Each week different missions that St. Stephen's support through our Sunday offerings this week we offer prayers for the **Union Gospel Mission of the Twin Cities**, a Christian ministry dedicated to serving people who are struggling with homelessness, poverty, and addiction in our community. The Gospel Mission is helping men, women, and children rebuild their lives—physically, emotionally, spiritually and educationally.

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.

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
Organist	Gerrit Lamain
Song Leader.....	Mike Westmoreland
Lectors	Jessica Donahue, Mary Brunkow
Communications and Media Coordinator	Garrett Masters
Audio Visual Ministry	Norm Goetzke, Matt Kirkwood, Keith Gregory
Usher.....	Tim Gibson
Altar Guild	Diane Merrill
Fellowship.....	Kathy Canniff
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
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