



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

HOLY COMMUNION

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 9, 2023 • 9:30 am

You are welcome here! As a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the ELCA, we believe that the gospel is God's gift to all people, shared unconditionally and without regard to race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, socio-economic or family status, age, physical or mental abilities, outward appearance, or religious affiliation. We seek racial equality and justice. In this way, we live into the truth written in Ephesians (2:14)—that Christ breaks down the dividing walls between us and makes us one.

Theme of the Day
Releasing Our Burdens

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome

Joys & Concerns

**** Confession and Forgiveness**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails,
whose promise is sure.

Amen.

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

Merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned.

We have hurt our community.

We have squandered your blessings.

We have hoarded your bounty.

In the name of Jesus,

forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God,

we confess that we have sinned.

We have failed to be honest.

We have lacked the courage to speak.

We have spoken falsely.

In the name of Jesus,

forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God is a cup of cold water... in the name of ✚ Jesus Christ.

Amen.

**** Gathering Hymn**

Jesus Shall Reign

ELW 434

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
 hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

**** 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.

** Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

** Hymn of Praise



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the
 Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
 Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.
 A - men, a - men.

**** Prayer of the Day**

Assisting Minister leads the prayer of the day and the assembly responds: Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

Word

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

First Reading

Zechariah 9:9-12 (p. 869)

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 145:8-14

⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹LORD, you are good to all,
and your compassion is over all your works.

¹⁰All your works shall praise you, O LORD,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,

¹²that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all
ages.

You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.

¹⁴The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

Second Reading


Romans 7:15-25a (p. 1029)

Word of God. Word of Life.


Thanks be to God.

** Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

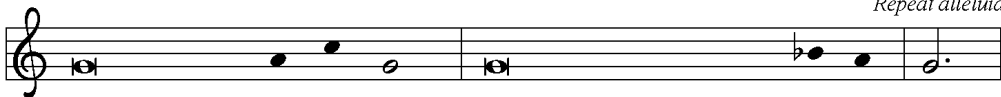
**** Gospel Acclamation**



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Repeat alleluia

**** Gospel**

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 (p. 887,-888)

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
The Gospel of the Lord.

Glory to you O Lord.
Praise to you O Christ.

**** Gospel Acclamation**

Please see gospel acclamation above.

Sermon

The Rev. Mark Walters

** Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

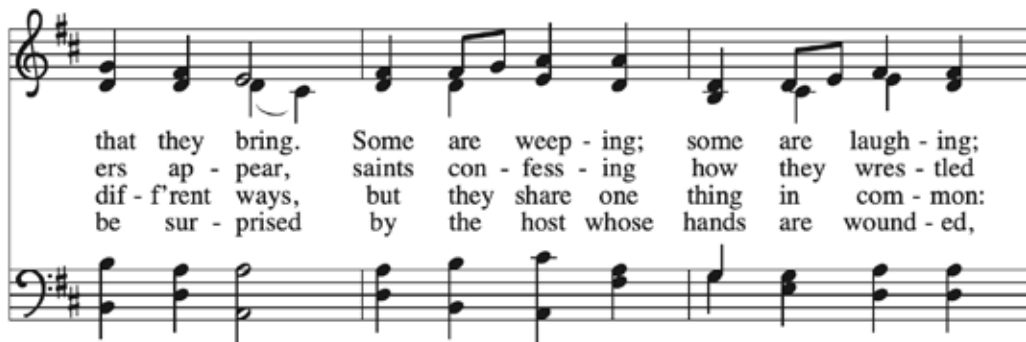
**** Hymn of the Day**

Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table

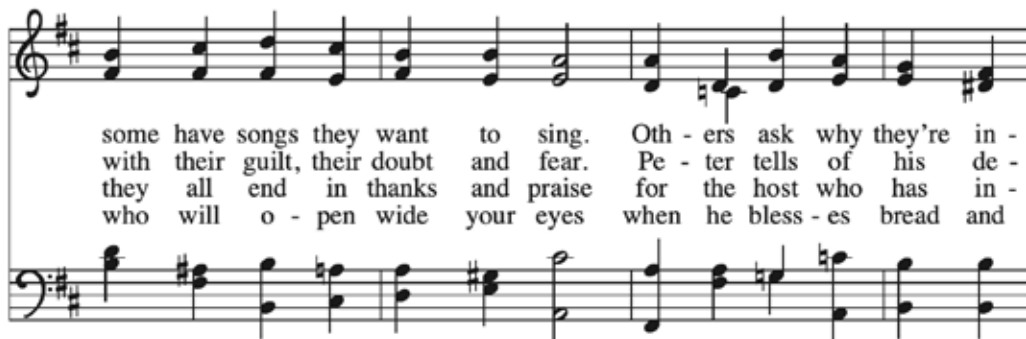
ACS 977



1 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries
2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -
3 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand
4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to



that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;
ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled
dif - f'rent ways, but they share one thing in com - mon:
be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,



some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -
with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -
they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has in -
who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they
 ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his
 vit - ed north and south and east and west to con - verge a -
 breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!— and then pass - es

all are wel - come. There is room for ev - 'ry - one.
 fruit - less ef - forts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.
 round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.
 wine that wa - kens in your heart the taste of love.

**** Apostles' Creed**

Let us love one another, that with one mind we may confess the Holy Trinity, one in essence and undivided.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

You are the Liv-ing Bread, let ev - 'ry soul be fed:

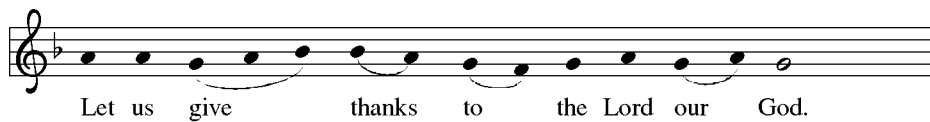
and now may ev - 'ry soul be fed with Liv - ing Bread.

**** Offering Prayer**

Assisting Minister leads the offering prayer and the assembly responds: Amen.

** Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold** are to be spoken by the assembly.

** Dialogue



** Preface

** Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

** Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and



might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

** Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy God, our Maker, Healer and Redeemer...both now and forever.

Amen.


** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

** Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

Communion

As Lutheran Christians we believe the words of Jesus, "This is my body, this is my blood given for you for the forgiveness of sin." If you desire to receive this gift, you are welcome to commune here. All who do not commune may come for a blessing. The ushers will invite the assembly from the front row to the back row to come to the chancel via the center aisle to receive communion from the pastor. Once you receive your communion, please use the side aisles to return to your pew. Please be sure to discard your cups in the trash bin on your way out of church. Please do not leave used communion cups in the pews or pew racks. If you prefer juice please let the assisting minister know.

Communion Hymn

To God Our Thanks We Give

ELW 682

Re - a - mo le - bo - ga, re - a - mo le - bo - ga,
To God our thanks we give, to God our thanks we give,

re - a - mo le - bo - ga mo - di - mo wa ro - na.
to God our thanks we give, our thanks to God we give.

Communion Blessing

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

Sending

We are sent into the world to serve.

** Post Communion Prayer

Together, let us pray.

We thank you, generous God,
for the refreshment we have received
at your banquet table.

Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
through the one who is our dearest treasure,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Announcements

** Blessing

** Sending Hymn

Lift High the Cross

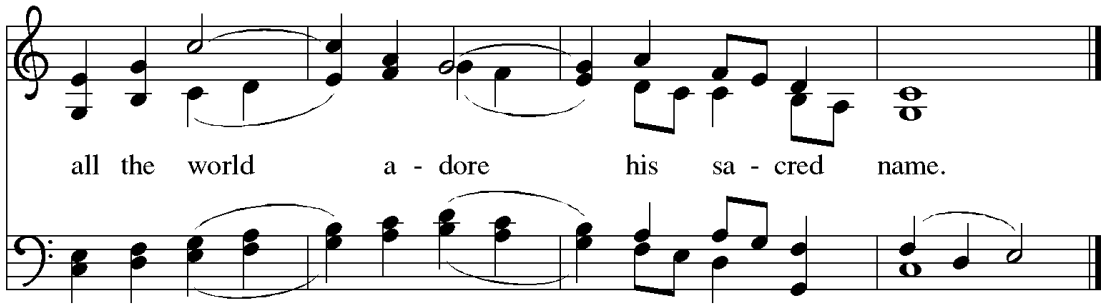
ELW 660

Refrain

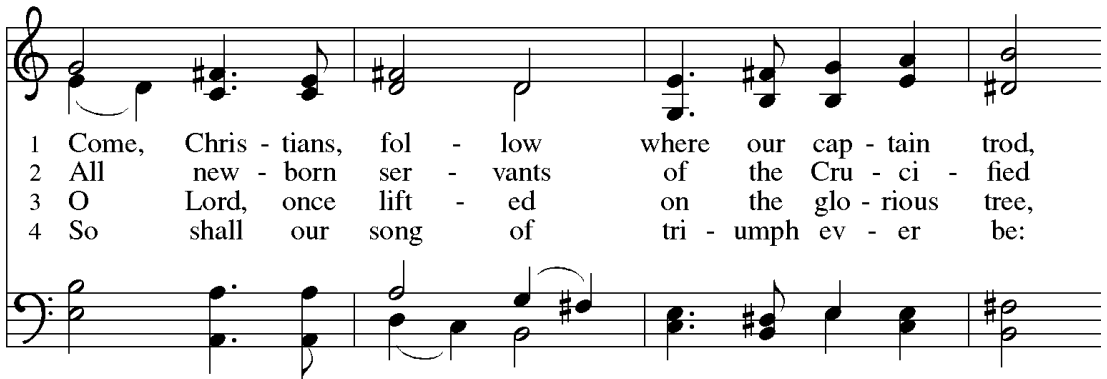
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

The image shows a musical score for the refrain of the hymn 'Lift High the Cross'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the vocal line and a bass clef staff for the piano accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The piano accompaniment starts with a half note chord of G4-B4-D5, followed by quarter notes E5, F#5, and G5. The lyrics 'Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till' are written below the vocal staff.

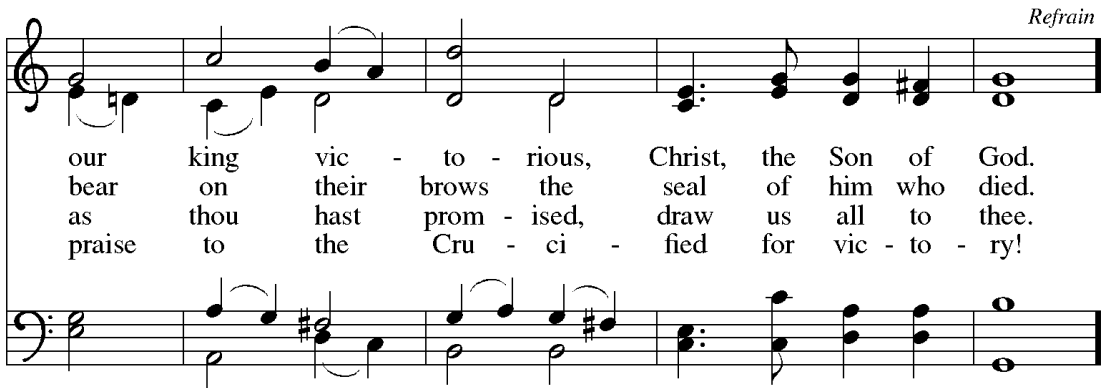
** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied tree,
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:



Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

**** Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

*Chancel flowers are given in celebration of Pastor Mark's ministry,
by a grateful congregation.*

*Enjoy today's service? Visit our Facebook page and invite a friend, comment, or
leave a review. Please text the word "welcome" to 855-965-5200 to be added to
our email list. May God go with you today and everyday.*

Worship elements taken from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS004228.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council
of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress.
Used by permission.

**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

Participants in Today's Service

Pastor:

The Rev. Mark Walters

Musician:

Steve Schmidt

Assisting Minister/Lector:

Bob Linderman

Usher:

John Rodammer

Altar Guild:

Carol Landry

Camera:

John Gordon

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

Pastor Susan Loney (susan.loney@yahoo.com 302-494-7185)

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

1301 N Broom St. Wilmington, DE 19806 302-652-7623

www.saintstephenslutheranchurch.org office@ststeph.org

PLEASE JOIN
ST. STEPHEN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

As we honor and thank
The Rev. Mark Walters
for his service and leadership
as our Interim Pastor

Sunday, July 9, 2023
9:30 am Service
Brunch To Follow

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
1301 N Broom Street
Wilmington DE 19806