



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

HOLY COMMUNION

Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 12, 2024

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.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude: *That Monday Morning Feeling*

Roland Perrin

Welcome

Joys & Concerns

**** Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism,...entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John...in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

**** Gathering Hymn**

May This Church Be Like a Tree

ACS 1042



1 *Que_es-ta_i - gle - sia se - a_un ár - bol en el*
1 May this church be like a tree, be - hind your
2 May this church be like a tree, there in the
3 May this church be like a tree, O God, that



fon - do de tu ca - sa, que_ha - ya fies - ta, y_a - le -
house, there in your gar - den, meet - ing - place for joy, and
street or in the pla - za, for the birds a nest - ing -
thrives where you have plant - ed; may it stand to show the



grí - a y_o - ra - ción ba - jo sus ra - mas.
feast, and sim - ple prayer be - neath its branch - es.
branch, for pass - ers - by a wel - come shel - ter.
way, your way of lov - ing and self - giv - ing,



Con ra - í - ces bien pro - fun - das y sus bra - zos
With its roots in earth so fer - tile, and its arms raised
May it stand as if it's watch - ing, near my house, just
of - f'ring shade, and fruit for shar - ing, giv - ing up its



ha - cia_el cie - lo, que_es - ta_i - gle - sia sea fe -
high to heav - en, may this church bear fruits of
round the cor - ner, wait - ing for this wea - ry
wood for burn - ing, May this liv - ing church that

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

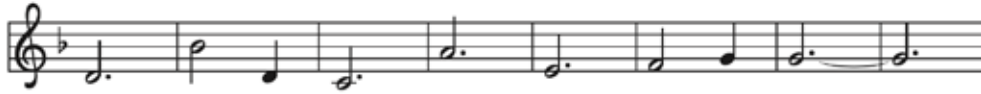


cun - da dan - do fru - tos de con - sue - lo.
 jus - tice, acts of lov - ing and com - pas - sion.
 pil - grim with its arms wide to em - brace me.
 names you be a tree of life e - ter - nal.

Refrain / Estribillo



Ár - bol plan - ta - do jun - to_a las a - guas
 Tree ev - er grow - ing by liv - ing wa - ter,



de vi - da_e - ter - na de nues - tro Dios.
 run - ning e - ter - nal, flow - ing from God.



Ár - bol plan - ta - do jun - to_a las a - guas
 Tree ev - er grow - ing by liv - ing wa - ter,



de vi - da_e - ter - na de nues - tro Dios.
 run - ning e - ter - nal, flow - ing from God.

Text: Pablo D. Sosa, 1933–2020; tr. Andrew Donaldson, b. 1951
 Music: QUE ESTA IGLESIA SEA UN ÁRBOL, Pablo D. Sosa
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 English text © 2013 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

**** 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.**

** Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



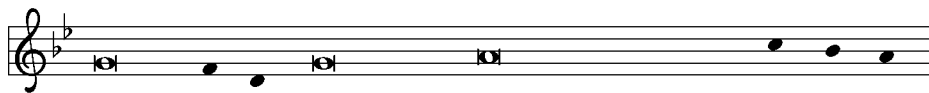
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and

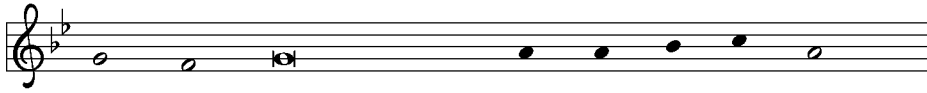
** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.



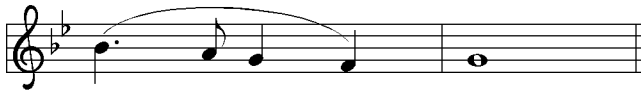
praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

** Hymn of Praise



Refrain

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 - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



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



Refrain

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.



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.



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



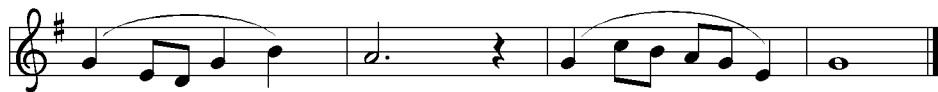
3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the



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.

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

** 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.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

First Reading

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 1

¹Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;

²**but their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law they meditate day and night.**

³They are like trees
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.

⁴**The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

⁶**for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

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

Second Reading

1 John 5:9-13

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

**** Gospel Acclamation**

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

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

Repeat alleluia

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

**** Gospel**

John 17:6-19

The Holy Gospel according to John.
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. Susan Loney

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

**** Hymn of the Day**
Spirit, Open My Heart

ACS 1043

Refrain



Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of



liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing



and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.



1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's



2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my



3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and



goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and



friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

Refrain



fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.



deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.



day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953
Text © 1996 Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved.
Music © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

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

**** Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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

**** Prayers of the People**

Each portion of the prayer ends with:

Response: God of grace, receive our prayer.

Meal

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Offering

Each week we give thanks to God for things that God has given us: our selves, our time, and our possessions. A financial donation to the church is not a requirement, but is freely given to support the work of the congregation in the community. For your convenience, St. Stephen's offers the opportunity to give on-line through text message. Type "Funds" to 302-257-6155 to make any donations.

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

** Offering Song

Now the Green Blade Rises

ELW 379



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

** 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

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

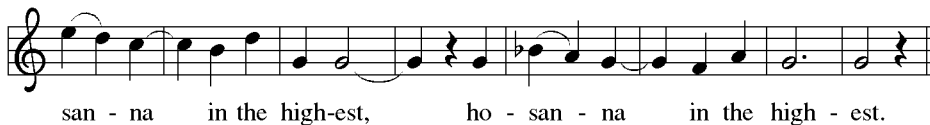
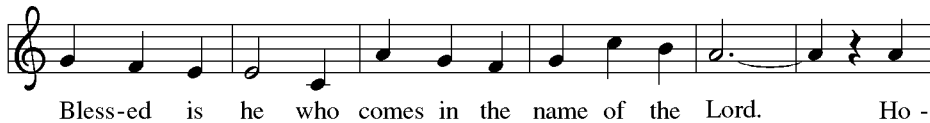
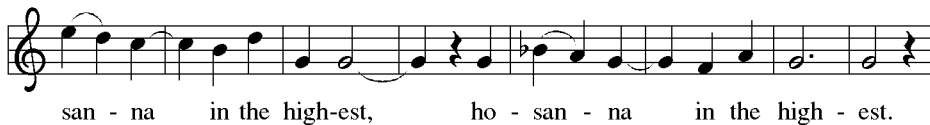
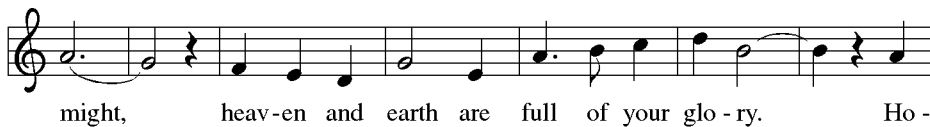
And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and
praise.

** Preface

** Holy, Holy, Holy



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

**** Thanksgiving at the Table**

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed,.... we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your spirit...in your church without end. **Amen.**

**** 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.

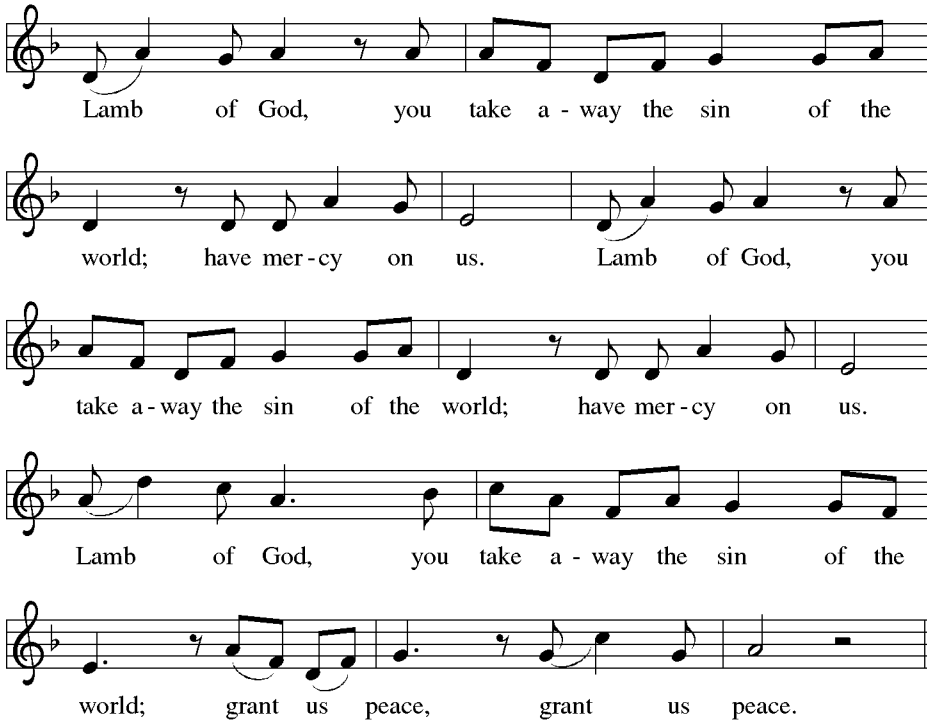
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

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

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.

Communion

Holy Communion is a free gift of God's grace and love. Everyone is welcome to share in this meal. If you wish to receive words of blessing, instead of or in addition to the Bread and Cup, simply tell the minister. Wheat and GF wafers are available as are red wine and amber juice.

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

Communion Hymn

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

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

The image shows a musical score for two staves, treble and bass clef, in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are: sun, O Lord, have mercy on me. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on a whole note chord.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

Communion Blessing

**** Post Communion Prayer**

Together, let us pray.

Shepherding God,
 you have prepared a table before us
 and nourished us with your love.
 Send us forth from this banquet
 to proclaim your goodness
 and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
 our redeemer and friend.
 Amen.

Announcements

**** 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.

** Blessing

The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

** Sending Hymn

Thine the Amen

ELW 826



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise
2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be
3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest
4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise
5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread
thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee
thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be
thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways
thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup
gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry
then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war
thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least
then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee

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



thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.
thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

Music: THINE, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

Text and music © 1983 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

** **Dismissal**

Go in peace,
To Love, To Invite, To Serve.

Christ is Risen!
Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *Jamming with Jools*

Brian Priestley

Chancel flowers are given by John Rodammer in memory of his dad's birthday

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

Participants in Today's Service

Pastor:

The Rev. Susan Loney
pastor@ststeph.org

Music Director:

Claudio Espejo

Assisting Minister/Lector:

Michele Torchia

Usher:

John Gordon

Altar Guild:

Karleen Strayer

Camera:

Rick Feltman

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Text the word "welcome" to 855-965-5200 to receive our weekly e-newsletter.

May God go with you today and every day.

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