



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

HOLY COMMUNION

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 15, 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.

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome

Joys & Concerns

**** Confession & Forgiveness**

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

Blessed be God, the one who forms us,

✙ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility,
confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,

**you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.**

We are overwhelmed

by the world's violence and suffering.

We are afraid to risk what we have
 for the sake of others.
 For the harm we have caused,
 known and unknown, forgive us.
 For the unjust demands we place on others
 and your creation, forgive us.
 For the ways we turn away
 from you and our neighbor, forgive us.
 Lead us back to you
 and set us on the right path;
 in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
 Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
 God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
 God's compassion is beyond compare.
 In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
 In ☩ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.
 Amen.

**** Gathering Hymn**

Now the Feast and Celebration

ELW 167

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion
 sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;
 praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

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

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

Refrain
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

Refrain
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

Refrain
God; to make all things new.

Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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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.

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

** Hymn of Praise



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

** 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

Isaiah 25:1-9 (p. 639)

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 23

The Psalm will be read responsively.

¹The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures**

and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;**

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,**

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Second Reading

Philippians 4:1-9 (p. 1071)

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! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

**** Gospel**

Matthew 22:1-14 (p. 900)

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. Susan Loney

**** Hymn of the Day**

O God of Every Nation

ELW 713



1 O God of ev - 'ry na - tion, of ev - 'ry race and land,
2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
3 Lord, strength-en all who la - bor that all may find re - lease
4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,



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

re - deem your whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand;
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc-tion through the night,
 from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,

where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,
 from pride of race and sta - tion and blind-ness to your way,
 when hope and cour-age fal - ter, Lord, let your voice be heard;
 till dawns the morn-ing glo - rious when truth and love shall reign,

in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
 de - liv - er ev - 'ry na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
 with faith that none can al - ter, your ser-vants un - der - gird.
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

Text: William W. Reid Jr., b. 1923
 Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.
 Text © 1958, ren. 1986 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

**** 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.**

**** Prayers of the People**

Each portion of the prayer ends with:

Response: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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

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 never 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.

** Offering Song

I Come with Joy

ELW 482



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

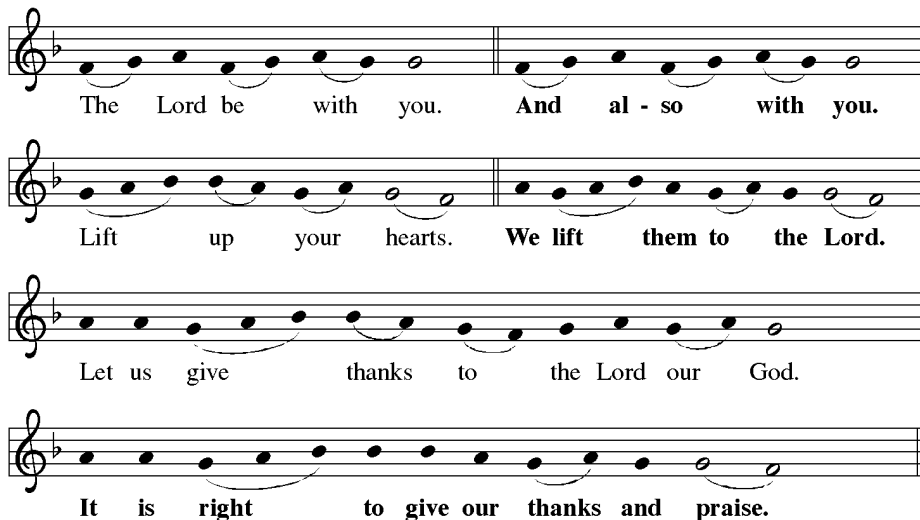
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** Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

** Offering Prayer

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

** Dialogue



The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

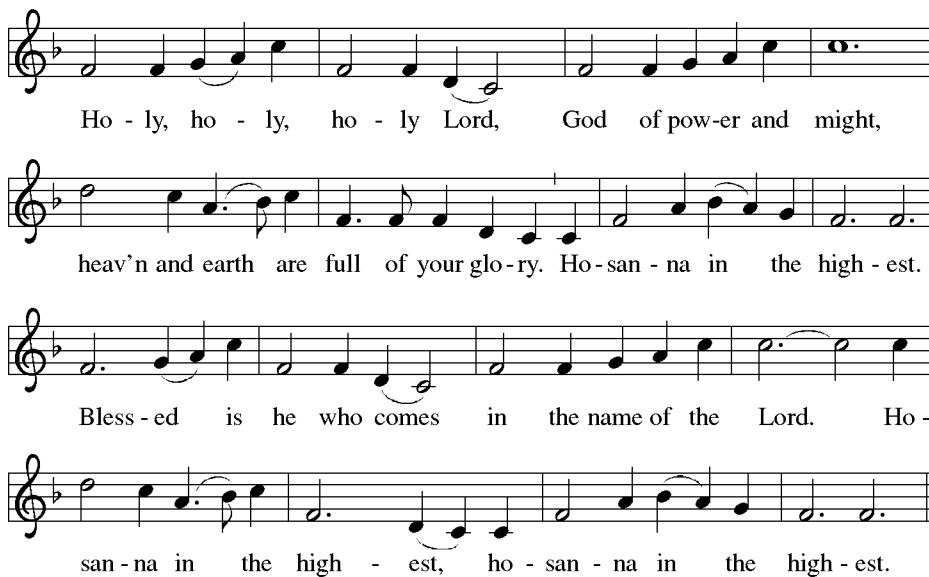
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

** Preface

** Holy, Holy, Holy



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

heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. **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.**

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

**** Thanksgiving at the Table**

Honor, praise, glory and thanksgiving...we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Gathered as your people, meeting in Jesus' name, and preparing ourselves to feast upon Jesus' very body and blood, we plead with all creation:

Come, Lord Jesus.

Send your Spirit upon this meal, the body and blood of Jesus, that we overflow with your selfless love. Turn us to face our neighbors, that by us and through us your love may be known in the world. Again, we beg:

Come, Holy Spirit.

All honor and praise and glory to you, God of creative, dirty hands, God of holy, wounded hands, God who strengthens and guides our hands, now and forever.

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



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

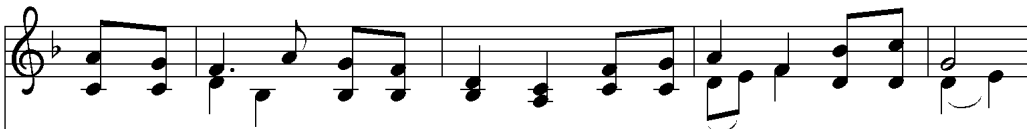
Communion

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. Wheat and GF wafers are available as are red wine and white juice.

Communion Hymn

By Your Hand Feed Your People

ELW 469



- 1 By your hand you feed your peo - ple, food of an - gels, heav-en's bread.
- 2 In this meal we taste your sweet-ness, bread for hun - ger, wine of peace.
- 3 Send us now with faith and cour - age to the hun - gry, lost, be - reaved.



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

For these gifts we did not la - bor, by your grace have we been fed:
 Ho - ly word and ho - ly wis - dom sat - is - fy our deep - est needs.
 In our liv - ing and our dy - ing, we be - come what we re - ceive:

Refrain

Christ's own bod - y, blessed and bro - ken, cup o'er - flow - ing, life out - poured,

giv - en as a liv - ing to - ken of your world re - deemed, re - stored.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952
 Music: CAMROSE, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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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.

Holy Jesus, in this meal you have fed and nourished us
to work in your beloved world.

Send us now, filled with yourself and strengthened by your Spirit
to live your life for others. Amen.

Announcements

** Blessing

** Sending Hymn

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

ELW 547



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.

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



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
Text © 1964 World Library Publications, 3708 River Rd., Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158. All rights reserved.

**** Dismissal**

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

*Chancel flowers are given by Bob & Sue Linderman
in loving memory of Bob's mother, Martha Adams*

*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.*

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**** 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

Music Director:

Claudio Espejo

Assisting Minister/Lector:

Michele Torchia

Usher:

John Rodammer

Altar Guild:

Sally Dudderar

Camera:

John Gordon

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

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