



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

HOLY COMMUNION

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 16, 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

Today's first reading, Psalm, and Gospel are about sowers, seeds, and soils -and about the abundant growth which God provides.

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**

What Is This Place

ELW 524

1 What is this place where we are meet - ing? On - ly a house, the
2 Words from a - far, stars that are fall - ing, sparks that are sown in
3 And we ac - cept bread at this ta - ble, bro - ken and shared, a

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

earth its floor. Walls and a roof shel - ter - ing peo - ple,
 us like seed: names for our God, dreams, signs and won - ders
 liv - ing sign. Here in this world, dy - ing and liv - ing,

win-dows for light, an o - pen door. Yet it be-comes a bod - y that lives
 sent from the past are all we need. We in this place re - mem - ber and speak
 we are each oth - er's bread and wine. This is the place where we can re - ceive

when we are gath - ered here, and know our God is near.
 a - gain what we have heard: God's free re - deem - ing word.
 what we need to in - crease: our jus - tice and God's peace.

**** 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 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.



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.



** 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

Isaiah 55:10-13 (p. 672)

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 65: [1-8] 9-13

The Psalm will be read responsively.

[1You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;
to you shall vows be fulfilled.

**2To you, the one who answers prayer,
to you all flesh shall come.**

**3Our sins are stronger than we are,
but you blot out our transgressions.**

**4Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your
temple.**

**5Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.**

**6You make firm the mountains by your power;
you are girded about with might.**

**7You still the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.**

**8Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs;
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.]**

**9You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of
God is full of water.
You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.**

**10You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

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

¹¹You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.

¹²May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.

¹³May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves
with grain;
let them shout for joy and sing.

Second Reading

Romans 8:1-11 (p. 1029)

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**

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (p. 889, 890)

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

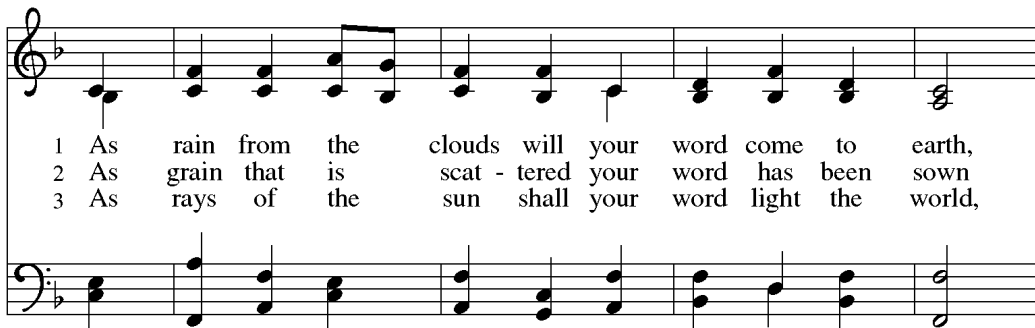
The Rev. Susan Loney

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

** Hymn of the Day

As Rain from the Clouds (verses 1 and 3)

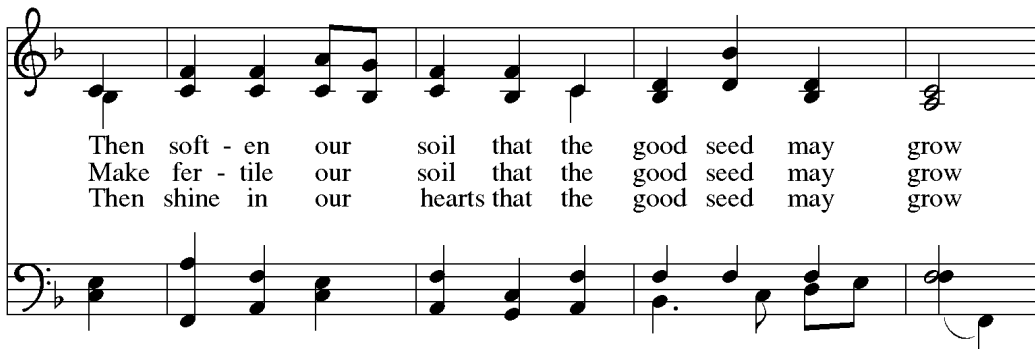
ELW 508



1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,
2 As grain that is scat - tered your word has been sown
3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,



as snow from the heav - ens re - fresh - ing the land.
on rocks and on road - ways, in good earth and sand.
a - wak - ing and warm - ing, and heal - ing our land.



Then soft - en our soil that the good seed may grow
Make fer - tile our soil that the good seed may grow
Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow

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

and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
 and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
 and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.

We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;
 We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;
 We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;

we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
 we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
 we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.

We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
 We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
 We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,

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

for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.

** 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: Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great.**

** 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

We Come Now to Your Table, Lord

ACS 970

We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, you are the Liv - ing Bread.

The first line of musical notation consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff contains a harmonic accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The accompaniment starts with a quarter note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, Bb2, and C3.

We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, let ev - 'ry soul be fed.

The second line of musical notation consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff contains a harmonic accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The accompaniment starts with a quarter note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, Bb2, and C3.

** 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.

**** 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.

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

**** Preface**

**** 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

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,

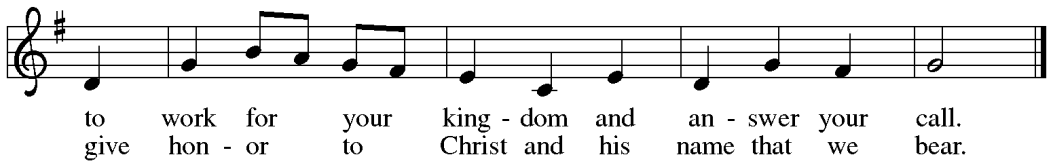
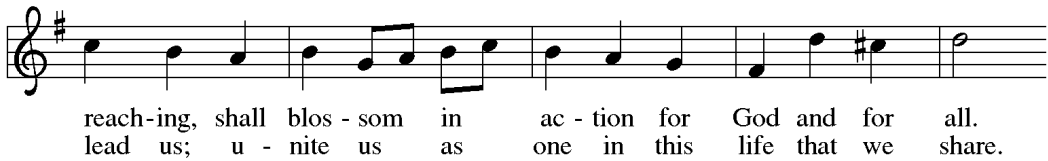


the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



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

** 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 by the Call Committee
Welcome Pastor Sue and Kevin!*

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

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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Participants in Today's Service

Pastor:

The Rev. Susan Loney

Music Director:

Claudio Espejo

Assisting Minister/Lector:

Michael Farthing

Usher:

John Rodammer

Altar Guild:

Karleen Strayer

Camera:

John Gordon

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

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