

# St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

## HOLY COMMUNION

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 27, 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 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**

*Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

ELW 645

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. It contains a melody with various note values and rests. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. The lyrics are printed below the top staff, with four numbered lines of text.

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and  
2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of  
3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from  
4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or

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

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,  
 hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,  
 you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er  
 to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,

bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's  
 hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est  
 with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter  
 ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and

help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.  
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.  
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.  
 one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

**\*\* 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



\*\* 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 51:1-6 (p. 667-668)

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

## Psalm

Psalm 138

*The Psalm will be read responsively.*

- <sup>1</sup>I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I will sing your praise.
- <sup>2</sup>**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;  
for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**
- <sup>3</sup>When I called, you answered me;  
you increased my strength within me.
- <sup>4</sup>**All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,  
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**
- <sup>5</sup>They will sing of the ways of the LORD,  
that great is the glory of the LORD.
- <sup>6</sup>**The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly,  
perceiving the haughty from afar.**
- <sup>7</sup>Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.
- <sup>8</sup>**You will make good your purpose for me;  
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

## Second Reading

Romans 12:1-8 (p. 1033-1034)

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.



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

**\*\* Gospel**

Matthew 16:13-20 (p. 893-894)

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**

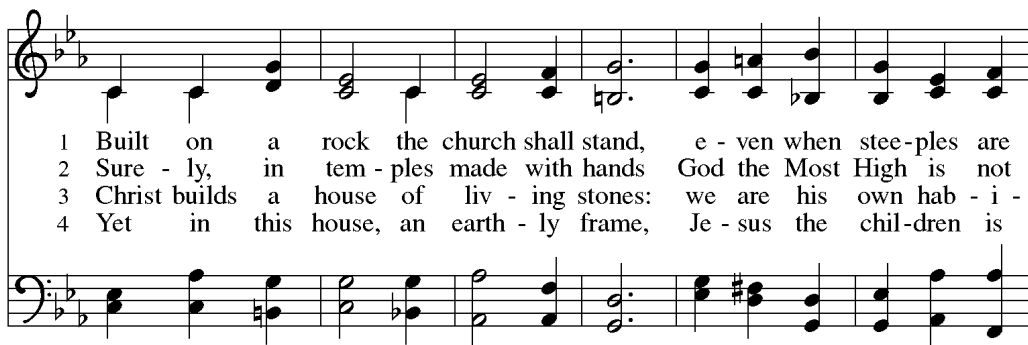
The Rev. Susan Loney

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

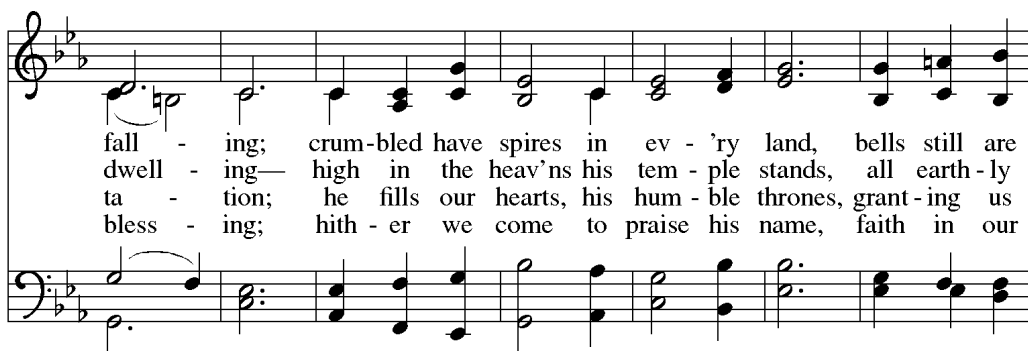
## \*\* Hymn of the Day

*Built on a Rock* verses 1, 3, 5

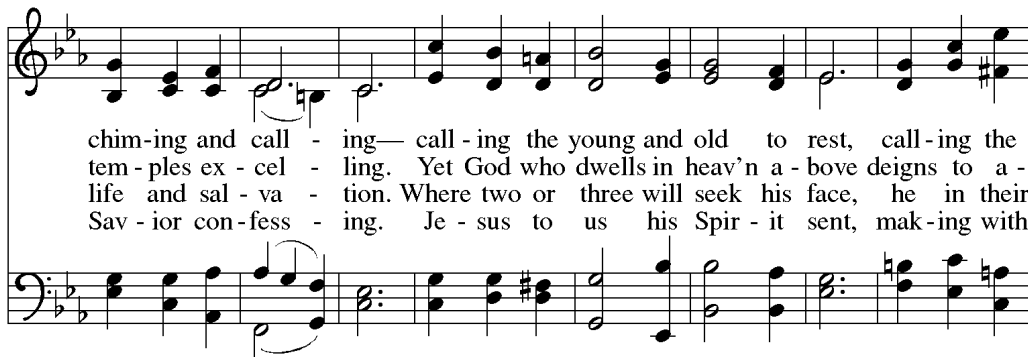
ELW 652



1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are  
2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not  
3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -  
4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is



fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are  
dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly  
ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us  
bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our



chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the  
tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -  
life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their  
Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with

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



souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.  
 bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.  
 midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.  
 us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.

5 Through all the passing years, O Lord,  
 grant that, when church bells are ringing,  
 many may come to hear your Word,  
 who here this promise is bringing:  
 “I know my own, my own know me;  
 you, not the world, my face shall see;  
 my peace I leave with you. Amen.”

**\*\* 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.*

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

## 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.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 7/8. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines. There are fermatas and slurs with a '2' indicating a second ending in the piano accompaniment.

## 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**

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

**\*\* Sending Hymn**

*We Are All One in Mission*

ELW 576



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,  
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit - ness in God's name.  
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.  
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:  
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove  
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,  
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,

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





to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.  
 so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.  
 our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

**\*\* Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude**

*Chancel flowers are given by John Rodammer  
 in honor of his granddaughter Harper's baptism*

\*\* 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:**

Bob Linderman

**Usher:**

John Gordon

**Altar Guild:**

Michele Torchia

**Camera:**

John Rodammer

**Ministers:**

The people of St. Stephen's

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

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