



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

HOLY COMMUNION

The Holy Trinity
May 26, 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: *Prelude in d minor*

Bach

Welcome

Joys & Concerns

**** Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:

Glory to you forever!

Speaker, Word, and Breath of Life:

Glory to you forever!

Font of Blessing, Living Water, Flowing River:

Glory to you forever!

Compassionate Mother, Beloved Child, Life-Giving Womb:

Glory to you forever!

Sun, Light, and Burning Ray:

Glory to you forever!

Giver, Gift, and Giving:
Glory to you forever!

Lover, Beloved, and Love itself:
Glory to you forever!

Rock, Cornerstone, and Temple:
Glory to you forever!

Consuming Fire, Dividing Sword, Overpowering Storm:
Glory to you forever!

Rainbow of Promise, Ark of Salvation, Dove of Peace:
Glory to you forever!

God who was, God who is, God who is to come:
Glory to you forever!

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you. You are the fountain of resurrection.

Glory to you for the waters of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this water. Breathe your Spirit into all who gather here and into all creation. Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.

Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

** Gathering Hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty

ELW 413

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

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

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.
 Music: NICAEA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

** 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.



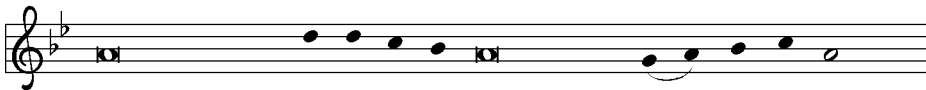
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



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

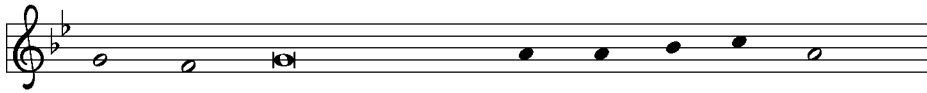
** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.



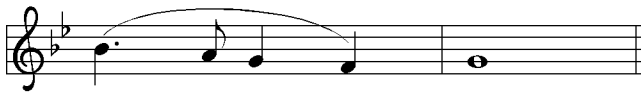
praise, let us pray to the Lord.



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 - mighty 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

Isaiah 6:1-8

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 29

¹Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**²Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;
worship the LORD in holy splendor.**

³The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over mighty waters.

**⁴The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

**⁶He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

**⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

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

⁹The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

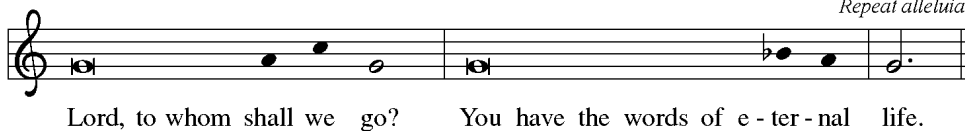
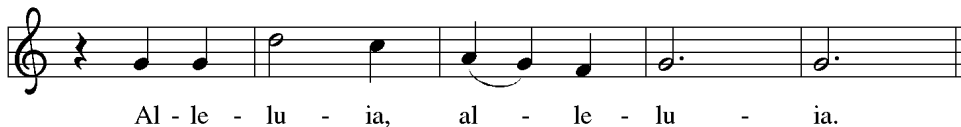
¹¹May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Second Reading

Romans 8:12-17

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

** Gospel Acclamation



** Gospel

John 3:1-17

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

Come Join the Dance of Trinity

ELW 412



- 1 Come, join the dance of Trin - i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun—
- 2 Come, see the face of Trin - i - ty, new - born in Beth - le - hem;
- 3 Come, speak a - loud of Trin - i - ty, as wind and tongues of flame
- 4 With - in the dance of Trin - i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun,



the in - ter-weav - ing of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.
then blood - ied by a crown of thorns out - side Je - ru - sa - lem.
set peo - ple free at Pen - te - cost to tell the Sav - ior's name.
we sing the prais - es of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.



The u - ni - verse of space and time did not a - rise by chance,
The dance of Trin - i - ty is meant for hu - man flesh and bone;
We know the yoke of sin and death, our necks have worn it smooth;
Let voic - es rise and in - ter-weave, by love and hope set free,



but as the Three, in love and hope, made room with - in their dance.
when fear con - fines the dance in death, God rolls a - way the stone.
go tell the world of weight and woe that we are free to move!
to shape in song this joy, this life: the dance of Trin - i - ty.

Text: Richard Leach, b. 1953

Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

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** 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: Merciful God, 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.

** Offering Song

Let Us Now Go to the Banquet

ELW 523

Refrain / Estribillo

Va - mos to - dos al ban - que - te, a la
Let us go now to the ban - quet, to the

me - sa de la crea - ción; ca - da cual con su ta - bu -
feast of the u - ni - verse. The ta - ble's set and a place is

re - te tie - ne un pues - to yu - na mi - sión.
wait - ing; come, ev - 'ry - one, with your gifts to share.

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



1 Hoy me le - van - to muy tem - pra - no; ya me es -
 1 I will rise in the ear - ly morn - ing; the com -
 2 God in - vites all the poor and hun - gry to the
 3 May we build such a place a - mong us where all



pe - ra la co - mu - ni - dad; voy su - bien - do a - le - gre la
 mu - ni - ty's wait - ing for me. With a spring in my step I'm
 ban - quet of jus - tice and good where the har - vest will not be
 peo - ple are e - qual in love. God has called us to work to -



Refrain / Estribillo

cues - ta, voy en bus - ca de tu a - mis - tad.
 walk - ing with my friends and my fam - i - ly.
 hoard - ed so that no one will lack for food.
 geth - er and to share ev - 'ry - thing we have.

2 *Dios invita a todos los pobres a esta mesa común por la fe, donde no hay acaparadores y a nadie le falta el conqué.* Estribillo

3 *Dios nos manda a hacer de este mundo una mesa donde haya igualdad, trabajando y luchando juntos, compartiendo la propiedad.* Estribillo

Text: Guillermo Cuéllar, b. 1955, *Misa popular salvadoreña*; tr. Bret Hesla, b. 1957, and William Dexheimer Pharris, b. 1956
 Music: VAMOS TODOS AL BANQUETE, Guillermo Cuéllar, b. 1955
 Text and music © 1994, 1996 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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**** Offering Prayer**

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

**** Dialogue**

The Lord be with you.

And also 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



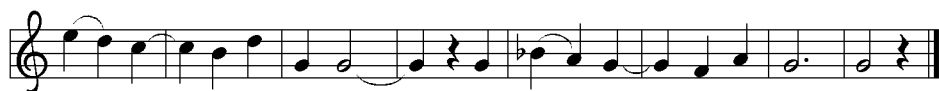
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



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, Holy One, Holy Three! ...And so we cry, Mercy:
Mercy!

And so we cry, Glory:
Glory!

And so we cry, Blessing:
Blessing!

Holy God, we beg for your Spirit:
Enliven this bread,
awaken this body,
pour us out for each other.

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

Transfigure our minds, ignite your church,
nourish the life of the earth.
Make us, while many, united,
make us, though broken, whole, make us, despite death, alive.

And so we cry, Come, Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit!

And so the church shouts, Come, Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit!

And so the earth pleads, Come, Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit!

You, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three,
our Life, our Mercy, our Might,
our Table, our Food, our Server,
our Rainbow, our Ark, our Dove,
our Sovereign, our Water, our Wine,
our Light, our Treasure, our Tree,
our Way, our Truth, our Life.

You, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three!

Praise now, praise tomorrow, praise forever.

And so we cry, Amen, amen:

Amen, 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.**

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

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.

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

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

ELW 735



1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright
2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing
3 Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - t'ring one, in arms of



morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of ev - 'ry
me your food of light, grain . . . of life, and grape of
pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I root and



breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.
grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

Text: Jean Janzen, b. 1933; based on Julian of Norwich, c. 1342–c. 1413

Music: NORWICH, Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936

Text © 1991 Jean Janzen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

Communion Blessing

** Post Communion Prayer

Together, let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.

As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.

In your name we pray. 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 blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

** Sending Hymn

Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

ELW 527

1 Lord Je - sus Christ, be pres - ent now; our
2 Un - seal our lips to sing your praise in
3 Then shall we join the hosts that cry, "O
4 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and

hearts in true de - vo - tion bow. Your Spir - it send with
end - less hymns through all our days; in - crease our faith and
ho - ly, ho - ly Lord Most High!" And in the light of
Ho - ly Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed

light di - vine, and let your truth with - in us shine.
light our minds; and set us free from doubt that blinds.
that blest place we then shall see you face to face.
Trin - i - ty, be praise through-out e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: attr. Wilhelm II, 1598–1662; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: HERR JESU CHRIST, DICH ZU UNS WEND, *Cantionale Germanicum*, Gochsheim, 1628

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

**** Dismissal**

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

The glory of the Lord fills the earth.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *Fugue in d minor*

Bach

*Chancel flowers are given by Tom, Karleen and Leah Strayer
in honor of Emily's graduation from the
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine*

**** 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:

Karen Weber

Usher:

John Rodammer

Altar Guild:

Michele Torchia

Camera:

Michael Lehm

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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