

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

HOLY COMMUNION

Reformation Sunday
October 29, 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**

Making Their Way

ACS 979

1 Mak-ing their way down through the a - ges, sin - ners and saints have
2 Mak-ing their way all the world o - ver, Chris - tians as - sem - ble
3 Mak-ing our way sea - son by sea-son, pil - grims, we jour - ney

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

heard God's call: wealth - y and poor, pow - er - ful, low - ly,
 on this day, hear - ing the Word, shar - ing the Ban - quet,
 till life's end, trav - el - ing light, shar - ing the rich - es,

Je - sus' dis - ci - ples, one and all. Gath - ered for wor - ship, of - fer - ing thanks,
 learn - ing to walk in Je - sus' way. Mem - bers of Christ, u - nit - ed in love,
 car - ing for strang - er as for friend, till in the joy of long - ing ful - filled,

the great - est with the least have come to share this feast.
 they seek our God to know, and so to - geth - er grow.
 to - geth - er we will come to our e - ter - nal home.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
 Music: KOMT NU MET ZANG, A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclank*, 1626; arr. Adrian Engels, 1906-2003
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 Arr. © 1967 Gooi en Sticht, BV, Baarn, The Netherlands, admin. OCP, 5536 N. Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. 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.**

** 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

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (p. 721)

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 46

The Psalm will be read responsively.

¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

²**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸**Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰**Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."**

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

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

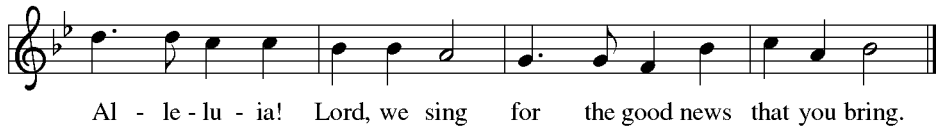
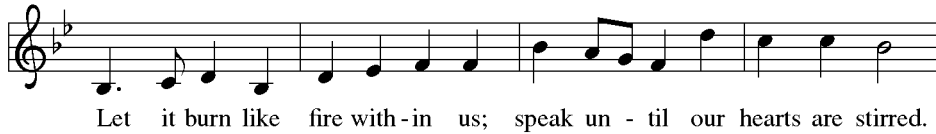
Second Reading

Romans 3:19-28 (p. 1026)

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

** Gospel Acclamation



** Gospel

John 8:31-36 (p. 975-76)

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you O Lord.

The Gospel of the 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

The Church of Christ, in Every Age

ELW 729

1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -

change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -

her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000
Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698-1768
Text © 1971 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.**

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

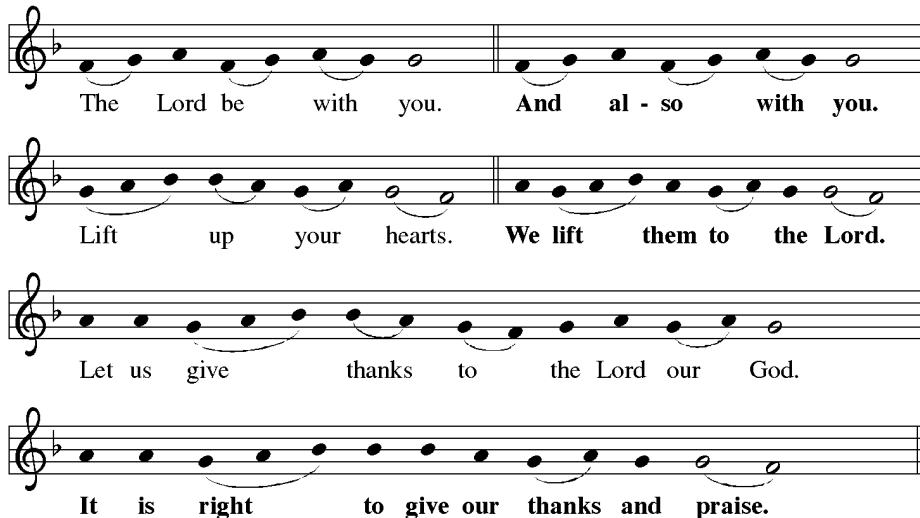
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** Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

** Offering Prayer

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

** Dialogue



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

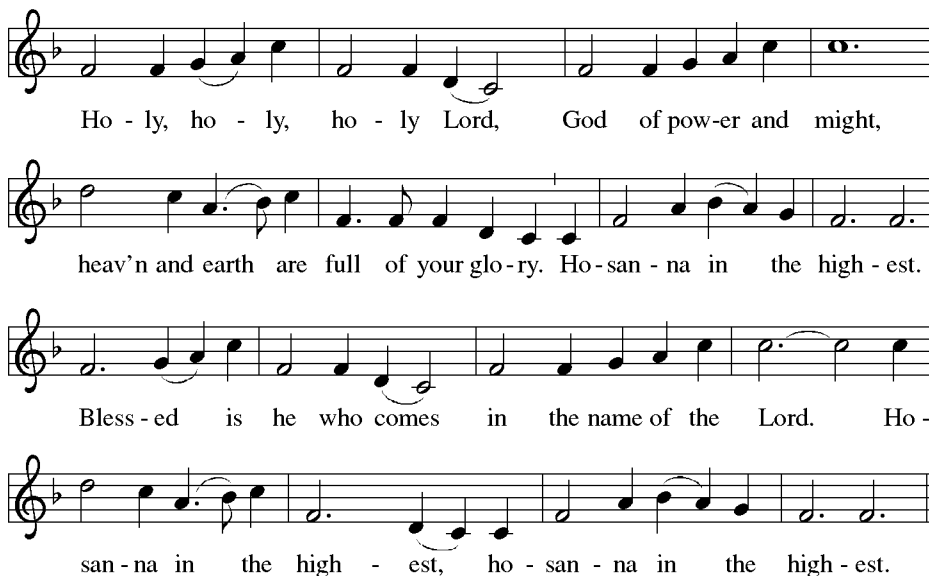
Lift up your hearts. **We lift** them to the Lord.

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

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord... be all honor and glory, 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

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.

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

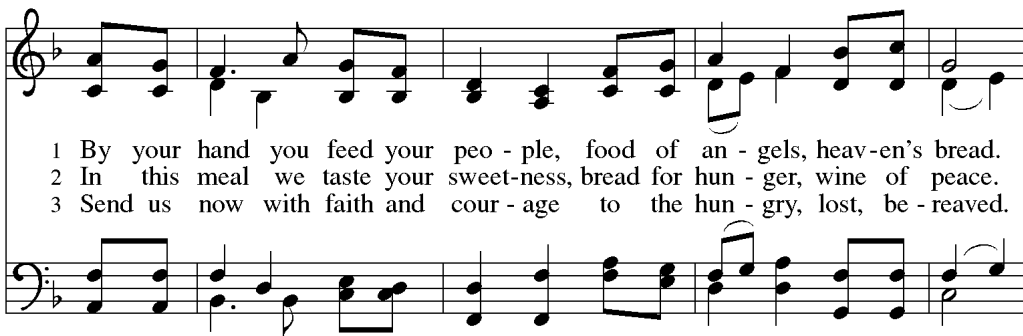
Communion

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 juice.

Communion Hymn

By Your Hand Feed Your People

ELW 469



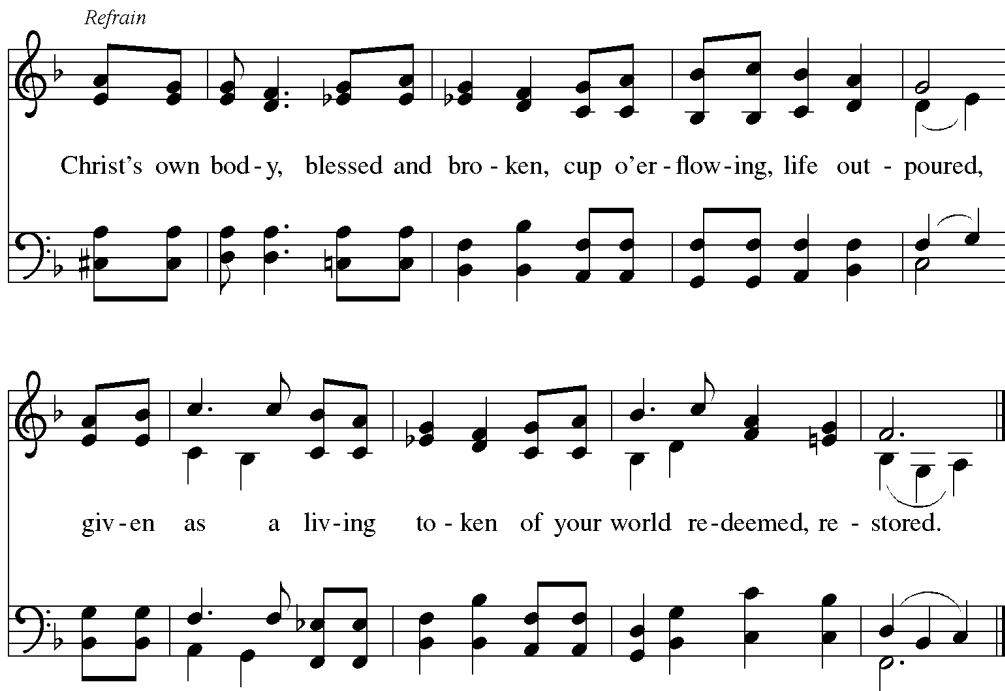
1 By your hand you feed your peo - ple, food of an - gels, heav-en's bread.
2 In this meal we taste your sweet-ness, bread for hun - ger, wine of peace.
3 Send us now with faith and cour - age to the hun - gry, lost, be - reaved.



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:

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

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

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

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

**** Blessing**

**** Sending Hymn**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

ELW 504

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat -'ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

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

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**** Dismissal**

Go in peace. The truth will make you free. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

*Chancel flowers are given by Pastor Sue & Kevin Loney
 in thanksgiving for ministry with the people of St. Stephen's*

*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:

Ann Iona Warner

Usher:

John Gordon

Altar Guild:

Carol Landry

Camera:

Rick Feltman

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

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

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