



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

HOLY COMMUNION

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 12, 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 the holy Trinity, † one God,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,
we confess that we are not awake for you.
We are not faithful in using your gifts.
We forget the least of our siblings.
We do not see your beautiful image in one another.

We are infected by sin
that divides your beloved community.
Open our hearts to your coming,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation.
Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children, ...from the foundation of the world.
Amen.

**** Gathering Hymn**

Soon and Very Soon

ELW 439

1 Soon and ver - y soon
2 No more cry - in' there,
3 No more dy - in' there,
4 Soon and ver - y soon

we are goin' to see the King,

soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there,
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon

we are goin' to see the King,

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

soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!
 1, 2, 3

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: Andraé Crouch

Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

VERY SOON

12 12 12 and refrain

Coda after stanza 4
 Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -

jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

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

**** 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.

**** 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

Amos 5:18-24 (p. 839)

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 70

The Psalm will be read responsively.

¹Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;

O LORD, make haste to help me.

²**Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;**

let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.

³Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me

turn back because of their shame.

⁴**Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;**

let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great is the LORD!”

⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.

You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (p. 1077)

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

** 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.

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

**** Gospel**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
The Gospel of the Lord.

Matthew 25:1-13 (p. 903-904)

Glory to you O Lord.
Praise to you O Christ.

**** Gospel Acclamation**

Please see gospel acclamation on page 5.

Sermon

The Rev. Susan Loney

**** Hymn of the Day**

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

ELW 436

1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and

on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
heart with joy is spring - ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym - bal's clear - est tone.

Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to

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

thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
 bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.

The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might

Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!

go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite
 Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai
 Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

** 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: 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

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

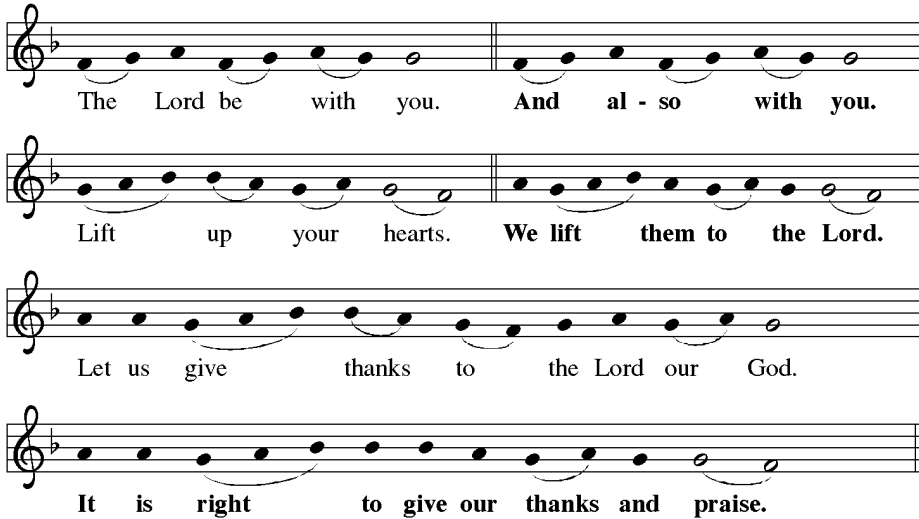
Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

**** Offering Prayer**

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

**** Dialogue**



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

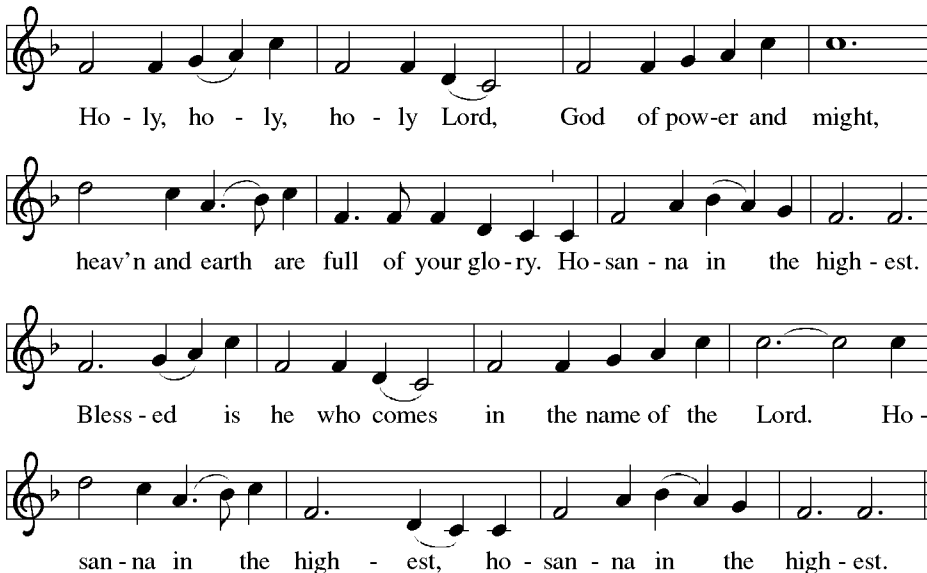
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

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.

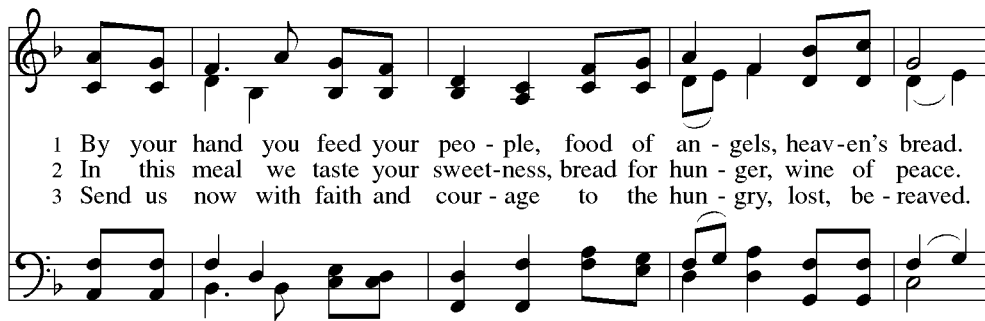
Communion

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

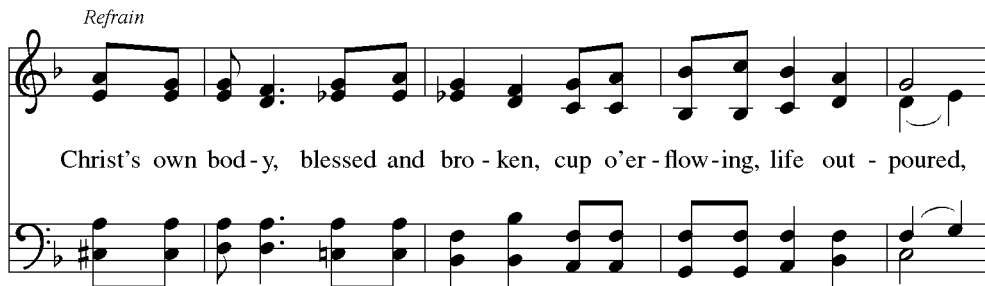


1 By your hand you feed your peo - ple, food of an - gels, heav-en's bread.
2 In this meal we taste your sweet-ness, bread for hun - ger, wine of peace.
3 Send us now with faith and cour - age to the hun - gry, lost, be - reaved.



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:

Refrain



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

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

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
 Text and music © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

Communion Blessing

Sending

We are sent into the world to serve.

Post Communion Prayer

Together, let us pray.

Lord Jesus,
 in this simple meal you have set a banquet.
 Sustain us on the journey,
 strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
 and give us glad and generous hearts
 as we meet you on the way.

Amen.

Announcements

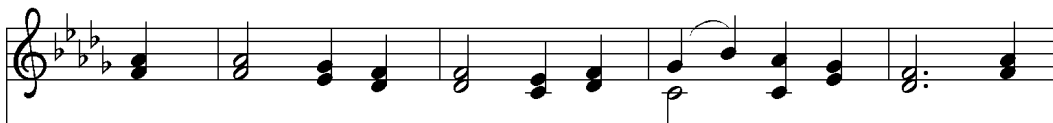
** Blessing

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

** Sending Hymn

When Peace Like a River

ELW 785



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.



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

Refrain

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul,

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888
 Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

**** Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord: love your neighbor.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

*The chancel flowers are given by Bob & Sue Linderman in loving memory of
 Sue's father, John Rowell and Bob's sister-in-law, Jeanne Linderman*

*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:

Michael Farthing

Usher:

John Rodammer

Altar Guild:

Carol Landry

Camera:

Ann Warner

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

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

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