



# St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

## HOLY COMMUNION

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 20, 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**

*All Are Welcome*

ELW 641

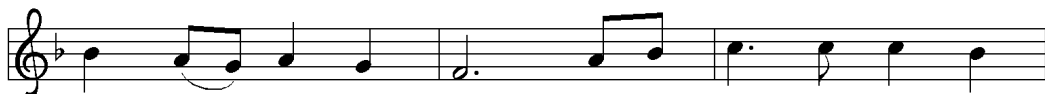


1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly  
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and  
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and  
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and  
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how  
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to  
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where  
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and  
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as

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



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of  
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we  
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in  
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an  
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
 claim the faith of Je - sus:  
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,  
 end to fear and dan - ger:  
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

**\*\* 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



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.



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



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.



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.

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 56:1, 6-8 (p. 672-673)

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm**

Psalm 67

*The Psalm will be read responsively.*

<sup>1</sup>May God be merciful to us and bless us;  
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

<sup>2</sup>**Let your way be known upon earth,  
your saving health among all nations.**

<sup>3</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>4</sup>**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

<sup>5</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>6</sup>**The earth has brought forth its increase;  
God, our own God, has blessed us.**

<sup>7</sup>May God give us blessing,  
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

## **Second Reading**

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 (p. 1032, 1033)

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 15:[10-20] 21-28 (p. 892-893)

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

*Build a Longer Table*

ACS 1062



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,  
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;  
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.  
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.  
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.  
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.  
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,  
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,  
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,  
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.  
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.  
Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.  
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

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



## **\*\* St Stephen's Lutheran Church RIC Welcome Statement**

As a sign of our love for each other and God's whole creation,  
Let us proclaim together St Stephen's Welcome Statement.

**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 –  
that Christ breaks down the dividing walls between us  
and makes us one.**

## **\*\* 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

The musical score consists of two systems. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a bass line on a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, you are the Liv - ing Bread." and "We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, let ev - 'ry soul be fed."

\*\* 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 (B-flat), and the time signature is 7/8. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines. There are fermatas and slurs with a '2' above them 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**

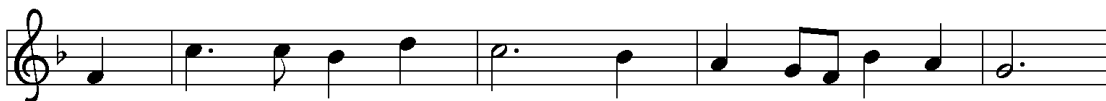
### **\*\* Blessing**

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

**\*\* Sending Hymn**

*Oh, Praise the Gracious Power verses 1, 3, 4, 7*

ELW 651



- 1 Oh, praise the gra - cious pow'r that tum - bles walls of fear  
2 Oh, praise per - sis - tent truth that o - pens fist - ed minds  
3 Oh, praise in - clu - sive love, en - cir - cling ev - 'ry race,  
4 Oh, praise the word of faith that claims us as God's own,  
5 Oh, praise the tide of grace that laps at ev - 'ry shore



and gath - ers in one house of faith all strang - ers far and near:  
and eas - es from their anx - ious clutch the prej - u - dice that blinds:  
ob - liv - i - ous to gen - der, wealth, to so - cial rank or place:  
a liv - ing tem - ple built on Christ, our rock and cor - ner - stone:  
with vi - sions of a world at peace, no lon - ger bled by war:

*Refrain*



We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

- 6 Oh, praise the pow'r, the truth,  
the love, the word, the tide.  
Yet more than these, oh, praise their source,  
praise Christ the crucified: *Refrain*
- 7 Oh, praise the living Christ  
with faith's bright songful voice!  
Announce the gospel to the world  
and with these words rejoice: *Refrain*

**\*\* 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 Kris Peterson and Steve Schmidt  
to the Glory of God and in honor of their 35th anniversary*

**\*\* 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:**

Karen Weber

**Usher:**

John Rodammer

**Altar Guild:**

Sally Dudderar

**Camera:**

Michael Lehm

**Ministers:**

The people of St. Stephen's

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

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