



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

HOLY COMMUNION

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 10, 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

**** Thanksgiving for Baptism**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Trusting that Jesus dwells in our midst and loves us into life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

We give you thanks, Holy One,
for washing us and drawing us into your community.

We give you thanks for the waters
that have shaped and formed your people in every time and place:

For water that washed the earth and brought about your promises;
For water that parted so that your people could dance in freedom;
For water that quenched the thirst of your promised people;
For water that shaped a holy land;
For water that washed a foreigner clean;

For water that satisfied a woman who did not even know she was thirsty;
 For water that welcomed an outsider on the road;
 For water that cleanses and makes whole;
 For water that drenches us and makes us your own.

Holy One, we give you thanks that your love
 flows over and into and through us
 May your Spirit live in us,
 that we might live for others.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

**** Gathering Hymn**

Take My Life That I May Be

ELW 583

**** Greeting**

Refrain/Estribillo

To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -
 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,

da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón
 to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;

To stanzas *Last time*

y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.
 let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.

1 *Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té*
 1 Take my hands and let them move
 2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,
 3 Take my voice and let me sing
 4 Take my will and make it thine;

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



con - sa - gra - da_a ti, Se - ñor;
at the im - pulse of thy love;
not a mite would I with - hold;
al - ways, on - ly for my King;
it shall be no lon - ger mine;



que_a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -
take my feet and let them be swift and
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry
take my lips and let them be filled with
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall



pul - so de tu_a - mor.
beau - ti - ful for thee.
pow'r as thou shalt choose.
mes - sag - es from thee.
be thy roy - al throne.

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**

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

** Prayer of the Day



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!

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

Ezekiel 33:7-11 (p. 787)

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 119:33-40

The Psalm will be read responsively.

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

³⁶**Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.

³⁸**Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰**Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

Second Reading

Romans 13:8-14 (p. 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! 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.

**** Gospel**

Matthew 18:15-20 (p. 895-896)

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

God's Work, Our Hands

ACS 1000



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,

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



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

**** 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: Merciful God, **Receive our prayer.**

**** 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



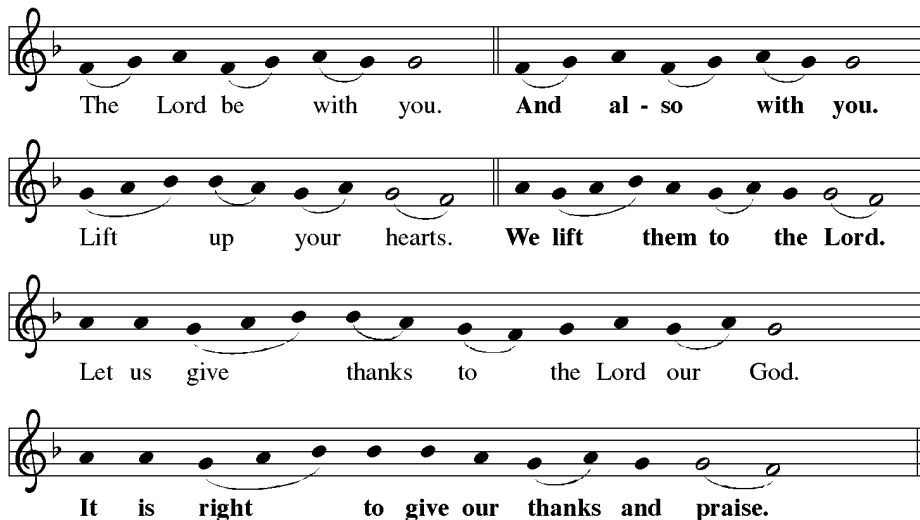
love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

** 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.**

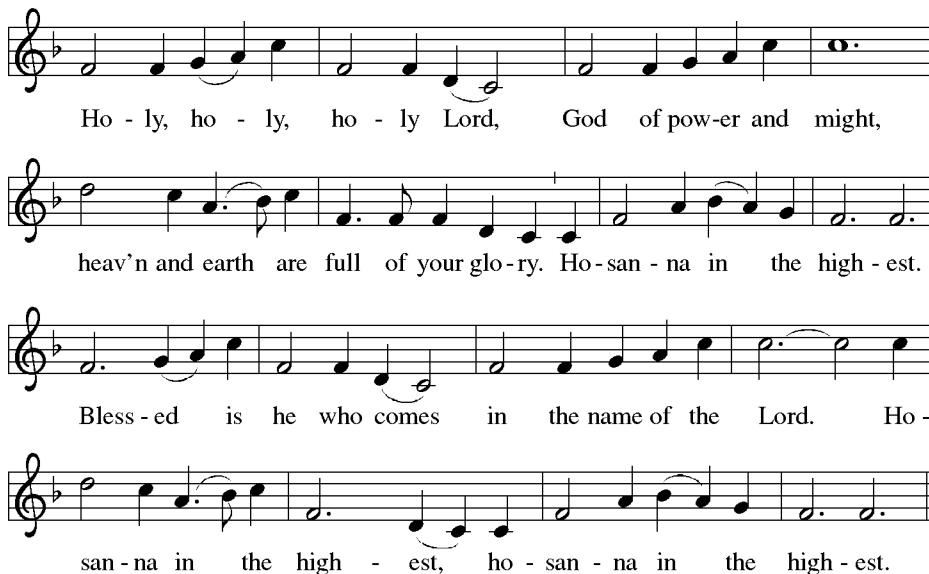
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

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**

Honor, praise, glory and thanksgiving...we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Gathered as your people, meeting in Jesus' name, and preparing ourselves to feast upon Jesus' very body and blood, we plead with all creation:

Come, Lord Jesus.

Send your Spirit upon this meal, the body and blood of Jesus, that we overflow with your selfless love. Turn us to face our neighbors, that by us and through us your love may be known in the world. Again, we beg:

Come, Holy Spirit.

All honor and praise and glory to you, God of creative, dirty hands, God of holy, wounded hands, God who strengthens and guides our hands, 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

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

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.

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

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.

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

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,

giv - en as a liv - ing to - ken of your world re - deemed, re - stored.

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.

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

** Blessing

** Sending Hymn

The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

ELW 538



En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta_es - tá
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,



pa - ra cons-truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.



Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain

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



un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;

me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.

A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

**** Dismissal**

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Chancel flowers are given by St. Stephen's to the Glory of God.

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:

Bob Linderman

Usher:

Altar Guild:

Karleen Strayer

Camera:

Michael Lehm

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

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