



# St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

## HOLY COMMUNION

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 1, 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 G*

Bach

**Welcome**

**Joys & Concerns**

**\*\* Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,  
 have mercy on us.  
 We confess that we have honored you with our lips,  
 but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.  
 The cravings at war within us  
 cause conflicts and disputes.  
 In our desire to be first  
 we make distinctions among ourselves.  
 We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.  
 In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.  
 Draw near to us with grace in time of need,  
 and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,  
 our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God promises to forgive our iniquity  
 and to remember our sin no more.  
 By grace you have been saved.  
 In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ,  
 the source of eternal healing,  
 your sins are forgiven. Amen.

**\*\* Gathering Hymn**

*O Day Full of Grace verses 1-4*

ELW 627

1 O day full of grace that now we see ap - pear - ing on  
 2 How blest was that gra - cious mid - night hour, when God in our  
 3 Yea, were ev - 'ry tree en - dowed with speech, and were ev - 'ry  
 4 As birds in the morn - ing sing their praise, God's fath - er - ly  
 5 When we on that fi - nal jour - ney go that Christ is for

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

earth's ho - ri - zon, bring light from our God that we may  
 flesh was giv - en; then bright - ened the dawn with light and  
 leaf - let sing - ing, they nev - er with praise God's worth could  
 love we cher - ish, for giv - ing to us this day of  
 us pre - par - ing, we'll gath - er in song, our hearts a -

be a - bun - dant in joy this sea - son. God, shine for us  
 pow'r that spread o'er the dark - ened heav - en; then rose o'er the  
 reach, though earth with their praise were ring - ing. Who ful - ly could  
 grace, for life that shall nev - er per - ish. The church God has  
 glow, all joy of the heav - ens shar - ing, and there we will

now in this dark place; your name on our hearts em - bla - zon.  
 world that Sun di - vine, which gloom from our hearts has driv - en.  
 praise the Light of life who light to our souls is bring - ing?  
 kept two thou - sand years, and hun - ger - ing souls did nour - ish.  
 join God's end - less praise, with an - gels and saints a - dor - ing.

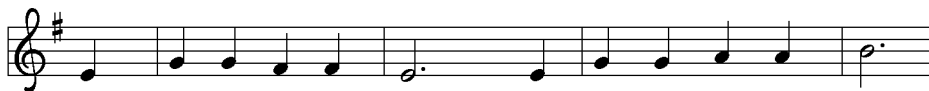
Text: Scandinavian folk hymn; Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. composite  
 Music: DEN SIGNEDE DAG, Christoph E. F. Weyse, 1774–1842

## \*\* 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



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## \*\* 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!

\*\* 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.*

# Word

*God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.*

**First Reading**

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm**

Psalm 15

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, who may abide in your tent?  
Who may dwell on your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup>Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,  
and speak the truth from their heart;

<sup>3</sup>who do not slander with their tongue,  
and do no evil to their friends,  
nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;

<sup>4</sup>in whose eyes the wicked are despised,  
but who honor those who fear the LORD;  
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

<sup>5</sup>who do not lend money at interest,  
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.  
Those who do these things shall never be moved.

**\*\* 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**

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you O Lord.**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you O Christ.**

**\*\* Gospel Acclamation**

*Please see gospel acclamation above.*

**Sermon**

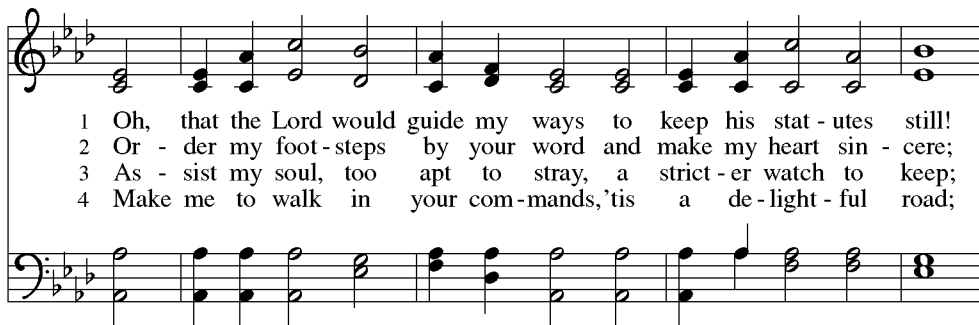
The Rev. Susan Loney

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

## \*\* Hymn of the Day

### *O That the Lord Would Guide My Ways*

ELW 772



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!  
2 Or - der my foot - steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;  
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;  
4 Make me to walk in your com - mands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!  
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.  
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.  
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.  
Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

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

## \*\* Apostles' Creed

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 what God has given us: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. A financial gift to St Stephen's supports the work of the congregation in our community.*

## \*\* Offering Song

*We Come to the Hungry Feast*

ELW 479



1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.  
2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased  
3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,



To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is  
from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,  
and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay



not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.  
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.  
with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

Music: HUNGRY FEAST, Ray Makeever

Text and music © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

\*\* 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 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.**

**\*\* 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

*Holy Communion is a free gift of God's grace and love. Everyone is welcome to share in this meal. Receive bread and dip it into a chalice, consuming both elements at once. Our chalices contain red wine and amber-colored fruit juice. If you wish to receive words of blessing, simply tell the minister.*

## Communion Hymn

*Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup*

ELW 492

*Refrain*



Eat this bread, drink this cup. Taste and see the good-ness of God.




Bread of life, cup of love, we re-joyce in your pres-ence.



- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times, praise with heart and voice;
- 2 Look up - on the Lord, be ra - diant, nev - er turn a - way.
- 3 An - gels fold their wings a - round us, guard through good and ill.
- 4 Saints of God, bow down and wor - ship, bless the ho - ly name.

*Refrain*



in my God I glo - ry for - ev - er: lis - ten and re - joice!  
God will save in ev - 'ry af - flic - tion, hear us when we pray.  
Those who seek the Lord will lack noth - ing; taste, and have your fill.  
Rise to tell God's great - ness for - ev - er, won - drous deeds pro - claim!

Text: Jeremy Young, b. 1948, refrain; *With One Voice*, stanzas, based on Ps. 34  
Music: STONERIDGE, Jeremy Young  
Text and music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

## Communion Blessing

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

**\*\* Post Communion Prayer**

Together, let us pray.

**Holy God,  
you have welcomed us to this meal  
and fed us with dignity at your table.  
Send us now to welcome others  
and to be at peace with one another,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
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

## \*\* Sending Hymn

*Built on a Rock*

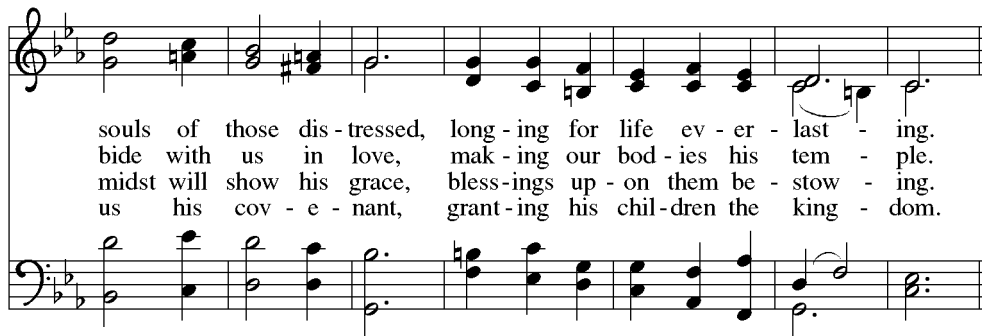
ELW 652

1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are  
2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not  
3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -  
4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is

fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are  
dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly  
ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us  
bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our

chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the  
tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -  
life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their  
Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with

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



souls of those dis-tressed, long-ing for life ev-er-last-ing.  
 bide with us in love, mak-ing our bod-ies his tem-ple.  
 midst will show his grace, bless-ings up-on them be-stow-ing.  
 us his cov-e-nant, grant-ing his chil-dren the king-dom.

5 Through all the passing years, O Lord,  
 grant that, when church bells are ringing,  
 many may come to hear your Word,  
 who here this promise is bringing:  
 "I know my own, my own know me;  
 you, not the world, my face shall see;  
 my peace I leave with you. Amen."

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt.  
 Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMELT HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887  
 Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## \*\* Dismissal

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

Let us follow Jesus.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** *Fugue in G*

Bach

*On September 2, the church commemorates Nicolai Grundtvig, a prolific Danish hymn writer from the 1800s. He wrote nearly 1500 hymns, seven of which are included in ELW. Grundtvig wrote our Gathering and Sending hymns this morning.*

*Flowers are given by John Rodammer  
 in celebration of his daughter Jennifer's birthday*

\*\* 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  
pastor@ststeph.org

**Musician:**

Name

**Assisting Minister/Lector:**

Michele Torchia

**Usher:**

John Rodammer

**Altar Guild:**

Sally Dudderar

**Camera:**

Ann Iona Warner

**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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St. Stephen's Lutheran Church  
1301 N Broom St. Wilmington, DE 19806 302-652-7623  
www.ststeph.org office@ststeph.org