



Sunday, September 28, 2025  
16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

St. Stephen Lutheran Church  
Rooted in our Tradition, Open to Yours

Welcome and Prelude

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

**Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful and loving God, **we are your stiff-necked people.**

**We trample on the needy.**

**We grumble about your grace to others.**

**We turn away from the poor.**

**Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**

**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found.**

**Amen.**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.

Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

You who were lost have been found.

In the name of ✝ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

**Amen.**



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

### Greeting

The grace of Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



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.



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.

## Prayer of the Day

O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## The Reading: Psalm 146

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup> I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

<sup>3</sup> Put not your trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup> When they breathe their last, they return to earth,

and in that day their thoughts perish.

<sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,

whose hope is in the LORD their God;

<sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;

who keeps promises forever;

<sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

The LORD sets the captive free.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

the LORD loves the righteous.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD cares for the stranger;

the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD shall reign forever,

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**Gospel: Luke 16:19-31 Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>19</sup> "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup> And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup> who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. <sup>22</sup> The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup> He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.' <sup>25</sup> But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup> Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' <sup>27</sup> He said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' <sup>29</sup> Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' <sup>30</sup> He said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' <sup>31</sup> He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' "

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

O God of Mercy, God of Light

ELW 714 vs 1, 3, 4, 5



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and  
 2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost  
 3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for  
 4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er  
 world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we  
 those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and  
 Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.  
 stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.  
 word and thought may work a work for you.  
 grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,  
 may we each other's burdens share;  
 may we, where help is needed, there  
 give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move  
 all those who live to live in love,  
 till you receive in heav'n above  
 all those who live in you.

## 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

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church, that it would remain faithful to the gospel, **always striving to serve the needs of those who are oppressed and rejecting the complacency that comes from wealth.** God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation, that the nations work together to protect and restore the earth, **preserving the beauty of the planet for future generations and honoring the gift of your creation.** God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in positions of authority, that they govern with justice and compassion, recognizing the dignity of all people **and working to promote peace and prosperity for all.**

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for people in any need, especially Carolyn Pogany, Ginny Dorsey, Gary Parker, Doris Dickman, Diana Gerber, Janet Bergstrom, Dan & Mary Gleghorn, John & Tacy Raymaley, Debbie, Katie, Shelly, Shari, Beth, RAHAB Ministries, and all those we hold in our hearts. Give them your assurance and courage when the path forward is not clear. **Liberate us from all that binds us, lift us up when we are bowed down, and show us your love.**

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation, that we would be strengthened to build a world where all can thrive. **Incite us to advocate for fair wages and just policies, and guide us in building a community of mutual support.**

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We remember in thanksgiving the faithful departed. **Inspire us by their example to love and serve our neighbors, and bring us to eternal life.**

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**



## The Sharing of the Peace

### Meal

#### Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

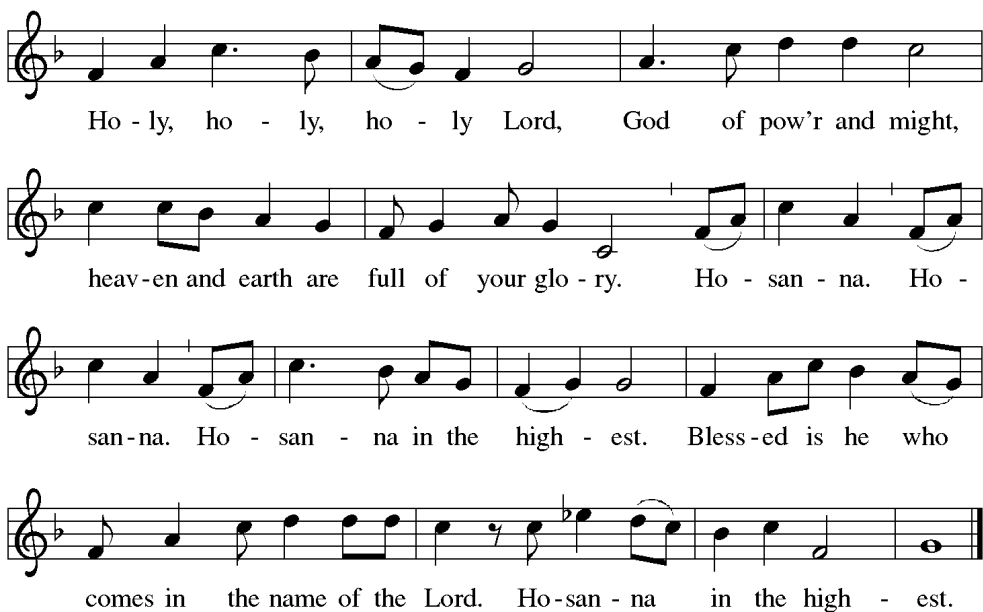
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcomes death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opens to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san-na. 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.

### The Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

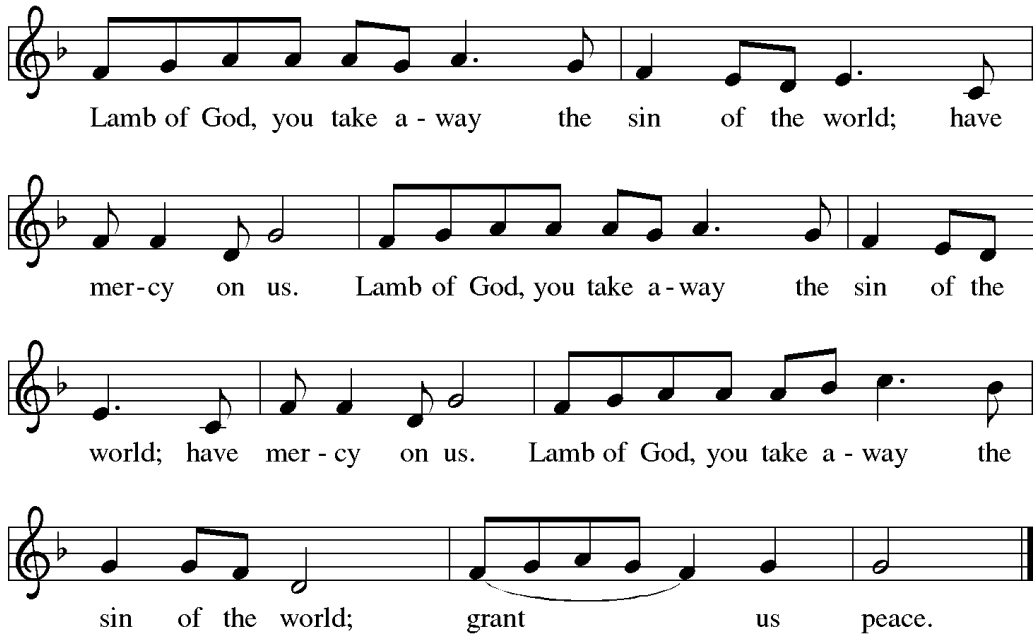
### The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## Communion

All baptized Christians are welcome to participate in Holy Communion. We ask children who have not had First Communion instruction, or adults who do not wish to receive communion, to keep their hands folded and they will receive a blessing.

*\*Gluten free and apple juice options are available.*



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.

## Post-Communion Prayer

O God, through this meal you have strengthened and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**



1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,  
2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,  
3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con - found you,



with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;  
dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

*Refrain*



Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace. **Thanks be to God.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

**Thanks be to God.**

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