



Sunday, August 17, 2025
10th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Welcome and Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.

You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Do not give up on us.

Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life.

Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith.

In the cross of ✝ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

Amen.



1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"
 2 Ser - vants striv - ing for the Lord, proph - ets burn - ing with the word,
 3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,



Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might - y king!"
 those to whom the arts be - long add their voic - es to the song.
 and let chil - dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;



Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;
 Pow'rs of knowl - edge and of law, to the glo - rious cir - cle draw;
 from the north to south - ern pole let the might - y cho - rus roll:



sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.
 all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"
 "Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

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.**



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



1 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.



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, have mer- cy on us; you are seat - ed



at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



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.

Prayer of the Day

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Reading: Jeremiah 23:23-29

²³ Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴ Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" ²⁶ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷ They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Gospel: **Luke 12:49-56 Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹ "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided:

father against son

and son against father,

mother against daughter

and daughter against mother,

mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law

and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

~ *Please remain seated until the Meal* ~

God, When Human Bonds are Broken

ELW 603 vs 1,4,5



1 God, when hu - man bonds are bro - ken and we lack the
2 Through that still - ness, with your Spir - it come in - to our
3 You in us are bruised and bro - ken: hear us as we
4 Send us, God of new be - gin - nings, hum - bly hope - ful
5 Give us faith to be more faith - ful, give us hope to



love or skill to re - store the hope of heal - ing,
world of stress, for the sake of Christ for - giv - ing
seek re - lease from the pain of ear - lier liv - ing;
in - to life. Use us as a means of bless - ing:
be more true, give us love to go on learn - ing:



give us grace and make us still.
all the fail - ures we con - fess.
set us free and grant us peace.
make us stron - ger, give us faith.
God, en - cour - age and re - new!

Blessing of the Backpacks and Teachers

Students:

Let us pray:

Loving God of fresh starts and new beginnings, we bring ourselves, our big feelings and our backpacks to you. In our backpacks, we carry blank pages, sharpened pencils, and pointy crayons, and in our hearts, we carry big feelings, unanswered questions, and hopeful expectations. There are endless possibilities of what this new year might bring - of what we might learn, who we might meet, and who we might become.

God, our friend who is always with us, be with us through it all.

Be with us as we ride the bus. Be with us as we walk. Be with us as we buckle seat belts, zip-up jackets, and tie shoes. However we get there, and whatever we wear, bless this journey into something new.

For grown-ups going back to school,

With-Us God, be with them too. Thank you for our teachers, helpers, caregivers, and leaders, and for all they do to help us learn and grow. God, our friend who's full of wonder, fill their hearts and bless their hands.

Amen.

For Parents, Teachers & Staff:

Let us pray.

Loving God, we say a special prayer for parents, as the start of the new school year is always another leap of faith. Wrap them with your reassuring love as they entrust their children and trust in you. When questions remain unanswered, and the realm of control is finite, bless them with peace and the promise you are right there with their child, whether heading to preschool or driving to college.

We also pray now for teachers, staff and administrators. Bless these faithful servants with courage and confidence, knowing you are in their classroom with a steady hand on their shoulder. Give them peace, patience, and balance in the pressures they face, and bravery to build structures and systems which justly serve all your children. Give them delight in the young ones before them, and recognition of the sweet ways children are also teachers.

We pray for health and wholeness, fun and growth, surprise and amazement, for this school year ahead, knowing you will hold us all the way through. We thank you, God and love you. **Amen.**

Loving God,

Coat the year before us with miracles of your mercy and strength, and help us appreciate most of all the bedrock miracle of your presence with us in every single ordinary, sacred moment. Lead us this school year into life-giving rhythms of grace and light, where our regular routines become the framework for worship and blessing. **Amen.**

Children, families, and all who love them, go out into the beautiful world that God has made! Go and play! Go and learn! God and love others! May you be filled with lovingkindness for yourself and everyone around you. May the prayers of your faith community keep you safe, healthy, and full of joy. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

A brief silence.

Raise up faithful leaders for your church around the world. **Inspire global missionaries with a spirit of accompaniment, as they walk alongside our partners in the gospel.** Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Safeguard rivers and lakes from pollution. **Sustain the work of conservationists, policy makers, and advocacy groups seeking to protect fresh water sources.** Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bridge divisions across partisan lines. **Strengthen cooperative efforts among lawmakers who enact policies that protect our neighbors.** Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Embrace all who suffer in isolation: for those who are incarcerated or detained, those who are fleeing from unsafe environments, and those who are sick or homebound, especially Carolyn Pogany, Ginny Dorsey, Gary Parker, Doug Kutz, Doris Dickman, Diana Gerber, Janet Bergstrom, Dan & Mary Gleghorn, John & Tacy Raymaley, Debbie, Katie, Shelly, Shari, Beth, comfort for the Edmond family on the loss Andie's mom, Linda Crookshank, and all those we hold in our hearts.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guide the leaders of this congregation. In these late summer weeks, inspire their planning for a new program year ahead. **Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration and support for their work.** Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With thanksgiving, we remember the cloud of witnesses who surround us. **By the example of their faith, enable us to run with perseverance the race set before us, until that day when we join their unending praise.**

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

Amen.

The Sharing of the Peace

Special Music

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Dawn Zinsmeister

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,
Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed, 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.*

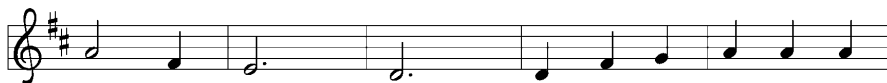
Post-Communion Prayer

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

Amen.



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.