



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

HOLY COMMUNION

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2020 • 10 am

You are welcome here! As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we believe that the gospel is God's gift to all people, shared unconditionally and without regard to race, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic or family status, age, physical or mental abilities, outward appearance, or religious affiliation. We seek to live the truth written in Ephesians that Christ breaks down the dividing walls between us and makes us one.

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome

** Confession and Forgiveness

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity,
one God †
who creates, redeems and sustains us and all of creation.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

have mercy on us.

We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.

We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.

We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Gathering Song

Morning Has Broken

ELW # 556

1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - - ing;
2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - - en,
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - - ing,

black - bird has spo - ken like the first bird.
like the first dew - fall on the first grass.
born of the one light E - den saw play!

Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - - ing!
Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - - den,
Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry morn - - ing,

Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, admin. David Higham Associates

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

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

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

**** Gospel Acclamation**

**** Gospel**

Matthew 21:23-32

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you O Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Jason Churchill

Hymn of the Day

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

ELW #712



1 Lord, whose love in hum - ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man need,
2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal-ing light
4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer-cy's per - fect deed:
still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,
to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,
hope and health, good-will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.
stir-ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.
that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984
Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844
Text © Oxford University Press

**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken/sung 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 either:

Responses: Bless we the Lord
 Hear us, O God.

Thanks be to God.
Your mercy is great.

Meal

Jesus calls all people to sit at the table with him. All are invited, none is excluded.

**** 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**

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

**** Holy, Holy, Holy**

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

**** Thanksgiving at the Table**

**** 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.

Lamb of God

Sending

We are sent into the world to serve.

Blessing

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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

Enjoy today's service? Visit our Facebook page and invite a friend, comment, or leave a review. May God go with you today and everyday.

Chancel flowers are given by Lila Hall in memory of Dan's birthday.

Readings for Sunday, September 27, 2020
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32, Psalm 25:1-9, Philippians 2:1-1, Matthew 21:23-32

Readings for Sunday, October 4, 2020
Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:7-15, Philippians 3:4b-14, Matthew 21:33-46

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For additional reference on hymn text and music please refer to the hymn number in the
cranberry prayer book and hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

Participants in Today's Service

Pastor:

The Rev. Jason Churchill

Cantor:

Dr. Oksana Glouchko

Assisting Minister:

Bob Linderman

Lector:

Ralph Heiss

Ushers:

John Gordon, John Rodammer, Doug Small, Stephanie Evans

Altar Guild:

Karleen Strayer

Sound System:

John Gordon

AV:

Ann Warner

Welcome Reader:

Noah Sullivan

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

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