



# St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost  
July 19, 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.

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

## Gathering

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

### Welcome

### Prelude

### \*\* 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,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

**Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God,

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,  
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves  
and rely on our own efforts.**

**We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.  
We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.**

**We fear difference and do not welcome others  
as you have welcomed us.**

**We sin in thought, word, and deed.**

**By your grace, forgive us;  
through your love, renew us;  
and in your Spirit, lead us;**

**so that we may live and serve you in newness of life.**

**Amen.**

Beloved of God...through the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

**\*\* Gathering Song**

*Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices* (verses 1 and 2)

ELW#833



1 Oh, that I had a thou - sand voic - es to praise my  
2 Let ev - 'ry pow'r in me im - plant - ed a - rise, keep  
3 You for - est leaves so green and ten - der that dance for  
4 All crea - tures that have breath and mo - tion, that thron'g the  
5 Cre - a - tor, hum - bly I im - plore you to lis - ten



God with thou - sand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord re -  
si - lence now no more; put forth the strength that God has  
joy in sum - mer air, you mead - ow grass - es, bright and  
earth, the sea, the sky, come, share with me my heart's de -  
to my earth - ly song un - til that day when I a -



joic - es, would then pro - claim in grate - ful songs to all, wher -  
grant - ed! Your no - blest work is to a - dore! O soul and  
slen - der, you flow'rs so fra - grant and so fair, you live to  
vo - tion, help me to sing God's prais - es high! My ut - most  
dore you, when I will join the an - gel thron'g and raise to



ev - er I might be, what great things God has done for me!  
bod - y, join to raise with heart - felt joy your mak - er's praise!  
show forth praise a - lone. Join me to make God's glo - ry known!  
pow'rs can nev - er quite de - clare the won - ders of God's might!  
you with joy - ful cry ten thou - sand hal - le - lu - jahs high!

Text: Johann Mentzer, 1658–1734; tr. composite  
Music: O DASS ICH TAUSEND ZUNGEN HÄTTE, Johann B. König, 1691–1758  
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**\*\* Prayer of the Day**

*Assisting Minister leads the prayer of the day and the assembly responds: Amen.*

**\*\* Items in bold are to be spoken/sung by the assembly.**

# Word

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

**Reading**

Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

**Sermon**

The Rev. Jason Churchill

**\*\* Hymn**

*For the Fruit of All Creation* (verses 1 and 2)

ELW #679



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.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYDY NOS, Welsh traditional

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**\*\* 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.

**Thanksgiving for the Word**

**Lord's Prayer**

**\*\* Items in bold are to be spoken/sung by the assembly.**

# Sending

*We are sent into the world to serve.*

**Blessing**

**Dismissal**

**Postlude**

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.

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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:**

Ann Warner

**Lector:**

Stephanie Evans

**Reader:**

Noah Sullivan

**Ministers:**

The people of St. Stephen's

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