



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
August 2, 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.

In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

Gathering

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

Welcome

Prelude

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism...now and forever.

Amen.

** Gathering Song

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

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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 13:14-21

Sermon

The Rev. Jason Churchill

** Hymn

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness (verses 1 and 2)

ELW #843



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil-dren with a strong yet gen-tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf-fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris-'ners, turn-ing blind-ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de-mons with a pierc-ing, two-edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal-ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des-ert's burn-ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad-ness, see-ing what our God has done.



calm-ing storms and feed - ing thou-sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench-ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem-ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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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.

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:

Shauna Sullivan

Lector:

John Rodammer

Reader:

Noah Sullivan

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

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