

Sunday, October 25, 2020
Reformation Sunday,
Year A

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church Wilmington DE



GATHERING

Prelude - Cantor

Welcome - Presiding Minister

Confession and Forgiveness - Presiding Minister

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.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all
desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleans the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration
of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness

to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

Gathering Song - ELW 504



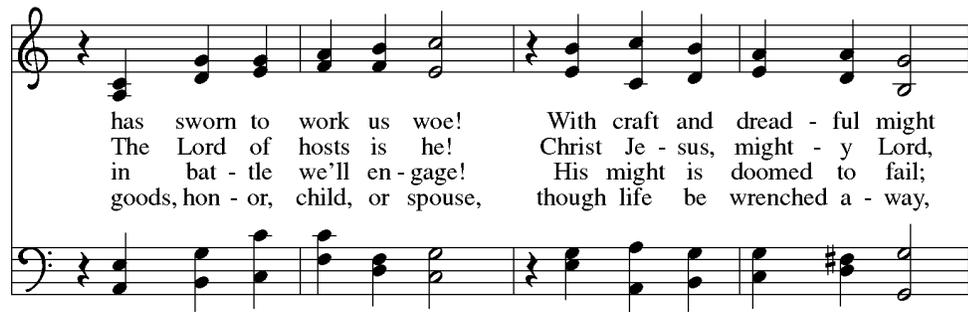
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat -'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Greeting - Presiding Minister

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

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day - Assistant Minister

Let us Pray.

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that
your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age.
Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people.
Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and
comfort them in times of trial, defend them against
all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church
your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading (Jeremiah 31:31-34) - Lector

A reading from Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. 33But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading (Romans 3:19-28) - Lector

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

21But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, 22the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, 23since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 24they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; 26it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

27 Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28 For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation - Cantor

Gospel (John 8:31-36) - Preacher

The Holy Gospel According to John.

Glory to you O Lord.

31 Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” 33 They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

34 Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon - Pastor Jason

Hymn of the Day - ELW 660

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as praise thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Creed - Lector

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle's 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 Intercession - Lector

MEAL

Offering Song ELW 465 - Cantor

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Offering Prayer - Assistant Minister

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink,

and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Dialogue and Preface - Presiding Minister

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.

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:

our Good Samaritan, who tends the wounds of body and spirit with the oil of consolation and the wine of hope; the Sun of righteousness, who raises us to life on his healing wings.

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:

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 - Presiding Minister

Holy God,
our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,
you created a world in which all might be satisfied
by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising
them life,
and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.
You sent your Son to eat with sinners
and to become food for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore,
his life given for us
and his rising from the grave,
we await his coming again to share with us the
everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:
strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,
and by this bread and cup make of us the body of
your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit we pray as
Jesus taught:

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 - Cantor

Only music - no words

Instructions for Communion and dismissal

SENDING

Blessing - Presiding Minister

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal - Assistant Minister

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude - Cantor

Participants in Today's Service

Pastor:

The Rev. Jason Churchill

Cantor:

Dr. Oksana Glouchko

Assisting Minister:

Ralph Heiss

Lector:

Bob Linderman

Ushers:

Rick Feltman, Ann Warner,
Michele Torchia, John Gordon

Altar Guild:

Sue Heiss

Sound System:

John Gordon

AV:

Leah Strayer

Page 22 of 23

Welcome Reader:

Henry Sullivan

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

1301 N Broom St, Wilmington, DE 19806

302-652-7623

www.saintstephenslutheranchurch.org
office@ststeph.org