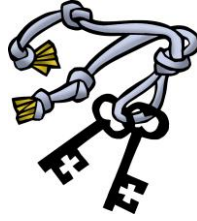


# St Stephen

a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer, Pastor



Encouraging and  
strengthening faith in Jesus,  
and sharing the joy of God's love.

August 23, 2020

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

10:15am

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## Holy Communion

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### Introduction to the Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

*In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.*



### Gathering

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

### Prelude

### Welcome

### CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be God forever, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Dear friends, God is merciful to us and blesses us. Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

We are called today to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We are called today not to be conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds in Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

We are called today not to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think, but to think with sober judgment. Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness.*

God's salvation will be forever, and God's deliverance will never be ended. When we called, God answered us; the Lord increased our strength within us. In the name of Jesus Christ † your sins are forgiven.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG:**

**We Are All One in Christ**

**ELW# 643**

(sung twice)

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of six lines of music with corresponding lyrics underneath. The lyrics are in Spanish and English. The first line of music has a treble clef and a sharp sign. The lyrics are: "So - mos u - no en Cris - to, so - mos u - no. So - mos We are all one in Christ, we are one bod - y, all one". The second line of music has a treble clef and a sharp sign. The lyrics are: "u - no, u - no so - lo. So - mos u - no en Cris - to, so - mos peo - ple out of man - y. We are all one in Christ, we are one". The third line of music has a treble clef and a sharp sign. The lyrics are: "u - no. So - mos u - no, u - no so - lo. bod - y, all one peo - ple out of man - y." The fourth line of music has a treble clef and a sharp sign. The lyrics are: "Un so - lo Dios, un so - lo Se - ñor, u - na so - la There is one God, and on - ly one Lord; there is one". The fifth line of music has a treble clef and a sharp sign. The lyrics are: "fe, un so - lo a - mor. Un so - lo bau - tis - mo, un so - lo Es - faith, one ho - ly love. There is one bap - tism; there is one". The sixth line of music has a treble clef and a sharp sign. The lyrics are: "pí - ri - tu, ye - se es el con - so - la - dor. Spir - it, who is God the com - fort - er." The music ends with a double bar line.

Text: Anonymous; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923  
Music: SOMOS UNO, anonymous  
English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.

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**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

*The presiding minister and assembly greet each other.*

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.**

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE: Glory to God

*Refrain*

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, 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

*Refrain*

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

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 on us; you are seat-ed at the  
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

*Refrain*

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

*Final refrain*

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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept, then the presiding minister leads the prayer.*

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The assembly sits.*



## Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading and song.

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-6

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. <sup>2</sup>Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. <sup>3</sup>For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. <sup>4</sup>Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. <sup>5</sup>I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope.

<sup>6</sup>Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 138

<sup>1</sup>I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I will sing your praise.

<sup>2</sup>**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,  
because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;  
for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

<sup>3</sup>When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

<sup>4</sup>**All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,  
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

<sup>5</sup>They will sing of the ways of the LORD, that great is the glory of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.**

<sup>7</sup>Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;  
your right hand shall save me.

<sup>8</sup>**You will make good your purpose for me; O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever;  
do not abandon the works of your hands.**

## SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

A reading from Romans.

<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*After a brief silence, the assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

P: ✝ The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” <sup>14</sup>And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup>He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” <sup>20</sup>Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## SERMON

The Rev. Robert Schaefer

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### Built on a Rock

ELW# 652



1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are  
2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not  
3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -  
4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is  
5 Through all the pass - ing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are



fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are  
dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly  
ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us  
bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our  
ring - ing, man - y may come to hear your Word, who here this



chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the  
tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -  
life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their  
Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with  
prom - ise is bring - ing: "I know my own, my own know me; you, not the



souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.  
bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.  
midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.  
us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.  
world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you. A - men."

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt.  
Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMEL HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887  
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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## 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 INTERCESSION**

A: Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*After each petition of the prayer is said:*

A: .... hear our prayer:

C: **your steadfast love endures forever.**

P: In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

*The assembly sits.*



**MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**SETTING THE TABLE**

**OFFERING SONG:**

**Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal**

**ELW# 464**



1 Bread of life, our host and meal, Je - sus, feed us.  
2 Bread now break and wine now pour, Je - sus, feed us.  
3 Grant for - give - ness in the feast— Je - sus, feed us—  
4 Thank you for this gift we share. Je - sus, feed us.



Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.  
Make us one, our hope re - store; feed us with your love.  
for the great - est and the least; feed us with your love.  
Save God's chil - dren ev - 'ry - where; feed us with your love.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943; Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: JESUS, FEED US, Ray Makeever

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*The assembly stands.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.*

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...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The presiding minister continues to give thanks:*

Lord, you are holy indeed, ...

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

...all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.:

**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

*The bread is broken for the communion.*

P: This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Friends of Jesus, come to the table. Receive nourishment for your journey.



The assembly is seated.

### Lamb of God

Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, ten pie-dad de no - so-tros.  
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.

Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, ten pie-dad de no - so-tros.  
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.

Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

da - nos tu paz, da - nos tu paz.  
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

### Communion Song:

### Faith of Our Fathers

ELW# 812

1 Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,  
2 The mar - tyrs, chained in pris - ons dark, were still in heart and  
3 Faith of our fa - thers! We will love both friend and foe in

fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy  
con - science free; and blest would be their chil - dren's fate  
all our strife; pro - claim thee too, as love knows how,

*Refrain*

when-e'er we hear that glo - rious word.  
if they, like them, should die for thee. Faith of our fa - thers,  
by sav - ing word and faith - ful life.

ho - ly faith, we will be true to thee till death.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.  
Music: ST. CATHERINE, Henri F. Hemy, 1818–1888; James G. Walton, 1821–1905, refrain

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*The assembly stands and the assisting minister leads the prayer after communion.*

Let us pray.

Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members built on the foundation of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



## Sending

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## Announcements

### BLESSING

*All may make the sign of the cross as they receive God's blessing.*

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Almighty God, Father, **+** Son, and Holy Spirit bless you, now and forever. **Amen.**

*The assembly turns toward the cross as it passes by.*

### SENDING SONG:

### Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good

ELW# 871



1 Sing praise to God, the high - est good, the au - thor of cre -  
2 What your al - might - y pow'r has made, in mer - cy you are  
3 We sought the Lord in our dis - tress; O God, in mer - cy  
4 All who con - fess Christ's ho - ly name, give God the praise and



a - tion! O God of love, you un - der - stood our need for  
keep - ing; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade, your eye is  
hear us. Our Sav - ior saw our help - less - ness and came with  
glo - ry! Let all God's sav - ing pow'r pro - claim; give God the



your sal - va - tion. With heal - ing balm our souls you fill;  
nev - er sleep - ing; in the do - min - ion of your might  
peace to cheer us. For this we thank and praise the Lord,  
praise and glo - ry! Cast ev - 'ry i - dol from its throne;



all our la - ment with peace you still.  
all things are just and good and right. To God all praise and glo - ry!  
who is by one and all a - dored.  
God is the Lord, and God a - lone:

Text: Johann J. Schütz, 1640–1690; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–1897, adapt.  
Music: LOBT GOTT DEN HERREN, IHR, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615

## DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.



## **RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION TODAY OUTSIDE!**

The Eucharist is the Real Presence of Jesus and central to nourishing and sustaining our faith—especially during this pandemic. While we can't safely gather in large groups in the church yet, you are encouraged to come with your loved ones to receive the Lord's Supper in a safe way outside the church. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be given today by Pastor Bob in the church parking lot, in front of the main entrance from

12:00pm—12:30pm. It will be drive through. Please follow the ushers' directions on arrival and maintain social distancing. Please wear a mask except when receiving the sacrament.

## **IN OUR PRAYERS...**

In our prayers today are these members of our homebound and others of our parish family in need of healing: Randy Mottesheard, Susanne Loggins, Pastor Bob, Marti Stroberg, Dolores Lauterberg, Jake Waldecki, Sera Butz, George Arce, Laurel Blake, Dorothy Johnson, James Loggins, Don Schutt, Normagene Richardson, Mildred Grady, Carol Chmelynski, Rosie & Jimmy Fennelli, Roy and Barbara Kaptain, Katie Paff, Bob Reinhold, and Shelley Amato, The Castaneda family, Pat Engle.

## **PRAYERS FOR FRIENDS OF THE PARISH**

✠ Aiden, Chandler, Becky, Braemen, Craig, Cheryl, Robert, Betty, Sharon, Susie, Belinda, Marjorie, Roy, Gene, Chris, Amanda, Annette, Madison, Mason, Betty, Joanna, Susan, Betty, Chuck, Pat, Bruce, Carol, Valerie, Jason, Melissa, Greg, Annie.

## **IN A FACILITY OR HOMEBOUND:**

Barbara Kaptain – The Atrium Assistant Living at Boca Raton.

1080 NW 15TH Room 215 Boca Raton, Fl. 33486

Evelyn Braun – 6152 Verde Trail Room 106 Boca Raton, Fl. 33433

Jim Loggins - John Knox Village – Woodlands 700 SW 4th St, Pompano Beach, FL 33060

Bud Danker - 3020 N. Ridge Road Apartment W-316 Ellicott City, MD 21043.



*In response to the amazing love, mercy and grace of God, St. Stephen Lutheran Church is a community that openly welcomes all who are seeking God's divine love and grace. All are welcome in this place regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation or gender identity, economic situation or life situation, marital or relationship status, or your doubts about faith and church. Our unity is in Christ. Your family, children, friends, spouses and partners are welcome. Your diversity and uniqueness enriches and expands our community. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation.*

## **Zoom St. Stephen Family Check-in**

Many of us haven't been together for a long time, so it's time again to have a virtual coffee hour and check-in with each other. **I will host a Zoom meeting this coming Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm and again on Wednesday, August 26 at 7:00pm.** Please join us for one of these virtual gatherings simply to check-in with each other and receive the latest news from St. Stephen. Here is the link you need: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9303943672>

All you need to do is click on the link on your computer or smart device and you will gain access to the meeting. If you just want to join by phone, there is a number you can call for that as well. If you have any questions about how to do this, call me in the office (954.942.4473) and I will coach you! It's just like a conference call except with video!

## ***It's time for a clean-up day! (sort of)***

Covid-19 is not only having a big effect on our lives, it is also starting to have an effect on the church grounds! Normally we would ask people to come together for a work and cleanup day. Unfortunately, we still can't do that right now. The Congregation Council had the great idea to have a virtual parish cleanup day. It works like this: The Administration Team has provided a list of all the projects that need attention around our campus. Thank you to those who have begun work on list of projects. Please refer to my ***Weekly Update from St. Stephen*** from this past Wednesday for a list of projects that remain.



We are currently supporting FEEDING SOUTH FLORIDA with our virtual Change for Change Tower. Feeding South Florida is the largest, most efficient food bank serving Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe Counties. **Send your loose change to Church and let's fill up the Change for Change Tower. You may give on line by following the link**

**on our homepage at: [www.ststephenlutheran.net](http://www.ststephenlutheran.net)**

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