

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.

May 24, 2020

Seventh Sunday of Easter

10:15am

Holy Communion

Introduction to the Seventh Sunday of Easter

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.



Gathering

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG:

In Christ There Is No East or West

ELW# 650



- 1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com-mu-nion find;
- 3 Join hands, dis-ci-ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com-mu-ni-ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
 his ser-vice is the gold-en cord close bind-ing hu-man-kind.
 All chil-dren of the liv-ing God are sure-ly kin to me.
 all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt.

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

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

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

The assembly sits.



Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading and song.

FIRST READING: Acts 1:6-14

A reading from Acts.

⁶When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

PSALM 68:10, 32-35

¹Let God arise, and let God’s enemies be scattered; let those who hate God flee.

²**As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;**

as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

³But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;

let them also be merry and joyful.

⁴**Sing to God, sing praises to God’s name; exalt the one who rides the clouds;**

I AM is that name, rejoice before God!

⁵In your holy habitation, O God, you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

⁶**you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom;**

but the rebels shall live in desert places.

⁷O God, when you went forth before your people, when you marched through the wilderness,

8the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God,
the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
9You sent a bountiful rain, O God; you restored your inheritance when it languished.
10**Your people found their home in it;**
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.
32Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.
33**You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;**
you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.
34Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.
35**How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel,**
giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

A reading from First Peter.

12Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. **13**But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. **14**If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

5:6Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. **7**Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. **8**Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. **9**Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. **10**And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. **11**To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

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: John 17:1-11

P: † The Holy Gospel, according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples], he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

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

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

Son of God, Eternal Savior (Verses 1 & 2)

ELW # 655



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
 2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
 Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
 hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
 Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
 Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
 By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
 by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
 we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
 quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
 grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each petition of the prayer is said:

A: God of unity, hear us: **C: Your mercy is great.**

P: With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

C: 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:

I Come with Joy

ELW# 482



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
 Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835
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The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Risen One, as you broke bread with the disciples on the shore, meet us now in this meal.

Nourish us to follow you, using our gifts to feed the hungry and tend the weary, and all for your love's sake. C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore....

...Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate, ...

...all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate, ...

...that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

... O God, O Living One, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, 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: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

C: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

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:

Lord, Be Glorified

ELW# 744

1 In my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;
 2 In our song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;
 3 In your church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;
 4 In your world, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;

in my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
 in our song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
 in your church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
 in your world, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.

Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952

Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

Let us pray.

Life-giving God,

you have fed us with your word,
and our hearts burn within us.

Through this meal of holy communion, you have opened us to your presence.

Now send us forth to share the gifts of Easter with all in need;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Sending

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

Announcements

BLESSING

P: "I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord.

May Christ's rising lift your spirits and gladden your hearts.

C: Amen.

P: All those who believe in Christ will never perish.

May you pass with Christ from death to life.

C: Amen.

P: Christ has gone to prepare a place for us.

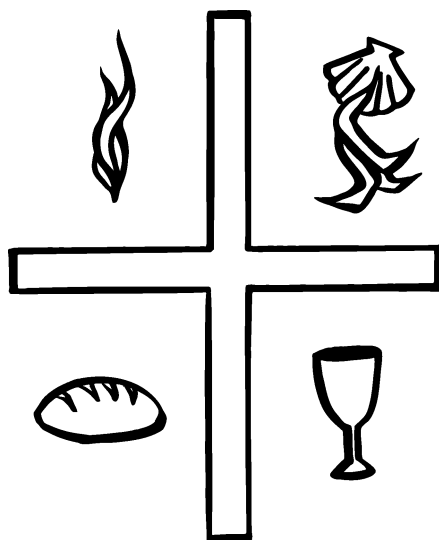
May his resurrection bring you all joy and peace in believing so that you may abound in hope.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit bless you, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The assembly turns toward the cross as it passes by.





1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;
 2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
 3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
 4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
 our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
 and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.
 Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

DISMISSAL

P: Christ is risen, just as he said.

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



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.

IN OUR PRAYERS...

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

Prayers for Friends of the Parish

✠ Our family, our friends, our loved ones, for all the residents in senior communities who are vulnerable to coronavirus and are locked down in their homes, those affected with coronavirus and those caring for them ✠ Donna, Kristi, Carol, Susan, Bob, Gene, Chris, Amanda, Annette, Madison, Mason, Betty, Chuck, Joanna, Susan, Pat, Bruce, Donna, Adam, Jason, Melissa, Carol, Greg, Annie, Valerie, Julia, Iris, Natalie, and all the medical staff in hospitals around the world, dear God, keep them safe, for all those who had lost their loved ones, comfort them ✠ Phil Capece, Rodrigo, Diana, Belinda Barfield, The Daoud family at the death of Frank Daoud.

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.



We dedicate and bless the Easter White Burse & Veil today. It is given in Loving Memory of Louis Paul Belanger by The Belanger Family. We hoped to have it for Easter Day, but the coronavirus even closed down the church supply store. Fortunately, we received it in time for this final Sunday of Easter.



With unemployment at near record highs, more people are food insecure than ever. To help make a difference we are supporting FEEDING SOUTH FLORIDA. Feeding South Florida is the largest, most efficient food bank serving Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe Counties. More than 98% of all donations are put back into the community. Through innovative direct-service programs and a network of nonprofit partner agencies, Feeding South Florida distributed nearly 62 million pounds (51.5 million meals) of food last fiscal year to over 706,000 individuals – 236,000 of whom are children and 100,000 are older adults.

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

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