St Stephen

Evangelical Lutheran Church



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

August 2nd, 2015

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am

Pastor Pedro Suarez

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

—WE GATHER—

INTRODUCTION

Apparently not satisfied by Jesus' feeding of thousands, some who were there press him for a sign of his power; perhaps it is daily manna they want. As always in John's gospel when people want a sign, Jesus offers himself. He is the bread come from heaven to give life to the world. He calls us to come to him and believe in him, and through that relationship to know the one who sent him.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

P: Before God and in the company of our sisters and brothers, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.



P: God and Father of all,

C: We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have thought better of ourselves than others. We have told lies, said hurtful things, acted in ways we wish we could take back, and looked the other way when action was needed. In your mercy, O God, forgive us, cleanse us, and heal us, for the sake of Jesus, our Savior.

P: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; everything has become new! In Christ, + you are a new creation: your sins are taken away and you are made new. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.C: Amen.

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly



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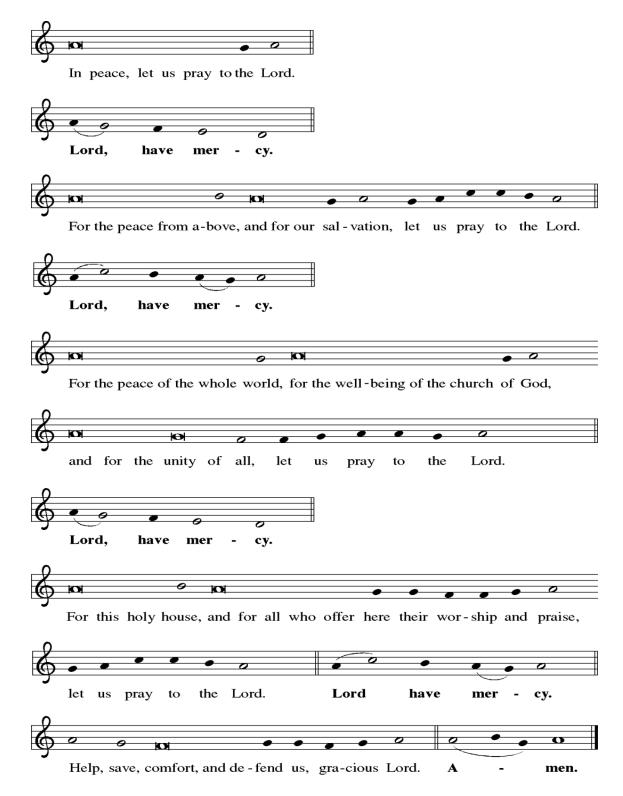
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THE GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

KYRIE (Sung)



HYMN OF PRAISE "This is the Feast..."



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together:

C: O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN

Children's Message

FIRST READING:

—WE HEAR GOD'S WORD—

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

A food crisis becomes a faith crisis for the Israelites in the wilderness. The hungry people forget God's saving work in the exodus, and they wish for the food they had in Egypt. Nevertheless, God miraculously meets their needs, with manna for bread and quail for meat.

² The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³ The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." ⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining."¹⁰ And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹ The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹² "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God."¹³ In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴ When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM (ELW) 78:23-29

God rained down manna from heaven; so mortals ate the bread of angels. (Ps. 78:24, 25)

- ²³ Yet he commanded the skies above, and opened the doors of heaven;
- ²⁴ he rained down on them manna to eat, and gave them the grain of heaven.
- ²⁵ Mortals ate of the bread of angels; he sent them food in abundance.
- ²⁶ He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens, and by his power he led out the south wind;
- ²⁷ he rained flesh upon them like dust, winged birds like the sand of the seas;
- ²⁸ he let them fall within their camp, all around their dwellings.
- ²⁹ And they ate and were well filled, for he gave them what they craved.

SECOND READING:

Ephesians 4:1-16

Christians share fundamental unity and diversity. Our unity consists in the one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God. Our diversity is expressed in various forms of ministry, whose goal is equipping the saints and building up Christ's one body.

⁴ I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. ⁷ But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.⁸ Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." ⁹ (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴ We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love. Amen.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Please Rise for the Gospel Acclamation.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Alleluia"



P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 6th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

GOSPEL:

John 6:24-35

Many of the five thousand people Jesus fed in the wilderness continued to follow him throughout the countryside. Jesus challenges them to consider the real nature of their quest.

²⁴ So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. ²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸ Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰ So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat."³² Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which^[a] comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." ³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

You may be seated.

SERMON

-WE RESPOND-

P: Please stand as you are able for the Sermon Song

SERMON SONG

Baptized and Set Free

ELW #453



Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956 Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner Text and music © 1999 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, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

After each petition of the prayer is said:

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Trusting your love and healing, O God, we commend to you all for whom we pray, knowing you will hear and answer, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

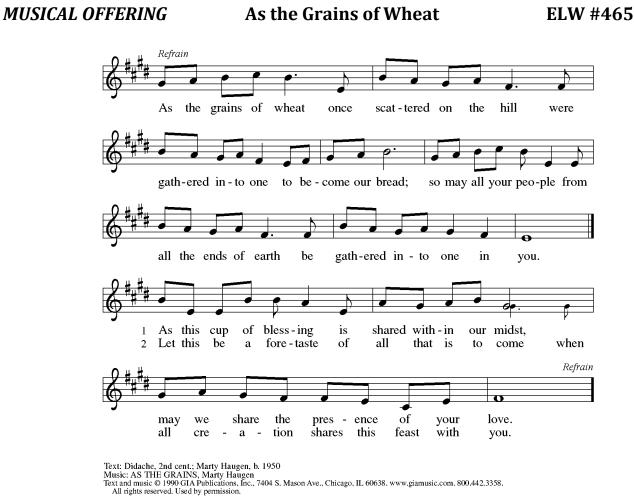
P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**



P: Let us share with one another the peace of the Lord.

~WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE~

OFFERING



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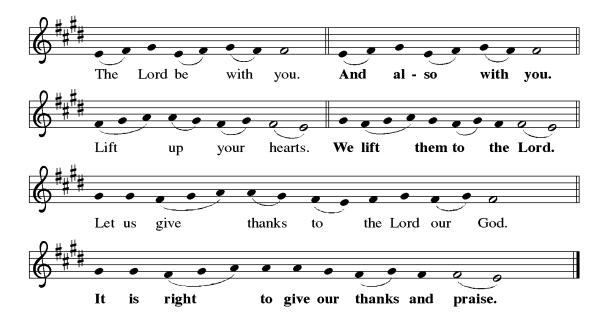
OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray,

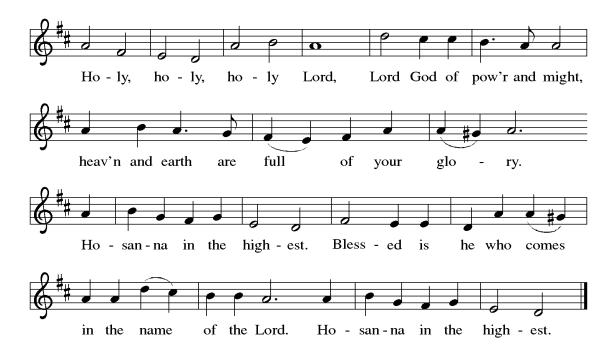
God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Dialogue (Sung)



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, for the glorious resurrection of our savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

P: And now, we come to You in prayer, as our Savior Jesus has taught us:

C: 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.

Invitation of Communion

Jesus said, "I am the true vine. Abide in me as I abide in you."

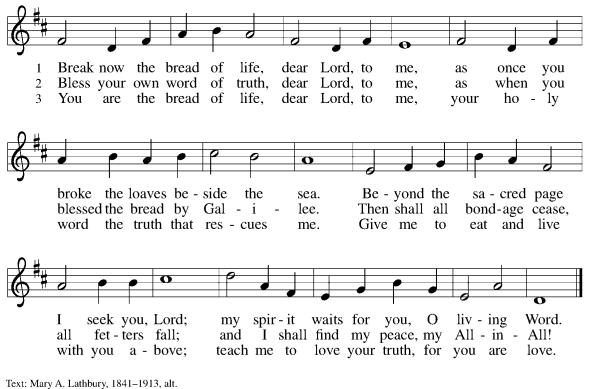
P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

We believe Jesus Christ is present in the bread and wine by his Word of Promise. All baptized Christians are invited to participate in the celebration of God's forgiving love, strengthening faith, and grace-filled hope. Those who are not baptized and children not yet communing may come forward for a blessing (please cross your arms on your chest if you desire a blessing).

Reception of Communion

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

Reception of Communion: Communion distribution is at the Altar rail. Please come forward by the center aisle at the direction of an usher, and kneel or stand (as you are able) at the Altar rail. Receive the bread in your hands. The wine is received by drinking from an individual cup which you take as the tray is presented to you. The wine is alcohol free. There is no group dismissal. Please return to your seats by the center aisle. **Break Now the Bread of Life**



Music: BREAD OF LIFE, William F. Sherwin, 1826–1888

Instrumental Music

Cesar Vidaud

P: Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray,

Wise and generous God, we thank you that at this holy table you have fed us again with the food of everlasting life. Send us with your blessing to seek the good of our neighbor and call others to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

~WE ARE SENT FORTH~

Benediction

P: Almighty and merciful God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you this day and forevermore. **Amen.**

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

ELW # 579



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DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the good news. C: Thanks be to God.

IN OUR PRAYERS

In our prayers today are these members of our homebound and others of our parish family in need of healing: Cynthia Langbauer. Also, prayers for: Jan Danker, Mary S. Bailey, Roy Kaptain, Wayne Lauterberg, Jimmy Fennelli, Edith Reichenbach, Bob & Jane Reinhold and Larry and Beverly Sheehan, friends of family, Barbara W., Peggy S. and Chico E., Denise I., George F.

Prayers for Friends of the Church: Adam Rubino, Berna, Braemen Weiner, Chandler Weiner, Debbie Fiore, Debbie Seckel, Elaine Brustad, Elizabeth Kraus, Harry Danforth, Hazel Quire, Juan Tavarez, Lee Rassis, Kenneth Smith, Mary Taylor, Norma Duckworth, Cynthia, Jimmy Bright, Tim Tyler, Linda Mendelson, Richard H., Julia Q.

We are always updating our prayer list. If you would like your name added or removed, please notify Pat Belanger or the office.

Flowers sponsored this week by: Pat Belanger in memory of her husband's 11th anniversary in heaven.

Announcements

MARRIAGE POLICY AT ST. STEPHEN

Our Bishop wrote:

"As of January 6, 2015, Florida-Bahamas Synod pastors will be authorized by the state of Florida to perform same-gender marriages. Let me be clear, the use of the church building, continues under the jurisdiction of the congregation council. If there is tension between a pastor's personal conviction on this issue and congregational policy, I strongly urge pastors to lead their congregations through a deliberative discernment process before making unilateral decisions to act in clear contradiction to the beliefs or policies of the congregation. The decision regarding solemnizing such ceremonies belongs to the congregation in consultation with the pastor." After much deliberation, our council here at St. Stephen acted on it, voting 4 in favor and 3 abstentions passing to allow the use of our church for same sex weddings. This will be part of our pastoral care practice and according with our regular wedding policy.

Copies of Bishop's Schaefer's full letter are available as you exit the sanctuary today.

MID-WEEK RECHARGE WITH PRAISE AND PRAYER Join us for mid-week recharge of Praise and Prayer every Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. We have the same praise and prayer in Spanish on Wednesdays at 7pm. Please invite your Spanish speaking friends.

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|---------------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|
| Time Change 9:30 AM | <u>August 2</u> | <u>August 9</u> | <u>August 16</u> | August 23 | <u>August 30</u> |
| ASSISTING MINISTER | Pat Belanger | Sera Butz | Carol Jacobson | Aura Suarez | Pat Belanger |
| ACOLYTE | Andrew Hanzlik | Alyssa Booth | Taryn Booth | Pat Belanger | Maddie Kibler |
| LECTOR | Tom Peterson | Sera Butz | Kevin Otterson | Natalie Prego | Carol Jacobson |
| USHERS –Need 4 to Serve | Lynda & Zac Smith Lisa Castaneda Eric Castaneda | John, Maria & Spencer Kelly Kim Hanzlik | Barbara Nilles Lynda & Zac Smith TBA | Rick & Joanne Brustad Carol & Kelly | Lynda & Zac Smith Lisa Castaneda |
| Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli | Head Usher – Rosie Fenelli | Head Usher- Rosie Feneli | Head Usher – Rosie Fenelli | Jacobson Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli | Head Usher- Rosie Fennelli |
| GREETERS – Need 2 to serve | Eduardo Arango Rose Jones | Marie Koach TBA | Caroline Smith Kelly Jacobson | Edith Reichenbach Barbara Kaptain | Caroline Smith Rose Jones |
| SOUND | Sera Butz | ТВА | Sera Butz | Sera Butz | Eric Castaneda |
| PROJECTION | Larry Jones | Kathy Runk | Eric Castaneda | Eric Castaneda | Larry Jones |

Service Assistants for August



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St. Stephen Evangelical Lutheran Church Encouraging and strengthening faith in

Jesus, and sharing the joy of God's love.

Sunday Worship Schedule

Traditional Blend Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion is celebrated weekly

Church Staff

Rev. Pedro Suarez – Pastor pastor@ststephenlutheran.net Cesar Vidaud - Church Musician Aidee Koach – Administrative Assistant sslcpompano@gmail.com

Congregation Council

Rob Lewis, President: councilpresident@ststephenlutheran.net

Web Antill Christian Hecker Natalie Prego - Secretary Sera Butz Larry Jones Kathy Runk - Vice Pres.

Eric Castaneda Barbara Nilles

Office hours: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 Mon- Fri

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