

St Stephen

Lutheran Church, ELCA



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

May 21, 2017

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10:15am

Pastor Pedro Suarez

—WE GATHER—

INTRODUCTION

Jesus does not leave his followers orphaned. Through the Holy Spirit Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able and turn the entrance of the sanctuary, facing the processional cross for the confession and forgiveness.

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

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse 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.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Most merciful God:

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN.

As the cross moves forward, please continue to face the cross as it moves to the chancel at the front of the sanctuary.



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your
 his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the



vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
 foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you
 vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful



Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus



out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

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)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE "This is the feast"

Refrain
Assisting minister



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

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



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



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together:

C: Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN

—WE HEAR GOD’S WORD—

FIRST READING:

Acts 17:22-31

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him— though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ ²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM (ELW): Psalm 66:8-20

⁸Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

⁹**Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹¹**You brought us into the net; you laid heavy burdens up on our backs.**

¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹³**I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows**

¹⁴those that I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹⁵**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;**

I will give you oxen and goats.

¹⁶Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me.
¹⁷**I called out to God with my mouth, and praised the Lord with my tongue.**
¹⁸If I had cherished evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;
¹⁹**but in truth God has heard me and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**
²⁰Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailing love from me.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence.

Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.

¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Please Rise for the Gospel Acclamation.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Alleluia ”

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

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 14th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

18“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. 19In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. 20On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

Pastor Pedro Suarez

—WE RESPOND—

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

SERMON SONG:

Come Down, O Love Divine

ELW #804



1 Come down, O Love di - vine; seek thou this soul of mine
 2 Oh, let it free - ly burn, till world - ly pas - sions turn
 3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty mine out - ward ves - ture be,
 4 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,



and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;
 to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
 and low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—
 shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;



O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear
 and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
 true low - li - ness of heart, which takes the hum - bler part,
 no soul can guess Love's grace till it be - come the place



and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
 and o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.
 where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

Text: Bianco da Siena, d. 1434; tr. Richard F. Littledale, 1833–1890
 Music: DOWN AMPNEY, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
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Please turn to the entrance of the sanctuary for the Rite of Holy Baptism.

THE RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM

P: God, which is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors: We present *Aiyana* for baptism.

P: Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your daughter baptized into Christ?

R: We do.

P: As you bring *Aiyana* to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with *her* among God's faithful people, bring *her* to the word of God and the holy supper, teach *her* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in *her* hands the holy scriptures, and nurture *her* in faith and prayer, so that *she* may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help *Aiyana* grow in the Christian faith and life?

R: We do.

P: Sponsors, do you promise to nurture *Aiyana* in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help *her* live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

R: We do.

P: People of God, do you promise to support *Aiyana* and pray for *her* in her new life in Christ?

C: We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: I renounce them.

APOSTLES' CREED

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: and also with you.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

BAPTISM

P: **Aiyana**, I baptize you in the name of the Father, †
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughter new birth, cleanse *her* from sin, and raise *her* to eternal life.

Sustain **Aiyana** with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

ANOINTING

Aiyana, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

WELCOME

A: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

P: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**C: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming
word to all the world.**

Please face the chancel for the prayer.

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

A: Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each petition of the prayer is said:

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: 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

MUSICAL OFFERING:

Now Thank We All Our God

ELW #839



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;



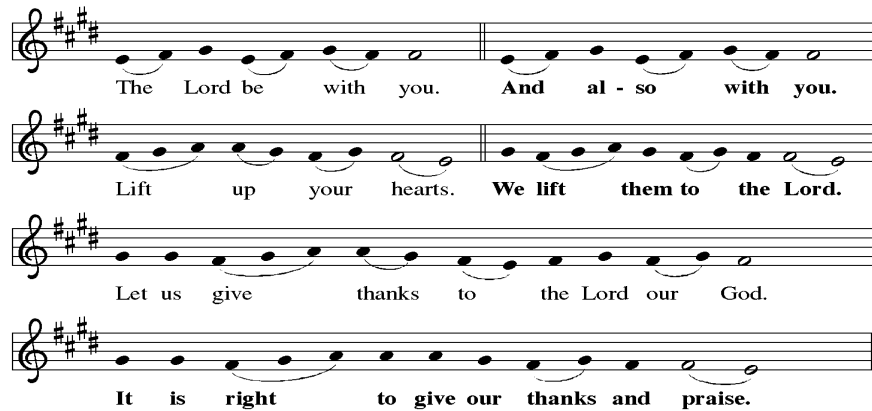
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. **Amen.**

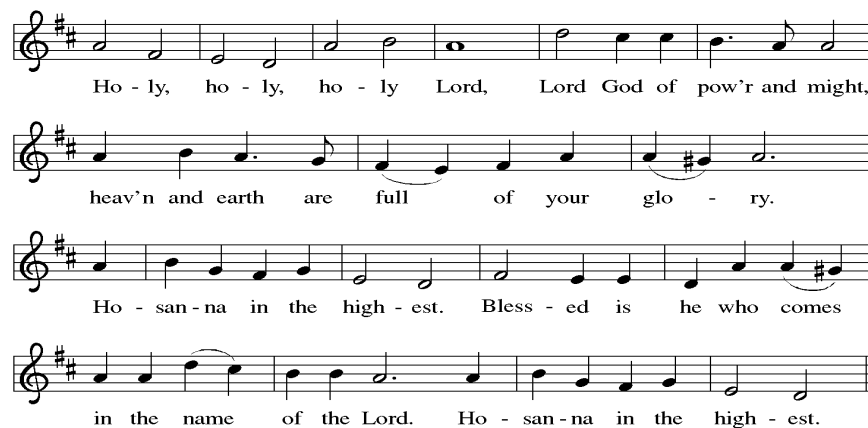
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Dialogue (Sung)



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, 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 had 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us.

And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, 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

P: These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

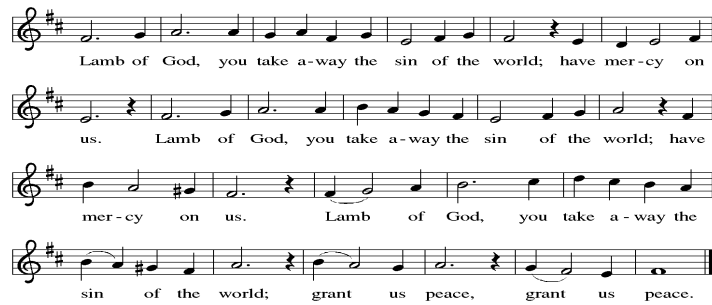
Reception of Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

Communion distribution is continuous. Please come forward by the center aisle and receive the bread in your hands as you hear the words "The body of Christ, given for you" to which you may respond, "Amen." You may then dip the bread into the cup as you hear the words "The blood of Christ, shed for you," to which you may respond, "Amen." Please note that the communion wine is alcohol-free. Please indicate if you need gluten-free elements.

“LAMB OF GOD”



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Song:

Children of the Heavenly Father

ELW #781



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,

- 1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
- 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.
- 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
- 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.

nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.

From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.

un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.

his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune

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Instrumental Music

Cesar Vidaud

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

~WE ARE SENT FORTH~

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's faces shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

Announcements



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
 Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
 Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

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DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the joy of God's love.

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: We also need to pray for Jim Loggins, Barb Taylor, Jan Danker, Diane Adler, Jean Rogers, Katie, Christopher Belanger, Janet Isner, Paul Hanzlik, Roy Kaptain, Bob & Jane Reinhold, Chico E., C.C., and Mickey Donahue at the death of his loving mother Gladys Donahue.

Prayers for Friends of the Church: Laurie Blake, Mark Murtland, Fran Marron, Monique Rogers and her mom Betty, Marie Trykoski, Dennis Vancour, Myrka Alverist's family, Maggie Alverist, Helen Dawson, Ann Farrell, Normagene Richardson, Aiden Chase, Brenna Taylor, Rita Stevenson, Mike, Barbara Greco, Dr. Willis Allen, Eleanor Knauf, Alessandra, Cheryl, Nick Caldwell Sr., Lucille Capece, Lexie Sachlis, George F., David Spall, Joan Coletti, Isolina Quintana, Adam Rubino, Berna, Braemen Weiner, Chandler Weiner, Debbie Seckel, Elizabeth Kraus, Hazel Quire, Juan Tavarez, Kenneth Smith, Mary Taylor, Norma Duckworth, Cynthia, Richard H., Laurie Engelhardt, Elena Villacis and the Zavala Villacis family at the death of Jimmy Zavala, and the Crawford and McGurk families at the death of Thomas McGurk.

Announcements

FIRST COMMUNION: The St. Stephen's family welcomes and congratulates the following children that are receiving the Lord in Holy Communion for the first time today, they are: Aiyana Cartwright (who is also being baptized), Mya Suri, Jacob Van Zile, Ryan Donahue, Kerry Donahue, Bridgette Donahue, and Shaliana Bravo. Let us pray for them, their parents and their godparents. Welcome to the Lord's table!

REGULAR CONSECRATING WINE FOR COMMUNION: We would like to continue to offer Non-Alcoholic and Gluten free options for those parishioners that have those needs or preference. However, it is the theological and liturgical practice of the Lutheran church to use regular wine. Besides it is the most effective practices against the sharing of germs. We will strongly recommend to commune by intinction. Regular wine will be offered **beginning June 2017.**

LESS PAPER FOR BULLETINS: In order to save paper and money in photocopies, **during summer**, we will print half the amount of bulletins and the ushers will only give bulletins to whoever asks for them. Otherwise, the option of projection is always there.

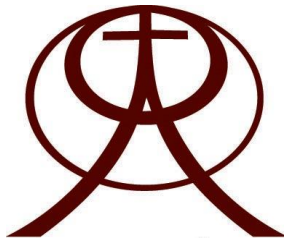
BISHOP'S VISIT: Our interim Bishop Marcus Lohrmann of the Florida-Bahamas Synod of the ELCA will be preaching at St. Stephen on Pentecost Sunday, June 4, 2017. Please come meet him!

VENEZUELA AID: Venezuela remains in crisis and our church has committed to help by sending food and other items like toiletries. Our receiving person in Venezuela is Pastor Gerardo Hans from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Valencia. He will make sure the shipment will get to Casa Hogar which is an orphanage managed by the church where the need is greater. We are aiming for our first shipment to be sent mid-April. Since the food is scares, we will buy it here wholesale and send it door to door. We ask that you put your donations in the money tower. We are also asking for volunteers, men and women because food will be purchased by the sack, therefore we will need men to help us carry them. All your help is appreciated!

FILLING OUT PEW PADS: At the end of each pew there are some pads for information. Please fill them out as you are able, and we may contact you if you wish, with the monthly Newsletter, or indicate if you need a pastoral call.

Service Assistants for May

10:15 AM	<u>May 21</u>	<u>May 28</u>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Carol Jacobson	Natalie Prego
ACOLYTE	Sera Butz	Madison Kibler
LECTOR	Catherine Zippay	Juliet Crawford
USHERS –Need 4 to Serve	Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle Catherine Zippay Floyd MacDonald	Marsha Kibler Drew Kibler Darin Kibler Jeanne Pettit
Head Usher	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS – Need 2 to Serve	Caroline Smith Barbara Kaptain	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones
SOUND	Dennis Magarrell	Larry Jones
PROJECTION	Chris Castaneda	Katie Paff



St Stephen

Lutheran Church, ELCA

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

Sunday Schedule

10:15 a.m. Worship

11:15 a.m. Sunday School

Holy Communion is celebrated weekly

Church Staff

Rev. Pedro Suarez – Pastor
ststephenpastor@gmail.com

Cesar Vidaud – Director of Music

Clarence (Teddy) Rowe – Sexton

Aidee Koach – Administrative Assistant
sslcpompano@gmail.com

Congregation Council

Larry Jones - President
councilpresident@ststephenlutheran.net

Christian Hecker – Vice-president
Natalie Prego - Secretary
Patricia Engle
Dennis Magarrell

Eric Castaneda - Treasurer
Lynda Smith
Harry Ambrose

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

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