

St Stephen

Lutheran Church, ELCA



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

November 19, 2017

24th Sunday after Pentecost

10:15am

Rev. Tom Peterson

—WE GATHER—

INTRODUCTION

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, who calls us into an everlasting hope, who guides us to springs of the water of life, who enlightens us with the spirit of wisdom. **C: Amen.**

P: One with the communion of saints in all times and places, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God:

C: O God, our merciful redeemer, we confess the ways we live only for ourselves. We fail to see you in our neighbor's face. We turn our ears from voices that cry out. We pass by the hungry and the oppressed. In your great mercy, forgive our sin and strengthen us for service to all in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for \pm his sake, God forgives you all your sin. Blessed are you! Rejoice and be glad, beloved people of God.

C: AMEN.



Text: Bernhardt S. Ingemann, 1789–1862; tr. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt. Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944

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)



pray to the Lord.

let us

pray to the Lord,

let us

HYMN OF PRAISE "This is the feast"



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together:

C: Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN

Children's message

—WE HEAR GOD'S WORD—

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

⁷Be silent before the Lord GoD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." ¹³Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste.

Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there.

¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. ¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM (ELW): PSALM 90:1-8 (9-11) 12

- ¹Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.
- ²Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.
- ³You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, O children of earth."
- ⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night;
- ⁵you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:
- 6in the morning it is green and flourishes;
- in the evening it is dried up and withered.
- ⁷For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.
- ⁸Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
- ⁹When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
- ¹⁰The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,
 - for they pass away quickly and we are gone.
- ¹¹Who regards the power of your wrath? Who rightly fears your indignation?
- ¹²So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ¹for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁶But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁶For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

L: This is 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. Matthew, the 25th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.'

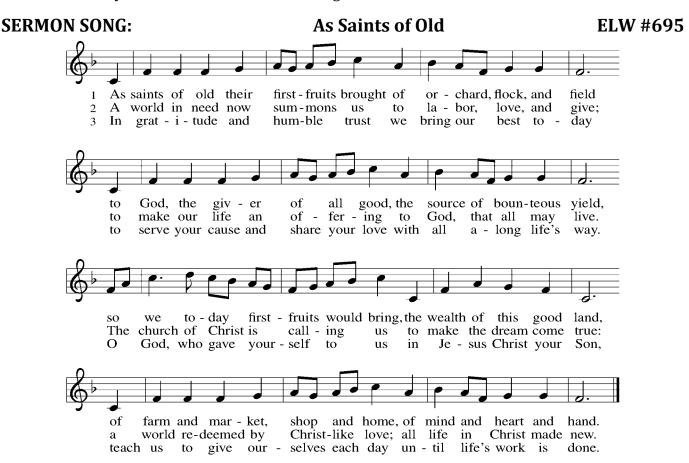
²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

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

SERMON Rev. Tom Peterson

—WE RESPOND—

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



Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900–1996, alt.

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

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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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

A: Welcoming God's reign of righteousness and mercy, let us pray with people of every time and place.

After each petition of the prayer is said:

A: Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Receive these prayers and the hopes and concerns of our hearts, O God, as we entrust into your loving care all for whom we pray, through 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.

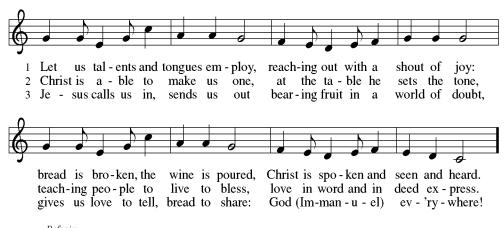
~WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE~

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING:

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

ELW #674





Je - sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929
Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980
Text and music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

A: Creator God.

you made everything, and you provide for every need.

The bread we break and the wine we pour come from you.

As we eat and drink with thanksgiving,

fill us with your love;

let that love flow through us to others;

and join us to the saints before us

in a holy and boundless communion;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

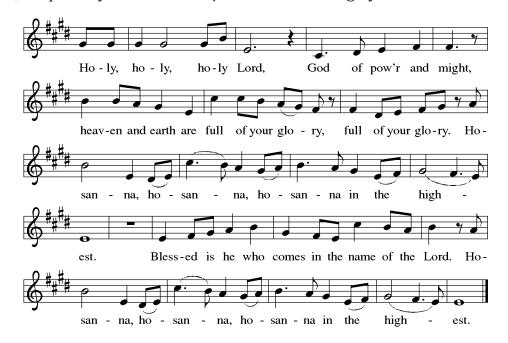
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,

you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,

and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.

You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:

strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,

and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church,

both now and forever. Amen

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

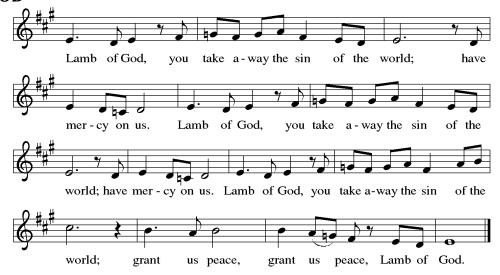
P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

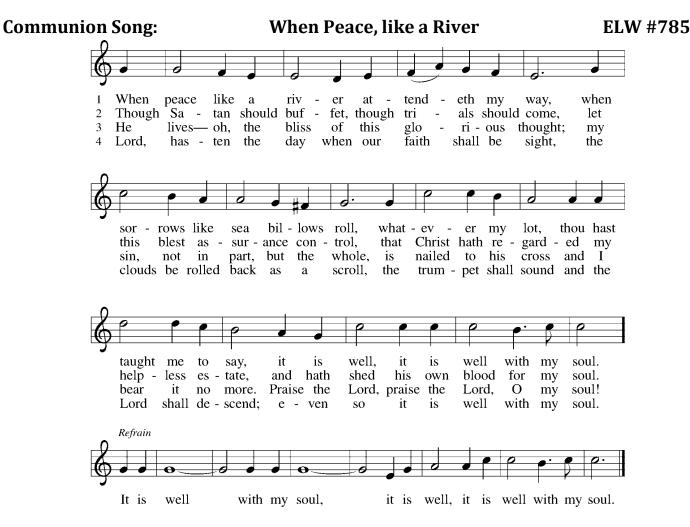
Reception of Communion

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 indicate if you need gluten-free and alcohol-free elements.

"LAMB OF GOD"





Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888 Music: VILLA DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

Instrumental Music

Cesar Vidaud

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

A: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

~WE ARE SENT FORTH~

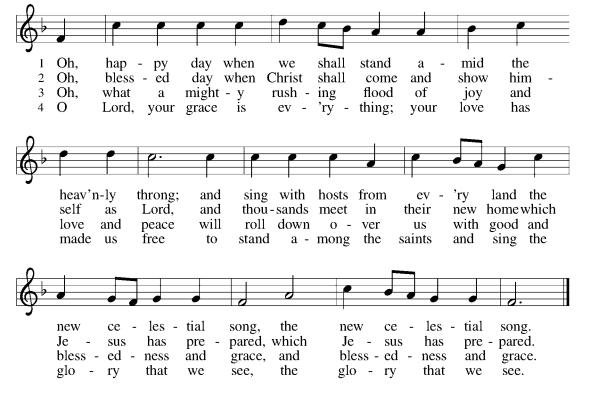
Benediction

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

C: Amen.

Announcements





Text: Wilhelm A. Wexels, 1797–1866; tr. composite Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561 Text © 1958, 1978 Augsburg Fortress

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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: Rudy Koch, Laurel Blake, Jim Loggins, Barb Taylor, Diane Adler, Jean Rogers, Katie, Roy and Barbara Kaptain, Lisa Allen, Bob & Jane Reinhold, C.C., Trudy DiCarlo and Marie Koach.

Prayers for Friends of the Church: Damien S., Monique Rogers and her mom Betty, Marie Trykoski, Myrka Alverist's family, Maggie Alverist, 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, Adam Rubino, Berna, Braemen Weiner, Chandler Weiner, Debbie Seckel, Elizabeth Kraus, Kenneth Smith, Mary Taylor, Cynthia, Richard H., Laurie Engelhardt, and the family of Jane Isner who died peacefully last week.

Announcements

THANKSGIVING SOUP SUPPER AND WORSHIP: On November 22 at 6p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, we will have a soup supper before a brief Thanksgiving worship at 7p.m. Please join us and bring your favorite soup.

CONSECRATION & INSTALLATION OF AURA SUAREZ: On Saturday, November 25 at 5:00pm at St. Stephen. A reception will follow at the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

CONSECRATION SUNDAY: November 26 at St. Stephen. A gentle reminder to fill the Estimate of Giving out. There will be copies printed in the Narthex. Please fill it out and send it back either by email at sslcpompano@gmail.com or drop it off at church office.

BARBARA'S UPDATE: St. Stephen's family members, Barbara Kaptain now resides at the Atrium, assisted living at Boca Raton, 1080 NW 15TH St Room #215 (just off I-95 and Glades Road). Please note that we are the only "family" close enough to visit and seeing a familiar face will surely keep Barbara smiling. A good time to visit is any day between 2pm – 4pm.

THE LUTHER ROOM: Most of us know it as the Choir Room, other know it as the Music Room, it is the room west of the Narthex. Through the years it has become also a storage room. Unfortunately, it has also been neglected, and since it is being used for more than choir practices, it doesn't feel inviting or part of the growing church that we are now. We would like to renovate this room. We hope to dedicate this "Martin Luther Room" as part of our commemoration of the 500 years of the Reformation on October 29, 2017. Would you like to be part of this effort? Please make your donation in an envelope specifying, "Luther Room by _____ in honor of _____." You may also contact the church office.

Service Assistants for November

10:15 AM	November 19	November 26 Christ the King
ASSISTING MINISTER	Carol Jacobson	Sera Butz
ACOLYTE	Aiyana Cartwright	Madison Kibler
LECTOR	Rosie Fennelli	Carol Jacobson
USHERS –Need 4 to Serve	Lisa Castaneda Floyd MacDonald Linda Hanzlik Terry Shumway	Marsha Kibler Drew Kibler Darin Kibler Suzanne Loggins
Head Usher	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS – Need 2 to Serve	Caroline Smith Zachary Smith	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones
SOUND	Dennis Magarrell	Katie Paff
PROJECTION	Eric Castaneda	Larry Jones



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

Sunday Schedule

10:15 a.m. Worship 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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