



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.

October 11, 2020

19th Sunday after Pentecost

10:15am

Holy Communion

Introduction to the Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.



Gathering

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

Prelude

Welcome

CONFESSIO AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

The Lord restores our souls and guides us along right pathways. Let us confess our sin before God and each other.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin.
We are truly sorry and humbly repent.**

**In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,
things we have done and things we have failed to do.**

Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,
 so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ,
 our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness.

Today Isaiah proclaims: "The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken," 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. Amen.

GATHERING SONG:

We Are Called

ELW# 720



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your . . mer - cy to all those in
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be



Lord! We are called to be light for the king - dom, to
 fear! We are called to be hope for the hope - less so
 one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as



live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God.
 ha - tred and blind - ness . . . will be . . . no more.
 sis - ters and broth - ers . . . u - nit - ed in love.



We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

Text: David Haas, b. 1957
 Music: WE ARE CALLED, David Haas
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APOSTOLIC GREETING

The presiding minister and assembly greet each other.

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

CANTICLE OF PRAISE: Glory to God

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

1 Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,
we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you
Refrain
for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high -
est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and
peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 For you a -
lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.
A - men. A - men. A - men.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The assembly sits.



Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

¹O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. ²For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt.

³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. ⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. ⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; ⁸he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:1-9

A reading from Philippians.

¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. ²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14

P: ✝ The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

11“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, 12and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. 13Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ 14For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

ELW# 719



1 Where cross the crowd-ed ways of life, where sound the
 2 In haunts of wretch-ed - ness and need, on shad - owed
 3 From ten - der child-hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man
 4 The cup of wa - ter giv'n for you still holds the



cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of
 thresh-olds dark with fears, from paths where hide the
 grief and bur - dened toil, from fam - ished souls, from
 fresh - ness of your grace; yet long these mul - ti -



self - ish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.
 lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.
 sor - row's stress, your heart has nev - er known re - coil.
 tudes to view the strong com - pas - sion in your face.

5 O Master, from the mountainside
 make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
 among these restless throngs abide;
 oh, tread the city's streets again;

6 Till all the world shall learn your love,
 and follow where your feet have trod;
 till glorious from your heav'n above
 shall come the city of our God.

Text: Frank M. North, 1850–1935, alt.
 Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, Sacred Melodies, 1815

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APOSTLES CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

After each petition of the prayer is said:

A: We pray for _____, O God our Shepherd:

C: receive our prayers.

P: Into your hands, merciful God our Father, we offer ourselves and all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

The assembly sits.



MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

SETTING THE TABLE

OFFERING SONG:

Let Us Go Now to the Banquet

ELW# 523

Refrain / Estribillo



Va - mos to - dos al ban - que - te, a la
 Let us go now to the ban - quet, to the



me - sa de la crea - ción; ca - da cual con su ta - bu -
 feast of the u - ni - verse. The ta - ble's set and a place is



re - te tie - ne un pues - to y u - na mi - sión.
 wait - ing; come, ev - 'ry - one, with your gifts to share.



1 Hoy me le - van - to muy tem - pra - no; ya me es -
 1 I will rise in the ear - ly morn - ing; the com -
 2 God in - vites all the poor and hun - gry to the
 3 May we build such a place a - mong us where all

pe - ra la co - mu - ni - dad; voy su - bien - do_a - le - gre la
 mu - ni - ty's wait - ing for me. With a spring in my step I'm
 ban - quet of jus - tice and good where the har - vest will not be
 peo - ple are e - qual in love. God has called us to work to -

Refrain / Estribillo
 cues - ta, voy en bus - ca de tu_a - mis - tad.
 walk - ing with my friends and my fam - i - ly.
 hoard - ed so that no one will lack for food.
 geth - er and to share ev - 'ry - thing we have.

- 2 *Dios invita a todos los pobres a esta mesa común por la fe, donde no hay acaparadores y a nadie le falta el conqué. Estribillo*
- 3 *Dios nos manda a hacer de este mundo una mesa donde haya igualdad, trabajando y luchando juntos, compartiendo la propiedad. Estribillo*

Text: Guillermo Cuéllar, b. 1955, *Misa popular salvadoreña*; tr. Bret Hesla, b. 1957, and William Dexheimer Pharris, b. 1956
 Music: VAMOS TODOS AL BANQUETE, Guillermo Cuéllar, b. 1955
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The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

The presiding minister continues to give thanks:

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,...
...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.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,...

...Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen

Amen.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,...

...Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen

Amen.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age,...

...all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

Communion

The bread is broken for the communion.

P: This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

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:

United at the Table

ELW# 498

Refrain / Estribillo

U - ni - dos en la fies - ta, la a - le - grí - a
U - nit - ed at the ta - ble: all our joy is

se ha - ce can - ción. U - ni - dos en la fe,
joined in song. U - nit - ed in the faith:

la a - le - grí - a se ha - ce o - ra - ción.
all our joy to God be - longs.

1 Can - ta - re - mos al Se - ñor
2 We will praise God, we will sing
3 We will praise God, we will feast
we will play

a - le - lu - yas con him - nos y sal - mos,
al - le - lu - ias with hymns and with psalm - o - dy;
at the boun - ti - ful ta - ble of life and grace;
al - le - lu - ias with rhy - thm and in - stru - ments;

por - que gran - de es el a - mor
we will praise God for the love
we will praise God and give thanks
we will praise God for the love

Refrain / Estribillo

que en no - so - tros por siem - pre mos - tró.
that sus - tains us e - ter - nal - ly.
for com - mu - nion with ev - 'ry race.
that in - vites all cre - a - tion to dance.

2 Cantaremos la bondad del Señor que nos sienta a su mesa, y nos llama a comulgar como hermanos su vino y su pan.

3 Cantaremos al Señor aleluyas al son de instrumentos, y será nuestra canción la alabanza que ensalza su amor.

Text: Joaquín Madurga; tr. Angel Mattos, b. 1947, and Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
Music: UNIDOS EN LA FIESTA, Joaquín Madurga
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The assembly stands and the assisting minister leads the prayer after communion.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Sending

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

Announcements

BLESSING

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

Almighty, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.
Amen.

SENDING SONG:

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

ELW# 536



1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con - found you,



with a shep - herd's care en - fold you;
 dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

Refrain



Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828–1904
Music: GOD BE WITH YOU, William G. Tomer, 1833–1896

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C: Thanks be to God.



RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION TODAY OUTSIDE!

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be given today by Pastor Bob in the church parking lot, in front of the main entrance from 12:00pm—12:30pm. It will be drive through. Please follow the ushers' directions on arrival and maintain social distancing. Please wear a mask except when receiving the sacrament.

IN OUR PRAYERS...

In our prayers today are these members of our homebound and others of our parish family in need of healing: Carol Chmelynski, Lisa Castaneda, Kelly Jacobson, Carol Jacobson, Randy Mottesheard, Marti Stroberg, Dolores Lauterberg, Laurel Blake, Dorothy Johnson, James Loggins, Don Schutt, Normagene Richardson, Mildred Grady, Rosie & Jimmy Fennelli, Pat Engle.

PRAYERS FOR FRIENDS OF THE PARISH

✠ Blanca, Eric Hecker, E. Kuckert, Susie, Belinda, Marjorie, Roy, Gene, Chris, Amanda, Annette, Madison, Mason, Betty, Joanna, Susan, Betty, Chuck, Pat, Bruce, Carol, Valerie, Jason, Melissa, Annie, Chantal Martel, Jane, Greg, Chipper, Camille, James, Carolyn, Jon, Aiden, Chandler, Becky, Cheryl, Robert, Craig, Braemen, Jerry, Taylor, Betty, Nettie, Carol, officer Sancho and family, Janice, Joe, Jan, Betty, Sharon, Garry, Andrea.

IN A FACILITY OR HOMEBOUND:

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

Normagene Richardson – Woodlands at John Knox 700 SW 4th St, Pompano Beach, FL 33060

Room: 2208 Phone: 954-247-5806

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.



During the pandemic, St. Stephen congregation has taken on the mission to support Feeding South Florida. **We are told that St. Stephen's generosity has provided 12,00 meals so far!!!** 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. Thank you so much for your generosity. Keep up the good work, we will continue to support this work throughout October. **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

Plan for return to in-person worship

The Congregation Council has affirmed the Reopening Team plan to make a cautious return to in-person worship, for those who are ready, next Sunday on October 18. A set of recommendations regarding a cautious return to in-person worship in light of Florida now entering Phase 3 of recovery will be received at the October 7 Congregation Council Zoom meeting. We will be having the church deep cleaned and disinfected at the end of this week. **Congregation-wide Zoom meetings will be held with Pr. Bob on Tuesday, October 13th at 11:00am and on Wednesday, October 14 at 7:00pm for those who would like to return to in-person worship as well as for the congregation in general. At these meetings the pastor will go over the protocols for in-person worship as well as answer questions. Please plan on attending one of these meetings, especially if you plan on attending in-person worship. You will receive an invitation on Monday.** At reopening for worship, in person attendance will be limited to 50 people on any given Sunday following strict social distancing and very careful guidelines.

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