St Stephen

Evangelical Lutheran Church



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

September 6, 2015

Fifthteen Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Pedro Suarez

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

—WE GATHER—

INTRODUCTION

James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophoenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings her or his need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

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.



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib er at-ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil-dren with a strong yet gen-tle word;
- Praise the one true love in car nate: Christ, who suf fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris-'ners, turn-ing blind-ness in - to sight. praise the One who drove out de-mons with a pierc-ing, two-edged sword. Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal-ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn-ing sand; Let us sing for joy and glad-ness, see-ing what our God has done.



calm-ing storms and feed - ing thou-sands with the ver - y bread of peace. from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench-ing thirst in ev - 'ry land. Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813

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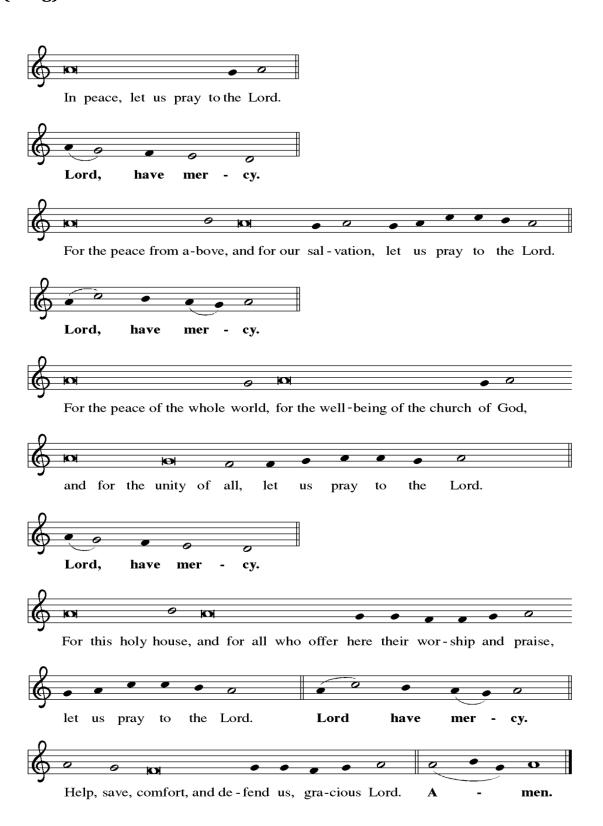
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THE GREETING

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: Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. AMEN

Children's Message

—WE HEAR GOD'S WORD—

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Chapter 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146

I will praise the LORD as long as I live. (Ps. 146:2)

¹Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Put not your trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there is no help.

When they breathe their last, they re- turn to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;

Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;

Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

The LORD sets the captive free.

The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING:

James 2:1:10 (11-13) 14-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip-service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

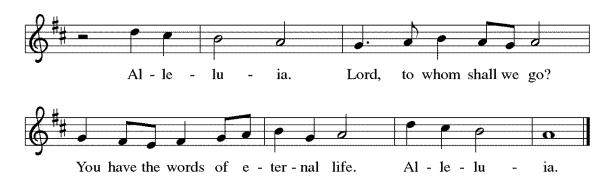
¹ My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ² For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³ and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," 4 have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷ Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? 8 You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 9 But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [11For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. 12So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.] ¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷ So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. 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. Mark, the 7th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophoenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

²⁴Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵But a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

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 Go

God of Grace and God of Glory

ELW #705



Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

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.

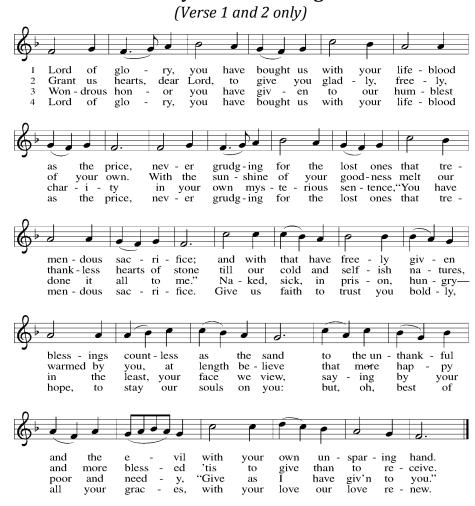


~WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE~

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING Lord of Glory You Have Bought Us

ELW # 707



Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–1889, alt. Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

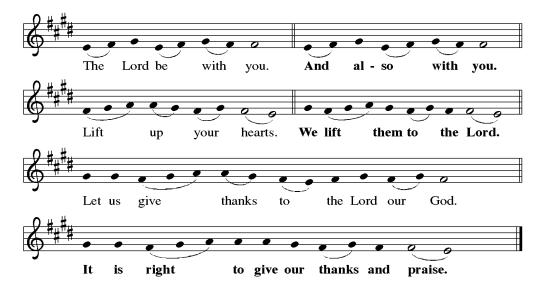
OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray,

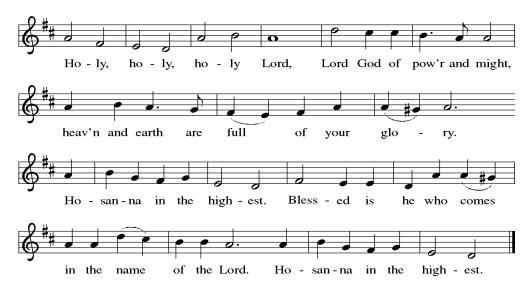
God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. **Amen.**

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 today is at the Altar rail and received by intinction. 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 and dip it in the wine. The wine is alcohol free. There is no group dismissal. Please return to your seats by the center aisle.



Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007 Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833 Text © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 www.giamusic.com 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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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~

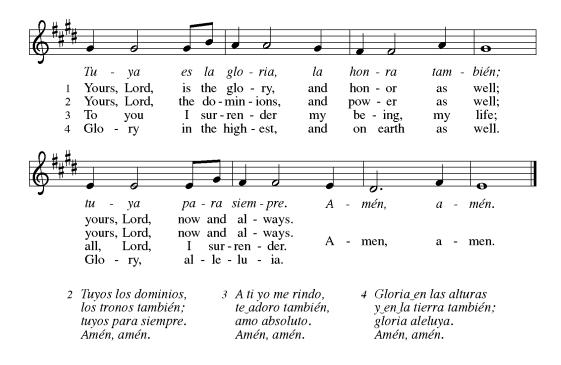
Benediction

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

SENDING SONG:

Yours, Lord, Is the Glory

ELW #857



Text: Traditional; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923 Music: TUYA ES LA GLORIA, traditional English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.

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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. We also need to pray for: Kathy Runk, Mary S. Bailey, Roy Kaptain, Jimmy Fennelli, Bob & Jane Reinhold, Larry and Beverly Sheehan, Dee Lauterberg, Barbara W., Chico E.

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, Richard H., Antonio Celis and Bob Sudberg.

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

Announcements

MID-WEEK RECHARGE WITH PRAISE AND PRAYER: Join us for mid-week recharge of Praise and Prayer every Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

ALTAR FLOWERS: We need more people to donate in order to have enough flowers each Sunday at the altar for our worship. Please check with Rosie Fennelli, or Pastor Suarez.

CHANGE FOR CHANGE: You will notice as you exit that there is a large box with the words *Change for Change.* This is an effort to collect funds for our local benevolence. Please give freely.

LATINO WORSHIP TO BEGIN: Today, September 6, 2015 will be our first Latino Worship here at St. Stephen at 12:30p.m. Please invite all your Spanish speaking families and friends.

TRAINING SCHEDULES: We are starting one hour training on Saturdays (September 12th, 19th and 26th) at 10:00a.m. Ushers & Greeters/ Sound & Projection – Sept. 12th, Assisting Ministers & Lectors – Sept. 19th, Acolytes& Altar Care – Sept. 26th. Please be at church by 9:45 a.m., sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Thank You!

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE: Our schedule this coming fall starting on September 20 will be:

1st Service 9a.m. (Praise and Faith Formation) 2nd Service 10:15a.m. (Traditional/Blend) 3rd Service 12:30 p.m. (Latino Worship.)

Service Assistants for September

Time Change 9:30 AM	September 6	September 13	September20	September 27
ASSISTING MINISTER	Sera Butz	Carol Jacobson	Aura Suarez	Pat Belanger
ACOLYTE	Taryn Booth	Andrew Hanzlik	Carol Jacobson	Maddie Kibler
LECTOR	Rosie Fennelli	Tom Peterson	Natalie Prego	Catherine Zippay
USHERS – Need 4	Suzanne Loggins	Kim Hanzlik	Linda Hanzlik	Marsha Kibler
to Serve	TBA	Lynda & Zac	TBA	Aura Suarez
		Smith		Lynda & Zac Smith
Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli	Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli	Head Usher- Rosie Fennelli	Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli	Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS – Need	Marie Koach	Rose Jones	Lisa Castaneda	Eduardo Arango
2 to serve	Caroline Smith	Kelly	Suzanne Loggins	Caroline Smith
		Jacobson		
SOUND	ТВА	Sera Butz	Sera Butz	ТВА
PROJECTION	Larry Jones	Larry Jones	ТВА	Larry Jones



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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. Latino Worship Service at 12:30 p.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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