

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.

August 2, 2020

9th Sunday after Pentecost

10:15am

Holy Communion

Introduction to The Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.



Gathering

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

Prelude

Welcome

CONFESSION 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 God forever, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Beloved, today's psalm reminds us that God is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Lord, you uphold all those who fall and lift up those who are bowed down.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, you are near to all who call upon you, to all who call up- on you faithfully.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness.

Almighty God has had mercy upon us, forgives us all our sins, and brings us to eternal life.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG:

Praise and Thanksgiving

ELW# 689



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
neigh-ber we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work
guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -
fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.
joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.
hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

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.

Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly sits.



Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-5

A reading from Isaiah.

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:8-9, 14-21

⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹**LORD, you are good to all,
and your compassion is over all your works.**

¹⁴The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

¹⁵**The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD,
and you give them their food in due season.**

¹⁶You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷**You are righteous in all your ways and loving in all your works.**

¹⁸You are near to all who call upon you, to all who call upon you faithfully.

¹⁹**You fulfill the desire of those who fear you;
you hear their cry and save them.**

²⁰You watch over all those who love you, but all the wicked you shall destroy.

²¹**My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD;
let all flesh bless God's holy name forever and ever.**

SECOND READING: Romans 9:1-5

A reading from Romans.

¹I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—²I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. ⁴They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

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 14:13-21

P: ✝ The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist], he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” ¹⁷They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” ¹⁸And he said, “Bring them here to me.” ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Robert Schaefer

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Break Now the Bread of Life

ELW# 515



1 Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as once you
2 Bless your own word of truth, dear Lord, to me, as when you
3 You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, your ho - ly



broke the loaves be - side the sea. Be - yond the sa - cred page
blessed the bread by Gal - i - lee. Then shall all bond-age cease,
word the truth that res - cues me. Give me to eat and live



I seek you, Lord; my spir - it waits for you, O liv - ing Word.
all fet - ters fall; and I shall find my peace, my All - in - All!
with you a - bove; teach me to love your truth, for you are love.

Text: Mary A. Lathbury, 1841–1913, alt.
Music: BREAD OF LIFE, William F. Sherwin, 1826–1888

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: Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each petition of the prayer is said:

Lord, you are good to all:

C: **hear our cry and save us.**

P: In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our 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:

Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal

ELW# 464



- 1 Bread of life, our host and meal, Je - sus, feed us.
- 2 Bread now break and wine now pour, Je - sus, feed us.
- 3 Grant for - give - ness in the feast— Je - sus, feed us—
- 4 Thank you for this gift we share. Je - sus, feed us.



Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.
Make us one, our hope re - store; feed us with your love.
for the great - est and the least; feed us with your love.
Save God's chil - dren ev - 'ry - where; feed us with your love.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943; Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: JESUS, FEED US, Ray Makeever

Text and music © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **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.

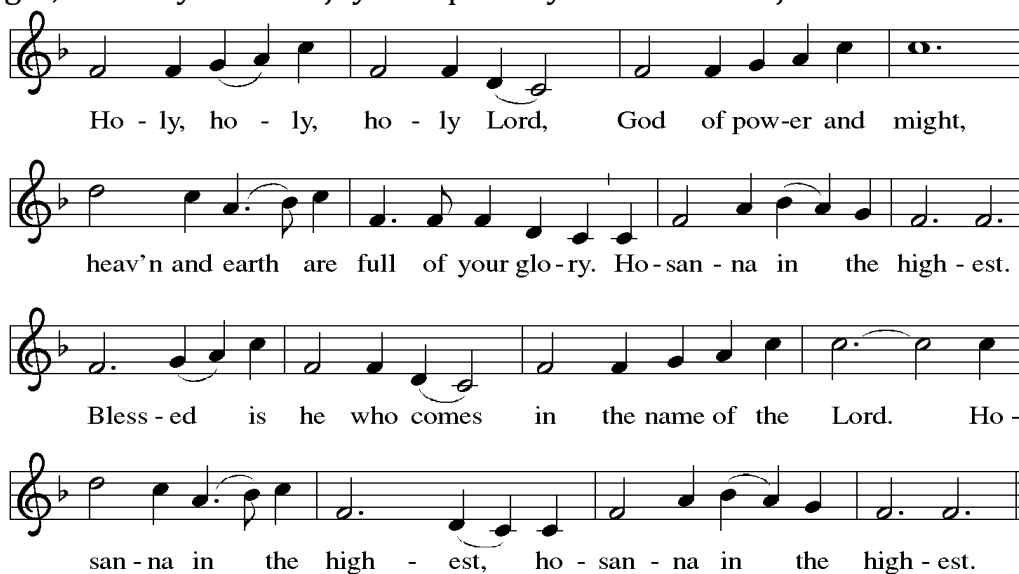
Lift up your hearts.

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:

Lord, you are holy indeed, ...

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

...all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, 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. Friends of Jesus, come to the table. Receive nourishment for your journey.

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.



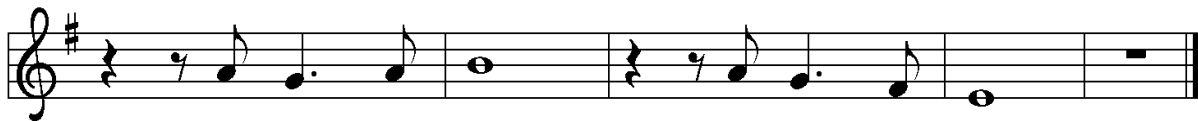
Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



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.

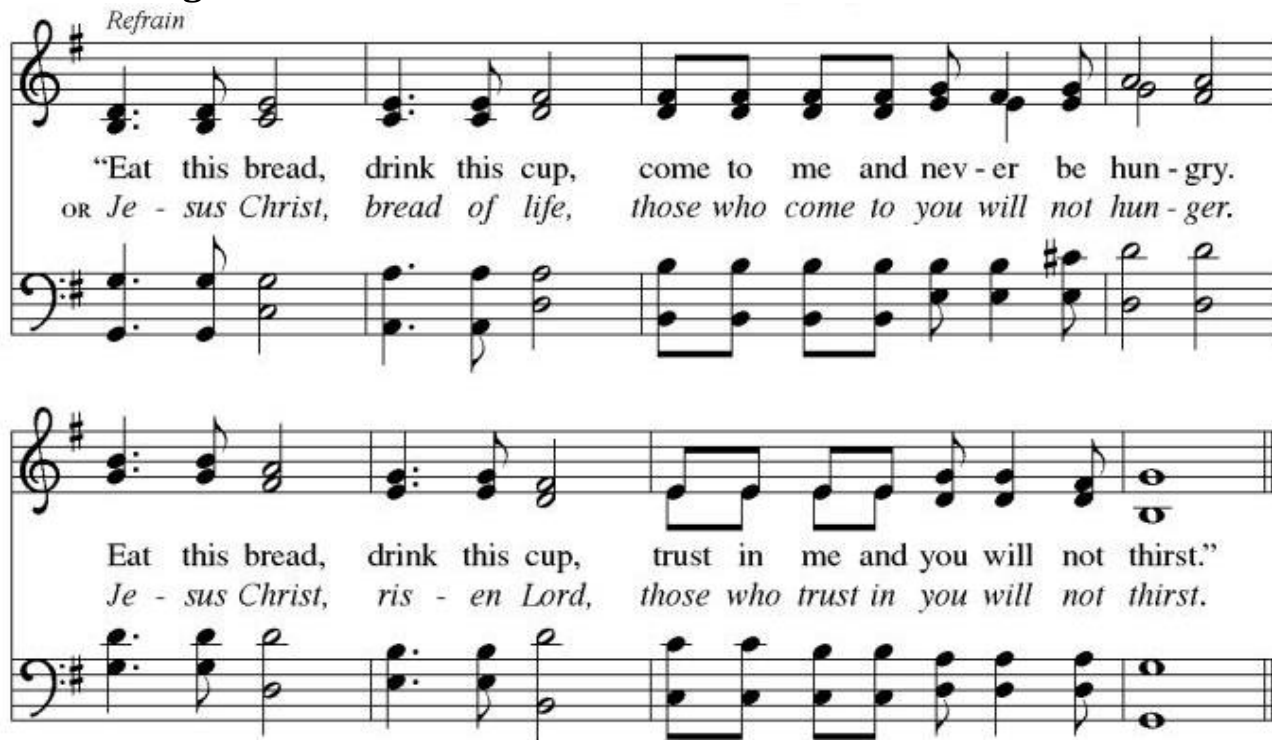


Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



da - nos tu paz, da - nos tu paz.
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

Refrain



“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com.
800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assembly stands and the assisting minister leads the 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 God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit bless you, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly turns toward the cross as it passes by.



Ma - si - thi! A - men si - a - ku - du - mi - sa! Ma - si - thi!
Sing prais-es! A-men, we praise your name, O God! Sing prais - es!



A - men si - a - ku - du - mi - sa! Ma - si - thi! A - men, ba - wo.
A - men, we praise your name, O God! Sing prais - es! A - men, a - men.



A - men, ba - wo. A - men si - a - ku - du - mi - sa! Ma - si - thi!
A - men, a - men. A - men, we praise your name, O God! Sing prais - es!

Text: South African traditional
Music: AMEN SIAKUDUMISA, attr. S. C. Molefe, as taught by Gobingca George Mxadana
Music © Gobingca Mxadana

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.



YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION TODAY!

The Eucharist is the Real Presence of Jesus and central to nourishing and sustaining our faith—especially during this pandemic. While we can't safely gather in large groups in the church yet, you are encouraged to come with your loved ones to receive the Lord's Supper in a safe way outside the church. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be given today 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: Harry Ambrose, Randy Mottesheard, Susanne Loggins, Pastor Bob, Marti Stroberg, Dolores Lauterberg, Jake Waldecki, Sera Butz, George Arce, Laurel Blake, Dorothy Johnson, James Loggins, Don Schutt, Normagene Richardson, Mildred Grady, Carol Chmelynski, Jimmy Fennelli, Roy and Barbara Kaptain, Katie Paff, Bob Reinhold, and Shelley Amato, and The Castaneda family.

Prayers for Friends of the Parish

✠ Belinda Barfield, Gene, Chris, Amanda, Annette, Madison, Mason, Betty, Chuck, Joanna, Susan, Betty, Pat, Bruce, Lisa, Eric Hecker, E. Kuckert, Ozania and family, Marti, Arthur, Stacie, Jake, Harry ✠ Carol, Missy, Jason, Melissa, Greg, Valerie, and Jane.

In a facility or homebound:

Barbara Kaptain – The Atrium Assistant Living at Boca Raton.

1080 NW 15TH Room 215 Boca Raton, Fl. 33486

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

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.



In response to the amazing love, mercy and grace of God, St. Stephen Lutheran Church is a community that openly welcomes all who are seeking God's divine love and grace. All are welcome in this place regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation or gender identity, economic situation or life situation, marital or relationship status, or your doubts about faith and church. Our unity is in Christ. Your family, children, friends, spouses and partners are welcome. Your diversity and uniqueness enriches and expands our community. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

The Reopening Team recommends that we do not invite people to in person worship until the first Sunday in September, September 6, conditions permitting. The daily new corona case numbers still remain too high to issue a formal invitation to return to in person worship yet.

Congregation Council Meeting: Council members, we will hold our August meeting via Zoom this Wednesday, August 5 at 7pm. Watch your email for your invitation from Pr. Bob and for council reports.



With unemployment at near record highs, more people are food insecure than ever. To help make a difference we are supporting FEEDING SOUTH FLORIDA. 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.

Through innovative direct-service programs and a network of nonprofit partner agencies, Feeding South Florida distributed nearly 62 million pounds (51.5 million meals) of food last fiscal year to over 706,000 individuals – 236,000 of whom are children and 100,000 are older adults.

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

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2010 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24029. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Hymns are covered by our license CCLI 2959830.