

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

August 26, 2018

14th Sunday after Pentecost

10:15am

The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer, Pastor

HOLY COMMUNION

Gathering

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

INTRODUCTION

In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.

CHOIR PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands as able. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love. **Amen.**

P: Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Eternal God our creator:

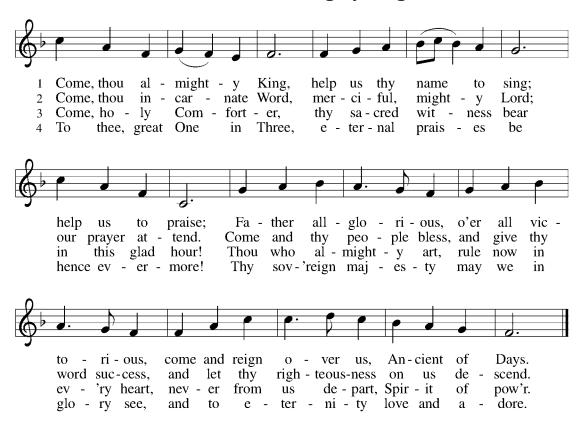
C: In you we live and move and have our being.
Look upon us, your children,
the work of your hands.
Forgive us all our offenses,
and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires.
By your grace draw us near to you,
our refuge and our strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG:

Come, Thou Almighty King

ELW #408



Text: source unknown, c. 1757, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796

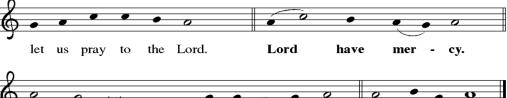
GREETING

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





Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE "This is the feast"



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

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

P: Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly sits.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

FIRST READING:

A Reading from Proverbs.

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

¹⁶Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 34:15-22

¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are up- on the righteous, and God's ears are open to their cry.

¹⁶The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,

to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.

¹⁷The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them and delivers them from all their troubles.

¹⁸The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those whose spirits are crushed.

¹⁹Many are the troubles of the righteous, but the LORD delivers them from every one.

²⁰God will keep safe all their bones; not one of them shall be broken.

²¹Evil will bring death to the wicked and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

²²O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants,

and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-20

A Reading from Ephesians.

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

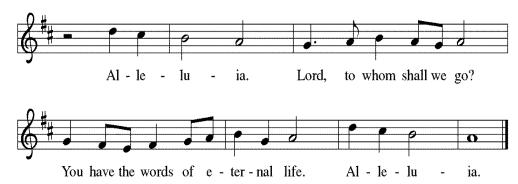
¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: John 6:56-69

P: The Holy Gospel, according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶"Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father." ⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

Youth and Children message

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY:

Blessed Assurance

ELW #638



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood. an - gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love. watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830-1908

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: Trusting in our loving and almighty God who abundantly provides the bread of life to all who hunger, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each petition of the prayer is said:

A: Let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

P: Almighty and loving God, we look to you in hope and trust, knowing that you will do far more than we can ask or imagine, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING:

For the Beauty of the Earth

ELW #879

(verses 1, 3, and 4 only)



- 1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the beau-ty of the skies,
- For the night, the won-der of each hour of the day and of For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
- 4 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
- 5 For each per-fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



love which from our birth the o - ver and a - round hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars light: for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link-ing sense to sound and sight: earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild: gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly thy - self, best



Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt. Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing.

You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it.

Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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:



Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer... and to form us again into one.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life. Send your Spirit upon us and this meal to be the body and blood of Christ: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, both now and forever.

Amen

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we are bold to pray.

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

P: This is the Lamb of God. This is the bread of life.

Whoever comes to Jesus will never be hungry, and whoever believes will never be thirsty. *The bread is broken for the communion. The assembly is seated.*

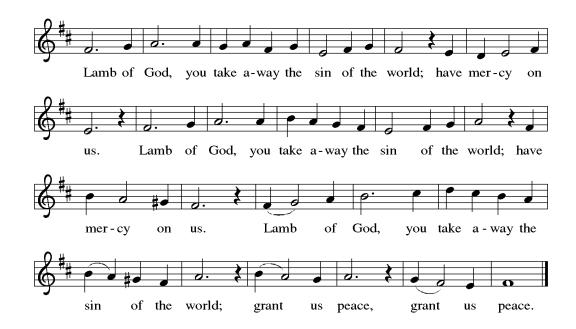
All baptized Christians are invited to participate in the celebration of holy communion. Those who are not baptized and children not yet communing may come forward for a blessing, please cross your arms on your chest if you desire a blessing.

At St. Stephen we receive Holy Communion by receiving the bread and then either drinking directly from the cup or by intinction: That means that you may **receive the bread in your hand and then dip bread in the wine**.)

Gluten free bread is available on the right side. (please ask)

Alcohol free wine is available on the right side. (please ask)

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



Communion Song:

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

ELW #461



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good. Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825 Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com

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Instrumental Music

Cesar Vidaud

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

O God, our life, our strength, our food,

we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son.

By your Holy spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world,

that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Sending

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

BLESSING

P: May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope.

C: Amen.



Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt. Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

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: Laurel Blake, Kathy Runk, Jimmy Fennelli, Caroline Smith, Edith Reichenback, Audrey Shumway, Jim Loggins, Diane Adler, Katie Paff, Roy and Barbara Kaptain, Bob & Jane Reinhold, and Shelley Amato.

Prayers for Friends of the Church: (Please renew your request every 3 weeks)

¥ George Stewart, Marjorie, Aurea Soto, Connie's Huber daughter, Joyce Brelsford, and Kathy Runk and the family of John McKenzie upon his death ¥ Julia, Yvonne Vasquez, Bob Lehr, Vera and Brian DeBolt, ★ Brittney, Ed Nelson, Gene Kriberney, Richard, Carol Chmelynski, Marcus Castaneda, Laurie Gonzalez and Rosie's Fennelli family.

In a facility or homebound:

Audrey Shumway - Willow Wick, Janesville, Wisconsin 53545
Barbara Kaptain - The Atrium Assistant Living at Boca Raton.

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

Jane Reinhold – Platinum Loving Group, P. O. Box 410572, Melbourne, FL 32941

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

Jim Loggins - John Knox Village - Woodlands

651 SW 6th St, Pompano Beach, FL 33060

Flowers sponsored this week by: Christ and Pat Belanger in honor of Matthew Belanger who is joining the marines.

Parish Announcements

Welcome to worship!

We are thankful you are here! We especially welcome our guests and first time visitors today. Please take a moment to fill out the attendance cards in the worship folder with your name, number and email—especially if you are visiting so that we can welcome you. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Pr. Schaefer. Please join us for refreshments and conversation in the gathering area at the back of the church (Narthex) following the liturgy this morning. St. Stephen members: don't forget to put a little something in the jar on the table to help support this ministry!

Need to speak to or get in touch with the pastor?

Pr. Schaefer's cell phone and email address are listed in the staff directory. Take note of his contact information and feel free to be in touch as needed! **Please help Pastor learn your name by introducing yourselves to him at the door!**

You are invited to breakfast!!! Saturday, September 8

With the fall season approaching the monthly Breakfast Bunch is starting up. This is a monthly gathering of St. Stephen members and friends simply for fellowship and fun. We will gather on Saturday, September 8 at 9:00am in the St. Stephen Fellowship Hall. Please join us as we get to know each other and newer folks to St. Stephen. Coffee and juice is provided. You are invited to bring your favorite breakfast food to share. See you there!

Confirmation Orientation!

The time is coming to resume our weekly confirmation gatherings. On September 9 from 11:45-12:45pm Pr. Bob and Sera Butz will meet with the parents and kids of all those interested in preparing to affirm their baptism in the Rite of Confirmation at St. Stephen. If you have any questions, please see Pastor or Sera.

Sign up for the flowers that beautify our altar each Sunday.

They are only \$35 per week and you may take them home after the liturgy or they will be given to the sick or homebound. They may be given in memory or in honor of someone. Signup is on the back wall of the gathering area (Narthex).

Join us in praying for those who have asked our prayers

Our email prayer chain is for the purpose of drawing the community in prayer for those who are sick or in special need of prayer. On Tuesday morning, we send out the names of those who were added to the attendance cards on Sunday. Special requests during the week will be sent out Friday morning. If you have prayer request, call the church office during the week.

Please remember the ministries of St. Stephen with your regular offerings.

Stewardship has been defined as everything you do after you say, "I believe." Part of stewardship is our financial generosity and commitment to Christ through his Church. Summers are always challenging times for congregations and St. Stephen is no exception. As a response to God's blessings to you, we encourage you to keep your offerings current especially if you are planning to be away. Not only does your generosity support local mission and ministry here, but through our mission support to the Florida-Bahamas Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we support ministries around the globe. Thank you for your commitment!

Unemployed? Under employed? Career Source Broward wants to help...

See the flyer from them on the bulletin board in the Narthex for details and contact information.

Worship Assistants for today

n silip rissistants joi toa	
10:15 AM	August 26
ASSISTING	Carol Jacobson
MINISTER	
ACOLYTE	Madison Kibler
LECTOR	Erika Flanigan
USHERS –Need	Marsha Kibler (w)
4 to Serve	Drew Kibler
	Darin Kibler
	Erika Flanigan
Head Usher	
	Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS –	Kelly Jacobson
Need 2 to Serve	Rose Jones
SOUND	Sera Butz
PROJECTION	Eric Castaneda

(w) will give wine at communion. Thank you all for serving.

Stewardship Snippet

Aug. 26, 2018 (14th Sunday after Pentecost, Year B)

John 6:68 – Simon Peter answered Jesus, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life."

We hear so many voices in our culture luring us to follow by promising us prosperity, power, fun, escape, prestige, etc. But steward disciples know that only Jesus has the words of true life, eternal life. We listen only for Jesus' words.



Sunday Schedule

10:15 a.m. Worship Holy Communion is celebrated weekly

Church Staff

The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer - Pastor pastoratststephen@gmail.com 941-716-5687
Cesar Vidaud - Director of Music Clarence (Teddy) Rowe - Sexton
Aidee Koach - Administrative Assistant sslcpompano@gmail.com
Office hours: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 Mon- Fri

Congregation Council

Larry Jones - President
councilpresident@ststephenlutheran.net
Christian Hecker - Vice-president
Eric Castaneda - Treasurer
Natalie Prego - Secretary
Lynda Smith
Patricia Engle
Harry Ambrose
Dennis Magarrell



Activity Calendar

Sunday 26

10:15am Sunday Worship

Monday 27

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Tuesday 28

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Wednesday 29

8:00am Quilting

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Thursday 30

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Friday 31

9:30am-12:30pm Office Open

Saturday 1

Happy and blessed Saturday!

Sunday 2

10:15am Sunday Worship



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