

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2022

10 A.M.

*WE WELCOME XU HAN, GUEST MUSICIAN.*

## INTRODUCTION

*It is possible to hear in Jesus' high priestly prayer, a prayer he offered shortly before his death, the petitions of the ascended Christ for his own throughout history—to our day—and beyond. Jesus prays for us. In holy baptism we become believers in God, have our robes washed in the flood of Christ's forgiveness, and receive the gift of life forever with all the saints.*

## PRELUDE

*The assembly stands.*



+ GATHERING +

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Congregation (C) Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P In the waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ, and we are a new creation. For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P We thank you, God, for your river of life, flowing freely from your throne: through the earth, through the city, through every living thing. You rescued Noah and his family from the flood; You opened wide the sea for the Israelites. Now in these waters you flood us with mercy, and our sin is drowned forever. You open the gate of righteousness and we pass safely through. In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters. You nourish us and enclose us in safety. You call us forth and send us out. In lush and barren places, you are with us. You have become our salvation. Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more. Claim us again as your beloved and holy people. Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear. To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb, be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

1 Rise, O Sun of righ - teous - ness; with your  
 2 Rouse our hearts from slum - ber deep; may your  
 3 Gath - er in your scat - tered flock; give us  
 4 Burst the bars of stub - born pride; make the  
 5 Hon - or, praise, and glo - ry be to the

might cre - a - tion bless. Shine up - on your church to - day,  
 word with - in us leap. Give us voic - es to pro - claim  
 wa - ter from the rock. Bless the u - ni - ty we share  
 heav'n - ly path - way wide. Raise us up from sin and death  
 ho - ly Trin - i - ty! May your gra - cious will be done:

show - ing all your gen - tle way. Have mer - cy, Lord.  
 prais - es to your ho - ly name. Have mer - cy, Lord.  
 in our shep - herd's lov - ing care. Have mer - cy, Lord.  
 with your Spir - it's liv - ing breath. Have mer - cy, Lord.  
 make us one, as you are one. Have mer - cy, Lord.

Text: Christian David, et al.; tr. Frank W. Stoldt, b. 1958

Music: SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT, Bohemian Brethren, *Kirchengeseng*, 1566

Text © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

## GREETING

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

C And also with you.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

O God, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON



+ WORD +

### FIRST READING: Acts 16:16-34

*Those who had enslaved a girl and used her powers to tell fortunes threw Paul and Silas into jail for ordering the spirit to come out of her and consequently ruining their business. In prison, Paul and Silas bring the good news of the gospel to the jailer and his family.*

<sup>16</sup>One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup>While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, “These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.” <sup>18</sup>She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

<sup>19</sup>But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. <sup>20</sup>When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, “These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews <sup>21</sup>and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.” <sup>22</sup>The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup>After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. <sup>24</sup>Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

<sup>25</sup>About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup>Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were unfastened. <sup>27</sup>When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup>But Paul shouted in a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” <sup>29</sup>The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup>Then he brought them outside and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” <sup>31</sup>They answered, “Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” <sup>32</sup>They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup>At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. <sup>34</sup>He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

Reader       The word of the Lord.

**C               Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 97**   *We pray the psalm in response to the first reading.*

Leader   <sup>1</sup>The LORD reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad.

**C       <sup>2</sup>Clouds and darkness sur-   <sup>1</sup>round the LORD, righteousness and justice are  
the foundations of God's throne.**

L       <sup>3</sup>Fire goes before the LORD, burning up enemies on every side.

**C       <sup>4</sup>Lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.**

L       <sup>5</sup>The mountains melt like wax before the Lord of all the earth.

**C       <sup>6</sup>The heavens declare your righteousness, O LORD, and all the peoples see  
your glory.**

L       <sup>7</sup>Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! Bow  
down before the LORD, all you gods.

**C       <sup>8</sup>Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, because of your  
judgments, O LORD.**

L       <sup>9</sup>For you are the LORD, most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all  
gods.

**C       <sup>10</sup>You who love the LORD, hate evil! God guards the lives of the saints and  
rescues them from the hand of the wicked.**

L       <sup>11</sup>Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart.

**C       <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, and give thanks to God's holy name.  
Amen.**

**SECOND READING: Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21**

*The ascended Christ, hidden from our sight, promises to come again. We eagerly pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," with all who respond to this invitation.*

<sup>12</sup>"See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. <sup>13</sup>I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." <sup>14</sup>Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

<sup>16</sup>"It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." <sup>17</sup>The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let everyone who hears say, "Come." And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift. <sup>20</sup>The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! <sup>21</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

Reader            The word of the Lord.

**C                    Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

**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.

**GOSPEL: John 17:20-26**

*Jesus prays that the life of his followers will be characterized by an intimate unity of identity with God. To be so identified with God means also to share in God's mission: to proclaim the word that will bring others into this same unity.*

P The holy gospel according to John, the seventeenth chapter.

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

[Jesus prayed:] <sup>20</sup>“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup>that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup>The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, <sup>23</sup>I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. <sup>24</sup>Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

<sup>25</sup>“Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup>I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON** *We encounter the living word of God in the preaching.*

*The assembly stands.*





1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are  
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er  
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in  
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**A** Let us confess our faith.

**C** 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**

*Each petition ends: God, in your mercy,*

*Congregational response: hear our prayer.*

## **PEACE**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

*We greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

*The assembly is seated.*

## **OFFERING**

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

## OFFERING HYMN

*We stand and sing as the collection and the gifts are brought forward.*

870 *We Praise You, O God (vs. 1)*

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: '1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor; in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring. We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you; we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.'

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

**C** **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**+ SENDING +**

**BLESSING** *We receive the blessings of the triune God.*

**P** God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ✠ bless you now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise  
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be  
 3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest  
 4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise  
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread  
 thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee  
 thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be  
 thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways  
 thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup  
 gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry  
 then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war  
 thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least  
 then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee



thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.  
 gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.  
 thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.  
 then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.  
 thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926  
 Music: THINE, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929  
 Text and music © 1983 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**DISMISSAL**

**P** We believe out loud that God’s mission for us is:

**C** **to be an active community that welcomes all people to nurture and share their faith and gifts with everyone, according to God’s call.**

**A** Alleluia! Christ is risen.


**C** **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**A** Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

**P** **Thanks be to God.**

+ + +

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**MARILYN LARSON DEDICATES TODAY’S  
ALTAR FLOWERS TO  
THE GLORY OF GOD  
AND IN MEMORY OF FLEET PRIDE,  
WHOSE BIRTHDAY IS MAY 30.**

**Calendar for May 29 - June 5**

May	29	Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
			10:00 am	Worship, Seventh Sunday of Easter
June	3-5			Florida-Bahamas Synod Assembly
	5	Sun.	10:00 am	Worship w/ communion, Day of Pentecost

*\*The office will be closed on Monday, May 30, in observance of Memorial Day.*

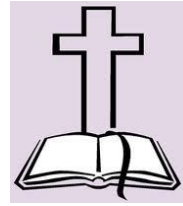
**Next Sunday's Readings: Day of Pentecost**

[Acts 2:1-21](#)

[Psalm 104:24-34, 35b](#)

[Romans 8:14-17](#)

[John 14:8-17 \[25-27\]](#)



<b>Serving</b>	<b>May 29</b>	<b>June 5</b>
<b>Presiding</b>	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom Miller
<b>Preaching</b>	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom Miller
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Kirsten Ebbesen	
<b>Cup Minister</b>	Susan Warren	Susan Warren
<b>Lector</b>	Jennifer Buchanan	Mark Bertolami
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Caroline Collins Andrea Notley	Caroline Collins Andrea Notley
<b>Counters</b>	Audrey Post Billie Reardon	Bob Eshleman Linda Eshleman
<b>Announcements</b>	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom

## PRAYER REQUESTS

***New concerns:*** Carl Crawford, friend of Audrey Post, awaiting heart bypass surgery Debbie Suggs (friend of Audrey Post), in treatment for breast cancer; Angela Locke (friend of Audrey Post), prayers for patience and strength; Cindy Bowling (sister of Judi Duffy and Vicki Guttenplan), recovering from being hit by a car; Beth Cully (friend of Judi Duffy), recovering from heart surgery; Jon; Becky Button, cousin of Audrey Post, still hospitalized but on the long, slow road to recovery six months after a horrific traffic crash between a golf cart and a truck ; Isaac (son of Terri Schmitt) for healing (both physical and emotional).

***For the sick:*** Val Sullivan; Margarete Decker (mother of Caroline Collins); Don Dowd; Isabelle Taylor (granddaughter of Bill & Connie Taylor), being treated for rheumatoid arthritis and Primary Immunodeficiency; Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Dan Graney (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White).

***In treatment for cancer:*** Gordon Fleischer; Stephanie Barber; Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; Maggie Soff (friend of Sandy Sampson); James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Sarah Lucas (friend of Cassandra White); Bruce Blubaum (cousin of Sharon Simmons); Chris Dickman (synod council member), child of Pr. Katrina Foster (friend of Cheryl).

***For health and protection:*** For all affected by coronavirus: those experiencing mental health difficulties due to isolation; those with the disease struggling to recover; those on the front lines fighting, researching and treating the disease (doctors, nurses, medical personnel, EMTs, the millions of unemployed people, etc.; for the unaccompanied children entering the US, including those “unaccounted for”.

***For prisoners:*** Femi and Eddie; all those on death row.

***Other concerns:*** Karen Olson; Blanche White (Melissa Barton).

***Church concerns:*** St. Stephen’s Congregational Council; The Florida-Bahamas Synod Council, all congregations searching for ways to stay connected and proclaim the Good News; Reconciling Works; Grace Lutheran Church; Bishop Pedro Suarez; Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA Advocacy offices and ministry; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pensacola.

***World concerns:*** For all recovering in the Florida Panhandle from Hurricane Michael, including Messiah Lutheran Church; the people of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands continuing to recover from hurricanes; migrants fleeing violence in Central America; all those migrants and asylum seekers imprisoned by the US government; the people of Venezuela (birthplace of Bp. Suarez) and Hong Kong; the people in the Sudan, especially in Darfur; for the Supreme Court as it considers cases involving the LGBTQ community.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WEEKLY NEWSLETTER:** Want to read a sermon you missed? Visit <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters>. Want to read the latest newsletters? Go to <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters>. Want to browse a collection of St. Stephen songs? They're at <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters>.

**FLOWER CHART FOR 2022:** Do you have an anniversary, birthday or special memory you would like to honor? Celebrate the occasion by sponsoring the flowers for our service and signing up for the 2022 Flower Chart located in the narthex. The cost is \$35, and you can place that in the offering plate.