# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2024 10 A.M.

#### INTRODUCTION

Deuteronomy makes clear that sabbath-keeping is meant for the welfare of all. God delivered the Israelites out of slavery, so they should observe this freedom with a day of rest. No one should work seven days a week; even slaves and foreigners should be able to rest. Yet human beings can turn even the most liberating religious practice into a life-destroying rule. Jesus does not reject sabbath-keeping, but defends its original life-enhancing meaning. Our worship and our religious way of life are to lead to restoration: the hungry being fed and the sick being healed.

#### **PRELUDE**

The assembly stands.



#### + GATHERING +

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.
- C Amen.
- P Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection.

- P God, our provider,
- C help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.
- P Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, # the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.
- C Amen.



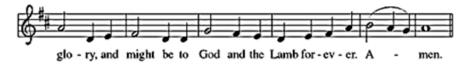
Test: Harry E. Fosfack, 1878-1969 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873-1972

#### **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.

#### **HYMN OF PRAISE**







# PRAYER OF THE DAY



# P Let us pray.

All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life and defeat into victory. Increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil in the strength of the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

# C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

#### **CHILDREN'S TIME**



# First Reading: Genesis 3:8-15

Immediately after Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit, they hide from God. Neither takes responsibility for their sin, instead blaming each other, the snake, and even God. The curse on the snake was understood as a messianic prophecy by the early church, who associated Eve's "offspring" with Christ.

F[Adam and Eve] heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. If will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

#### C Thanks be to God.

**PSALM:** Psalm 130 We sing the psalm responsively.



Leader 'Out | of the depths
I cry to | you, O LORD;

- C <sup>2</sup>O LORD, | hear my voice!

  Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my | supplication.
- L <sup>3</sup>If you were to keep watch + over sins, O LORD, + who could stand?
- C 4Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.
- L <sup>5</sup>I wait for you, O LORD; 1 my soul waits; in your word 1 is my hope.
- C "My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch | for the morning,

more than those who keep watch | for the morning.

- L OI Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is 1 steadfast love; with the LORD there is plen-1 teous redemption.
- C \*For the LORD shall | redeem Israel from | all their sins.

Spoken after the psalm is sung:

Amen.

#### SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1

Life in the present is transitory and cannot compare with the eternal home God has prepared for us. So we do not despair no matter what life might bring because we know that as God raised Jesus from the dead, God promises to bring us into eternal life.

<sup>13</sup>Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke"—we also believe, and so we speak, <sup>14</sup>because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. <sup>15</sup>Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

<sup>16</sup>So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature

is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup>For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, <sup>18</sup>because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

<sup>54</sup> For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

- R The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



#### GOSPEL: Mark 3:20-35

In response to charges that he is possessed, Jesus wonders aloud how anyone who is demon-possessed can cast out demons. Those who do the will of God are possessed by the Holy Spirit, siblings of Christ.

- P The holy gospel according to Mark, the third chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus went home;] <sup>20</sup>and the crowd came together again, so that [Jesus and the disciples] could not even eat. <sup>21</sup>When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." <sup>22</sup>And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." <sup>23</sup>And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out

Satan? <sup>24</sup>If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup>And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. <sup>26</sup>And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. <sup>27</sup>But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

<sup>28</sup>"Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; <sup>29</sup>but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"—<sup>30</sup>for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

<sup>31</sup>Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. <sup>32</sup>A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." <sup>33</sup>And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" <sup>34</sup>And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>35</sup>Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

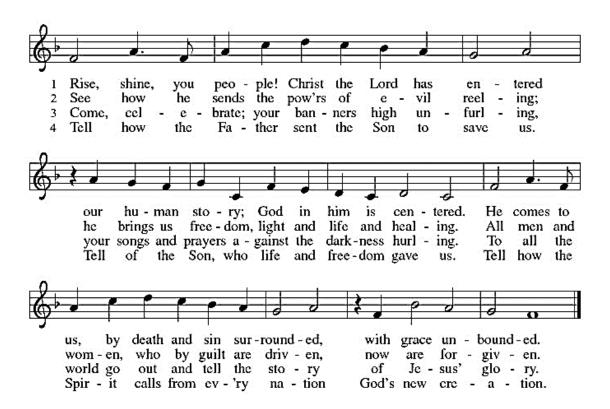
- P The gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

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

The assembly stands.

**HYMN OF THE DAY** 665 Rise, Shine, You People!



Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003
Text and music © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.



#### RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS BY AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

# **PRESENTATION**

P Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, who are today joining the congregation of St. Stephen Lutheran Church by making public affirmation of their baptism.

A representative of the congregation presents those making affirmation.

I present the following sisters, who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

Carol Santos and Anita Sawh

P Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these siblings in Christ, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

The assembly stands.

#### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism. The assembly may join in the responses.

- P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.
- P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response:

I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response:

I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response:

I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

- P Do you believe in God the Father?
- C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- 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.
- P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- C 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.

#### AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.

P You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each person responds:

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

- P People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and pray for them in their life in Christ?
- C We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.
- P Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

- C Amen.
- P Let us rejoice with these siblings in Christ.
- C We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends: Merciful God,

Congregational response: receive 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** ELW 870 (versus 1)

The assembly stands to sing the offering hymn as the collection and the gifts are brought forward.



Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882-1963

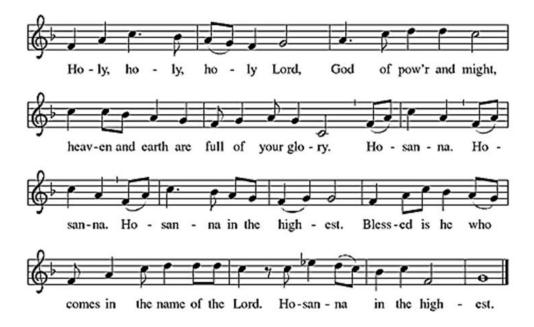
Music: KREMSER, A. Valerius, Nederlandtsch Gedenckclanck, 1626

#### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P 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, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

# HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



The presiding minister continues to give thanks.

P 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.

#### C Amen.

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

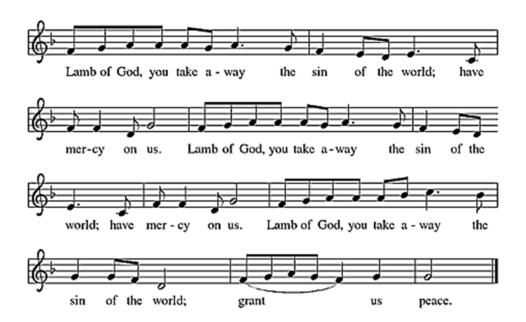
- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.
- Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver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

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

The assembly is seated.

#### LAMB OF GOD



#### DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

As the ushers direct you, come to the altar using the side aisles and return to your seat via the central aisle. The assisting ministers offer both the common cup (wine) and a pouring cup (wine or grape juice). If you prefer to receive the wine or juice in an individual glass, take one from the tray as you approach the rail. Leave the empty glass on the rail. Wheat-free wafers are available--simply tell the pastor.

**COMMUNION HYMNS** 785 When Peace like a River

464 Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal

684 Creating God, Your Fingers Trace

The assembly stands.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

C Amen.

#### + SENDING +

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

- P The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, + be up on you now and forever.
- C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The assembly stands.



Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt. Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

#### **DISMISSAL**

Go,

A We believe out loud that God's mission for us is:

fed

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.

and nour-ished, joy

A Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

my chil-dren,

C Thanks be to God!

+ + +

Sundays and Seasons v.20220805.1416

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and

free."



# Today's altar flowers celebrate Andrea and Todd Notley's 29th wedding anniversary. Thanks be to God!

# Calendar for June 9 - 16

June 9 Sun. 9:00 am Book study

10:00 am Worship, Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 16 Sun. 9:00 am Book study

10:00 am Worship, Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

# Next Sunday's Readings, Fourth Sunday after Pentecost:

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17

Mark 4:26-34



#### **SERVING EVERY SUNDAY**

Pastor Tom, presiding and preaching

Katharine Gossman, piano

Karl Barton, flute

Denise Bookwalter, announcements

Choir: Karl Barton, Melissa Barton, Mark Canning, Judi Duffy, Kirsten Ebbesen, Rita Ford, Martin Guttenplan, Vicki Guttenplan, Rudy Hehn, Susan Hehn, Colleen Holdcraft, Pastor Tom Holdcraft, Sandy Ness, Dave Suhrweir, Cassandra White

SERVING TODAY AND ONE WEEK FROM TODAY		
Serving	June 9	June 16
Assisting Minister	Rob Schiffer	Beth Alexander
Cup Minister	Susan Warren	Rita Ford
Cantor	Rita Ford	
Lector	Judi Duffy	Erik Robinson
Acolyte	Cup Minister - or Colton Allen or Graham Reece	
Tech Team	Colleen Holdcraft	Caroline Collins, Audrey
	Jonas Holdcraft	Post, Sylvia Smith
Ushers	Bob Eshleman	Jan Harrison
	Cassandra White	Patrick Kennell
Altar Guild	Rita Ford	Rita Ford
	Billie Reardon	Susan Warren
Counters	Billie Reardon	Kirsten Ebbesen
	Rob Schiffer	Susan Warren

#### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

New concerns: Shannon Miller (friend of Barb ODonnell), in treatment for cancer; Pat Leydon (friend of Barb ODonnell), at Encompass Rehab recovering from a fall; Katy Perdue (sister of Susan Warren) for COPD exacerbation; Becky Graves (friend of Ridy Hofer), diagnosed with cancer and undergoing chemotherapy; Doris Michel (sister of Dave Suhrweir), recovering from gall bladder surgery; Sue Berent (sister of Sharon Simmons) for comfort and peace at end of life; Wayne McCully (friend of Audrey Post), undergoing dialysis for kidney failure; Gladys Kane for continued healing.

For the sick: Margarete Decker (mother of Caroline Collins); Sallie Robinson (wife of Erik Robinson); Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Dan Graney (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White); Laura McDuffie (sister of Rob Schiffer), diagnosed with primary immunodeficiency and Sjogren's syndrome.

In treatment for cancer: Ruth Hartung; Phil Williams; Scott Simmons (son of Sharon Simmons); Gordon Fleischer; Stephanie Barber; Jim Saxman (uncle of Rob Schiffer); Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Craig Timm (friend of Cheryl & Steve); Laura Ketchum-Jahn, (friend of Cheryl & Steve); Aubrey Thonvold (Reconciling Works Exec. Dir.); Judy Renwick (friend of Judi Duffy); Gil Johnson (friend of Judi Duffy); Amanda George (daughter-in-law of Rob Schiffer).

*Health and protection:* For all affected by the coronavirus – especially those experiencing mental-health difficulties due to isolation, those struggling to recover from the disease, 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 U.S., including those "unaccounted for."

For prisoners: All those on Death Row.

Other concerns: For Karen Olson; Kevin Robinson (son of Erik Robinson), in need of encouragement; Isaac (son of Terri Schmitt), for physical and emotional healing; Steve Michael (cousin of Rob Schiffer), in rehab after a serious accident.

*Church concerns:* St. Stephen's Church 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; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA Advocacy offices and ministry; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pensacola.

**World concerns:** For all people suffering and/or recovering from hurricanes; migrants and asylum seekers; civil rights for people around the world; a ceasefire in Ethiopia and in Ukraine; peace in Afghanistan and the Middle East.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLOWER CHART FOR 2024:** Do you have an anniversary, birthday or special memory you would like to honor? Celebrate the occasion by sponsoring the flowers for our service by signing up for the 2024 Flower Chart located in the narthex. The cost is \$40, and you can place it in the offering plate.

**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*.