

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Third Sunday after Pentecost



SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 2023

10 A.M.

## INTRODUCTION

*Moses tells the Israelites that they are called to be a priestly kingdom and a holy people. Jesus sends out the disciples as laborers into the harvest. In baptism we too are anointed for ministry, sharing God's compassion with our needy world. From the Lord's table we go forth to proclaim the good news, to heal the sick, and to share our bread with the hungry.*

## PRELUDE

*The assembly stands.*



+ GATHERING +

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who greets us in this and every season,  
whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

**Congregation (C) Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.  
Merciful God,

**C we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Righteous God,

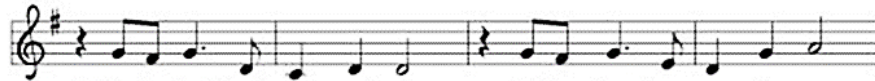
**C we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of ✝ Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN 574 *Here I Am, Lord* (Requested hymn)



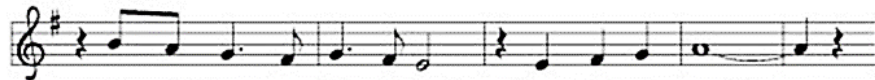
1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.  
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



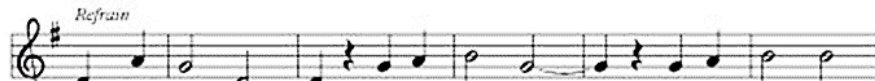
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.  
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.  
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"  
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"  
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946  
 Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte  
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## 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

*Congregation:*

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,  
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy  
to the God of life and love and  
free-dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -  
er - more!

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

### Verse 1

*Congregation or Congregation 1:*

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once  
slain, whose blood has freed and u -  
nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of  
God.

*to Refrain*

**Verse 2** *Congregation or Congregation 2:*

2. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and  
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ  
for ev - er. *to Refrain*

**Verse 3** *Congregation:*

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to  
make us peo - ple of God; to make  
all things new. *to Refrain*

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY



**P** Let us pray.

God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

## CHILDREN'S TIME



+ WORD +

**FIRST READING: Exodus 19:2-8a**

*At Sinai God assured Israel, “You shall be my treasured possession,” and commissioned them to serve as mediating priests for the nations. The people commit themselves completely to God’s will.*

<sup>2</sup>[The Israelites] had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain.<sup>3</sup>Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: <sup>4</sup>You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup>Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, <sup>6</sup>but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.”

<sup>7</sup>So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. <sup>8</sup>The people all answered as one: “Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do.”

Reader     The Word of the Lord.

**C           Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 100**

*We sing the psalm in response to the first reading.*



Leader <sup>1</sup>Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all you lands!

<sup>2</sup>Serve the LORD with gladness; come into God’s presence | with a song.

**C           <sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD is God, our maker to whom | we belong;  
we are God’s people and the sheep | of God’s pasture.**

L       <sup>1</sup>Enter the gates of the LORD with thanksgiving and the <sup>2</sup>courts with praise;  
          give thanks and bless God's <sup>3</sup>holy name.

C       <sup>4</sup>**Good indeed is the LORD, whose steadfast love is <sup>5</sup>everlasting,  
          whose faithfulness endures from <sup>6</sup>age to age.**

*Spoken after the Psalm is sung:*

C       **Amen.**

**SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-8**

*We are no longer God's enemies but have peace with God because we were brought into a right relationship with God through Christ's death.*

<sup>1</sup>Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
<sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our  
hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings,  
knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and  
character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been  
poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely  
will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might  
actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ  
died for us.

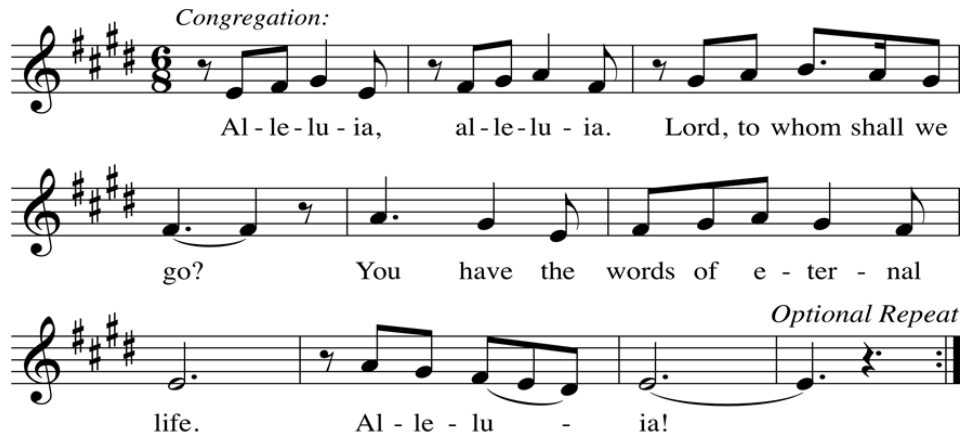
R       The Word of the Lord.

C       **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Congregation:*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

### GOSPEL: Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]

*The mission of Jesus' followers is to continue the mission of Jesus himself. Here, he instructs his first disciples as to how they might proclaim the gospel through their words and deeds.*

**P** The holy gospel according to Matthew, the ninth chapter.

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

<sup>35</sup>Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. <sup>36</sup>When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup>Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; <sup>38</sup>therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

<sup>10:1</sup>Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. <sup>2</sup>These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; <sup>3</sup>Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup>Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

<sup>5</sup>These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, <sup>6</sup>but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup>As you go, proclaim the good news, “The kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>8</sup>Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. [<sup>9</sup>Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, <sup>10</sup>no bag



for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. <sup>11</sup>Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. <sup>12</sup>As you enter the house, greet it. <sup>13</sup>If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. <sup>14</sup>If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. <sup>15</sup>Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

<sup>16</sup>“See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. <sup>17</sup>Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; <sup>18</sup>and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup>When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; <sup>20</sup>for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. <sup>21</sup>Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; <sup>22</sup>and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>23</sup>When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.”]

**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 In Christ called to bap - tize, we wit - ness to grace  
 2 In Christ called to ban - quet, one ta - ble we share,  
 3 In Christ called to wit - ness, by grace we will preach  
 4 U - nite us, a - noint us, O Spir - it of love,

and gath - er a peo - ple from each land and race.  
 a ha - ven of wel - come, a cir - cle of care.  
 the life - giv - ing gos - pel; God's love we will teach.  
 for you are with - in us, a - round us, a - bove,

In deep, flow - ing wa - ters, we share in Christ's death,  
 Al - though we are man - y, we share in one bread.  
 By grace may our liv - ing give proof to our praise  
 E - quip us for ser - vice with gifts you be - stow.

then, ris - ing to new life, give thanks with each breath.  
 One cup of thanks - giv - ing pro - claims Christ, our head.  
 in cost - ly com - pas - sion re - flect - ing Christ's ways,  
 In Christ is our call - ing. In Christ may we grow.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807-1876, alt.

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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.

*The people greet one another with the sign of Christ's peace.*

*The assembly stands.*



+ MEAL +

**OFFERING**

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

**OFFERING HYMN**

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

**Refrain**

*Congregation:*

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;  
so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be  
gath-ered in - to one in you.

**Verses**

1. As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst  
2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when  
to Refrain  
may we share the pres-ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

## 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. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. 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

*Congregation:*

The musical score is written on five staves of a single treble clef. The key signature has four sharps (F#, C#, G#, D#). The time signature is 6/8. The melody is as follows:  
Staff 1: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
Staff 2: might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your  
Staff 3: glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!  
Staff 4: Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -  
Staff 5: san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

*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.

**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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

*The assembly is seated.*



## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

## + SENDING +

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

P The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed ✝ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

C Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SENDING HYMN**      763      *My Life Flows On in Endless Song*



1 My life flows on in end-less song; a-bove earth's lam-en-ta-tion,  
 2 Through all the tu-mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring-ing,  
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv-eth,  
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev-er spring-ing!

I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre-a-tion,  
 It finds an ech-o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?  
 What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv-eth,  
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

*Refrain*

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.


Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

**DISMISSAL**

- A 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 Go in peace. Go in peace. Share the harvest.
- C Thanks be to God!**

+ + +

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	<p><b>BARBARA AND BRYON EHLMANN DEDICATE TODAY’S ALTAR FLOWERS TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN CELEBRATION OF THEIR 23RD WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.</b></p>
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<b><u>Calendar for June 18 - 25</u></b>				
June	18	Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
			10:00 am	Worship, Third Sunday after Pentecost
June	25	Sun.	10:00 am	Worship, Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
<i>*Lori will be out of the office from June 19 - 23.</i>				

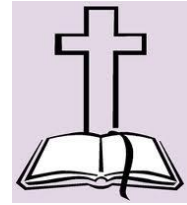
Next Sunday, Fourth Sunday after Pentecost:

Jeremiah 20:7-13

Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39



SERVING TABLE		
Serving	June 18	June 25
Presiding	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom
Preaching	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom
Assisting Minister	Rob Schiffer	Beth Alexander
Cup Minister	Beth Alexander	Colleen Holdcraft
Lector	Judi Duffy	Ron Hartung
Altar Guild	Beth Alexander Judi Duffy	Judi Duffy Linda Eshleman
Counters	Kirsten Ebbesen Rob Schiffer	Audrey Post Billie Reardon
Announcements	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom

### PRAYER REQUESTS

**For the sick:** Val Sullivan; Audrey Post; Margarete Decker (mother of Caroline Collins); Sallie Robinson (wife of Erik Robinson); 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); Bruce Blubaum (cousin of Sharon Simmons); Chris Dickman (synod council member); Craig Timm (friend of Cheryl & Steve).

***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; Angela Locke (friend of Audrey Post), for patience and strength; Becky Button (cousin of Audrey Post), as she continues to recuperate; Isaac (son of Terri Schmitt), for physical and emotional healing.

***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; 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 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 2023:** 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 2023 Flower Chart located in the narthex. The cost is \$35, 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>.