St. Stephen Lutheran Church Seventh Sunday After Pentecost



SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2024 10 A.M.

INTRODUCTION

Jesus does great deeds of power and gives his disciples authority over demons. Yet none of this power is unilateral; it all must be received by faith. Jesus asks his disciples to go out without money or supplies, so that they will be dependent on how others receive them. When we are sent from the assembly to witness and to heal, we are asked to be vulnerable, to be dependent on the reception of others. The Spirit always operates in the "between": between Jesus and his Abba, between Jesus and us, between you and me, between us and those to whom we are sent.

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.

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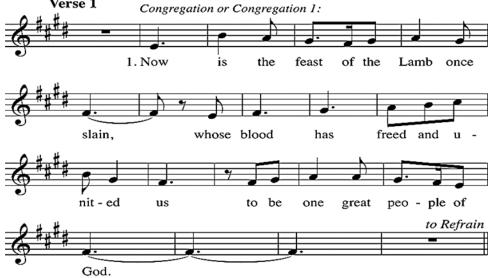
Test: Hastidic traditional; Witlard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, English version Musie: YISRAEL VORATIA, Hasidic tone Test Φ 1980, 1982 Witlard F. Jabusch, admin. OCP Publications. 5536 NE Hassalo, Pontand, OR 97213. All rights reserved, Used by permission.

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







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

PRAYER OF THE DAY



P Let us pray.

God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S TIME



First Reading: Ezekiel 2:1-5

In 597 BCE, the priest Ezekiel was removed into exile in Babylon. While there, he received a vision of God appearing majestically on a chariot throne. Today's reading recounts God's commissioning of Ezekiel during this vision. The prophet is to speak God's word to a people unwilling to hear.

¹[A voice] said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you.²And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. ³He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord God." ⁵Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 123 We sing the psalm responsively.



Leader ¹To you I lift [|] up my eyes,

to you enthroned | in the heavens.

- C ²As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, and the eyes of a maid to the hand [|] of her mistress, so our eyes look to you, O Lord our God, until you show [|] us your mercy.
- L ³Have mercy upon us, O [|] Lord, have mercy, for we have had more than enough [|] of contempt,

C ⁴too much of the scorn of the in-¹ dolent rich, and of the derision ¹ of the proud.

Spoken after the psalm is sung:

Amen.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Christians do not boast of their own accomplishments. Rather, Christian boasting focuses attention on how the power of Christ is present in our lives, especially in times of weakness and vulnerability. No matter what our circumstances in life, Christ's grace is sufficient for us.

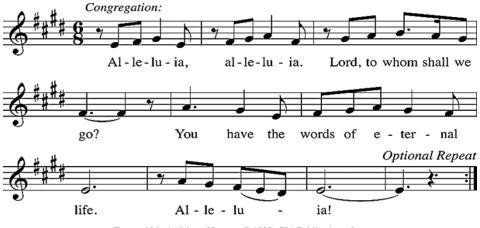
²I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. ³And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—⁴was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷even considering the exceptional character of the revelations.

Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

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

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

GOSPEL: Mark 6:1-13

At home and abroad, Jesus and his disciples encounter resistance as they seek to proclaim God's word and relieve affliction.

P The holy gospel according to Mark, the sixth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹[Jesus] came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.²On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. ⁴Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." ⁵And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY ACS 1000 God's Work, Our Hands

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Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954 Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987 Text © 2019 Evargelical Laborat Church is America, admin. Augsburg Forteau Masic C 1988 Augsburg Publishing Horse, admin. Augsburg Forteau

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: 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 ELW 870 (versus 1)

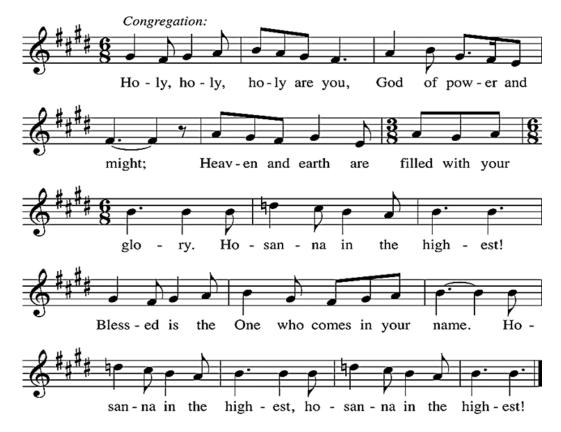
The assembly stands to sing the offering hymn as the collection and the gifts are brought forward.



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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

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

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

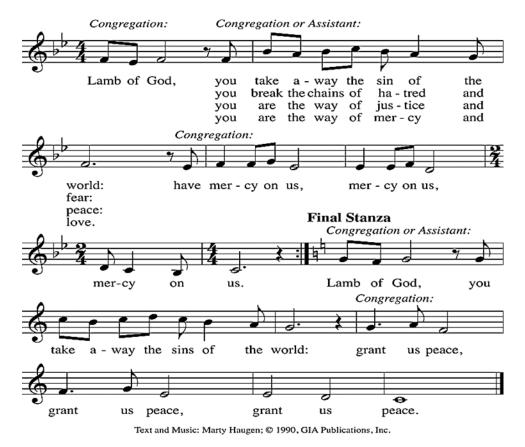
- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.
- C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P 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	575	In Christ Called to Baptize
	737	He Comes to Us as One Unknown
	796	How Firm a Foundation

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, \pm be up on you now and forever.
- C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

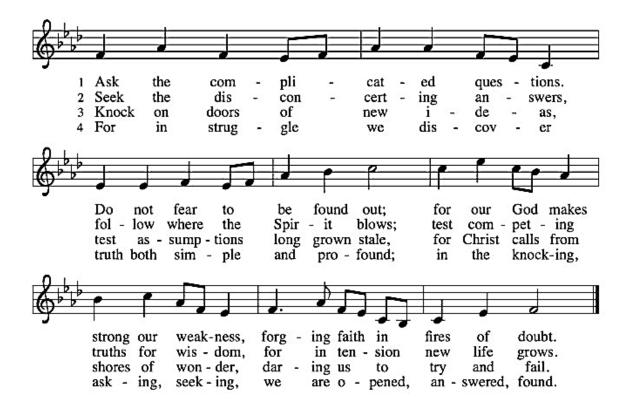
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands.

SENDING HYMN

ACS 1005

Ask the Complicated the Questions



Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984 Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835 Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

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. You are the body of Christ.
- C Thanks be to God!

+ + +

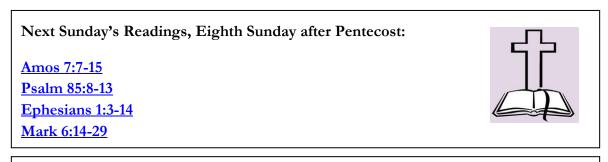
Sundays and Seasons v.20220805.1416

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Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God.

<u>Calendar for July 7 - 14</u>				
June	7	Sun.	9:00 am 10:00 am	Book study Worship, Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July	14	Sun.	9:00 am 10:00 am	Book study Worship, Eighth Sunday after Pentecost



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	July 7	July 14			
Assisting Minister	Kirsten Ebbesen	Rob Schiffer			
Cup Minister	Beth Alexander	Audrey Post			
Cantor	Colleen Holdcraft				
Lector	Judi Duffy	Colleen Holdcraft			
Acolyte	Ceilia Greeley or Graham Reece or Bastian Stover				
Tech Team	Caroline Collins	Mark Greeley			
Tech Team	Cindy Suhrweir	Sandy Lamb-Daniels			
Ushers	Patrick Kennell	Jan Harrison			
Ushers	Lawana Lamb-Daniels	Lawana Lamb-Daniels			
Altar Guild	Linda Eshleman	Billie Reardon			
Altar Guild	Barbara Sullivan				
Counters	Billie Reardon	Margaret Bowers			
Counters	Susan Warren	Patricia Handschy			

PRAYER REQUESTS

New concerns: David McManus (friend of Audrey Post), in treatment for cancer; Shannon Miller (friend of Barb ODonnell), in treatment for cancer; Pat Leydon (friend of Barb ODonnell), at Encompass Rehab recovering from a fall; 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.