

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

10 A.M.

## INTRODUCTION

*James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophoenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.*

## 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, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

*Silence for reflection.*

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✙ Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

C Amen.



1	Earth	and	all	stars!	Loud	rush - ing	plan - ets!
2	Trum - pet	and	pipes!	Loud	clash - ing	cym - bals!	
3	En - gines	and	steel!	Loud	pound - ing	ham - mers!	
4	Class - rooms	and	labs!	Loud	boil - ing	test - tubes!	
5	Knowl - edge	and	truth!	Loud	sound - ing	wis - dom!	



Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!



Hail,	wind,	and	rain!	Loud	blow - ing	snow - storm!
Harp,	lute,	and	lyre!	Loud	hum - ming	cel - los!
Lime - stone	and	beams!	Loud	build - ing	work - ers!	
Ath - lete	and	hand!	Loud	cheer - ing	peo - ple!	
Daugh - ter	and	son!	Loud	pray - ing	mem - bers!	



Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!



God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

## 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

### 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*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY



**P** Let us pray.

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

**C** Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

## CHILDREN'S TIME



**+ WORD +**

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a

*These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.*

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7a</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM: Psalm 146** *We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader <sup>1</sup>Hal- <sup>1</sup>lelujah!

Praise the Lord, <sup>1</sup>O my soul!

**C** <sup>2</sup>I will praise the Lord as long <sup>1</sup>as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I <sup>1</sup>have my being.

L <sup>3</sup>Put not your <sup>1</sup>trust in rulers,  
in mortals in whom there <sup>1</sup>is no help.

**C** <sup>4</sup>When they breathe their last, they re- <sup>1</sup>turn to earth,  
and in that day <sup>1</sup>their thoughts perish.

L <sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob <sup>1</sup>for their help,  
whose hope is in the <sup>1</sup>Lord their God;

**C** <sup>6</sup>who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that <sup>1</sup>is in them;  
who keeps promis- <sup>1</sup>es forever;

L <sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to <sup>1</sup>those who hunger.  
The Lord sets the <sup>1</sup>captive free.

**C** <sup>8</sup>The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who <sup>1</sup>are  
bowed down;  
the Lord <sup>1</sup>loves the righteous.

L <sup>9</sup>The Lord cares <sup>1</sup>for the stranger;  
the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way <sup>1</sup>of the  
wicked.

**C** <sup>10</sup>The Lord shall <sup>1</sup>reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. <sup>1</sup>Hallelujah!

*Spoken after the psalm is sung:*

**Amen.**

## SECOND READING: James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

*Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.*

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

<sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [<sup>11</sup>For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup>So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup>For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

**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! *Optional Repeat*

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

## GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37

*In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophoenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.*

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

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

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,<sup>25</sup> but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>28</sup>But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." <sup>29</sup>Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." <sup>30</sup>So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him.

<sup>33</sup>He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." <sup>35</sup>And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was

released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

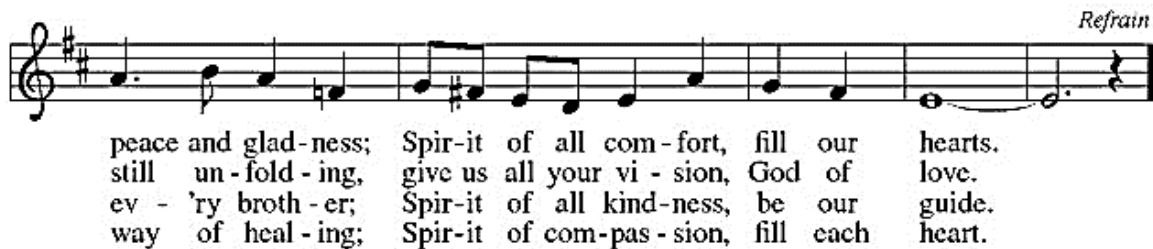
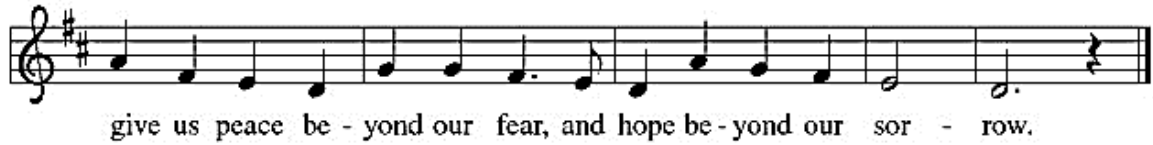
**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

*The assembly is seated.*

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

*The assembly stands.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      **612**      *Healer of Our Every Ill*



Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen

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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: Hear us, O God.*

***Congregational response: Your mercy is great.***

## **PEACE**

**A** 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.*



+ 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.

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

## 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

*Congregation:*

The musical score is written for a congregation and consists of five staves of music. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 6/8. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!' The music ends with a double bar line.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!  
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -  
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      Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

*The assembly is seated.*

## LAMB OF GOD

*Congregation:*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
you break the chains of ha - tred and  
you are the way of jus - tice and  
you are the way of mer - cy and

*Congregation:*

world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,  
fear:  
peace:  
love.

**Final Stanza**

*Congregation or Assistant:*

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

*Congregation:*

take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,  
grant us peace, grant us peace.

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

## 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.*

<b>COMMUNION HYMNS</b>	<b>708</b>	<i>Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love</i>
	<b>726</b>	<i>Light Dawns on a Weary World</i>
	<b>675</b>	<i>O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True</i>

*The assembly stands.*



## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table.  
Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus  
Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

## + SENDING +

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

P God all mighty, God most merciful ☩ bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

C Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The assembly stands.*

**SENDING HYMN**      886      *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,  
 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,  
 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,  
 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;

the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!  
 to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name,  
 sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.  
 the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve,

5 Look unto him, your Savior own,  
 O fallen human race!  
 Look and be saved through faith alone,  
 be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love  
 be now and ever giv'n  
 by saints below and saints above,  
 the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.  
 Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gliser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## 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. Follow Jesus.

C Thanks be to God!

+ + +

*Sundays and Seasons v.20220805.1416*

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Today's altar flowers are donated (anonymously)  
in gratitude for a "Jacqueline" of all trades,  
and master of them all, named Rita Ford.

#### Calendar for September 08 - 15

Sep.	8	Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
			10:00 am	Worship, Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
	11	Wed.	7:00 pm	Choir practice
	15	Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10:00 am	Worship, Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

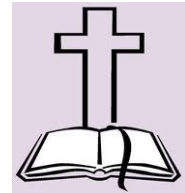
**Next Sunday's Readings, Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost:**

[Isaiah 50:4-9a](#)

[Psalm 116:1-9](#)

[James 3:1-12](#)

[Mark 8:27-38](#)



#### **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	Sep. 8	Sep. 15
Assisting Minister	Kirsten Ebbesen	Audrey Post
Cup Minister	Susan Warren	Rob Schiffer
Cantor	Karl Barton	
Lector	Graham Reece	Celia Greeley
Acolyte	Celia Greeley or Graham Reece or Bastian Stover	
Tech Team	Colleen Holdcraft Jonas Holdcraft	Mark Greeley Colin Hackley
Ushers		
Altar Guild	Linda Eshleman Barbara Sullivan	Lawana Lamb-Daniels Sandy Lamb-Daniels
Counters	Billie Reardon Susan Warren	Margaret Bowers Patricia Handschy

### PRAYER REQUESTS

***New concerns:*** Family and friends of Pr. Emory Hingst, mourning his passing; 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); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White); Laura McDuffie (sister of Rob Schiffer).

***In treatment for cancer:*** Ruth Hartung; 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.); Gil Johnson (friend of Judi Duffy); Amanda George (daughter-in-law of Rob Schiffer); David McManus (friend of Audrey Post); Shannon Miller (friend of Barb ODonnell); Becky Graves (friend of Ridy Hofer).

***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>.