

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023

10 A.M.

## INTRODUCTION

*In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.*

## PRELUDE

*The assembly stands.*



+ GATHERING +

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✚ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

**Congregation (C) Amen.**

P Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Steadfast and faithful God,

**C you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

P Beloved in Christ,  
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ✚ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

**C Amen.**

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

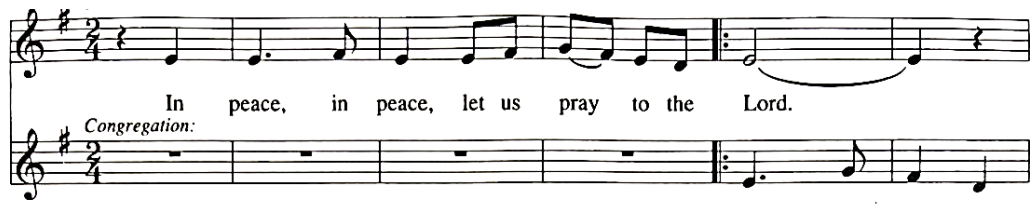
al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!  
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love,  
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

## 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.

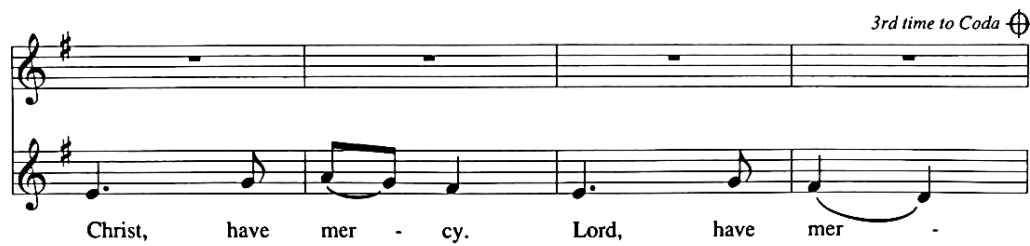
## KYRIE



In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

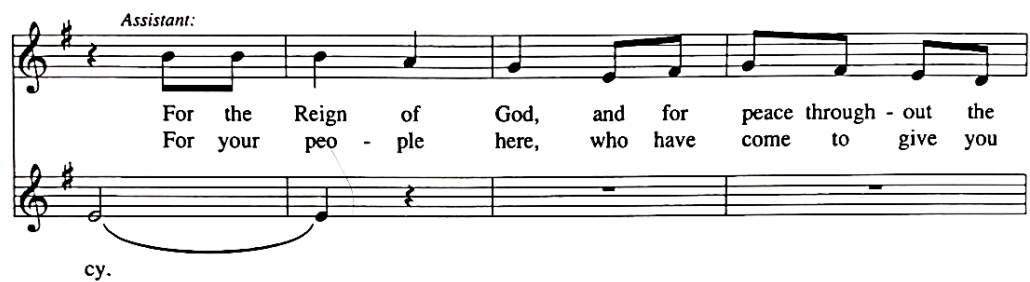
*Congregation:*

Lord, have mer - cy.



Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer -

*3rd time to Coda* ⊕



*Assistant:*

For the Reign of God, and for peace through - out the  
For your peo - ple here, who have come to give you

cy.



world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the  
praise, for the strength to live your Word, let us pray to the

⊕ Coda

Help, save, and de - fend us, O  
cy.  
God.  
A - men.

\* Ending for Kyrie

## 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!

**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.

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## CHILDREN'S TIME



**+ WORD +**

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7**

*The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the LORD has anointed to end Israel's exile. The LORD makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this LORD as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the LORD claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.*

<sup>1</sup>Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed:

<sup>2</sup>I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, <sup>3</sup>I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. <sup>4</sup>For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. <sup>5</sup>I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, <sup>6</sup>so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. <sup>7</sup>I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]**

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



Leader <sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD a new song;

sing to the LORD, all the earth.

**C** <sup>2</sup>Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;  
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

L <sup>3</sup>Declare God's glory among the nations  
and God's wonders among all peoples.

**C** <sup>4</sup>For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,  
more to be feared than all gods.

L <sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;  
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

**C** <sup>6</sup>Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;  
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.

L <sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

**C** <sup>8</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;  
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.

L <sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;  
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

**C** [<sup>10</sup>Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!  
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will  
judge the peoples with equity."

L <sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is  
therein.



**C** <sup>12</sup>Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming,  
**O LORD,**  
for you come to judge the earth.

**L** <sup>13</sup>You will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with your truth.

*Spoken after the Psalm is sung:*

**C** **Amen.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

*Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

<sup>2</sup>We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly <sup>3</sup>remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup>And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup>so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup>For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. <sup>9</sup>For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

**R** The Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**



*The assembly is seated.*

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

*The assembly stands.*

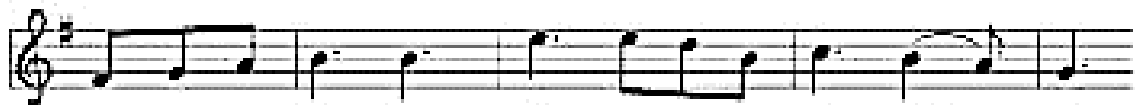
**HYMN OF THE DAY**    841    *Lift Every Voice and Sing*



1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,  
2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - 'ning road,  
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty,  
felt in the days when hope un - born had died;  
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - 'ning skies,  
yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet  
thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,



let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea,  
come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?  
keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray,



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;  
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;



sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;  
we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered.  
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;



fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,  
out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last  
shad - owed be - neath thy hand. may we for - ev - er stand,



let us march on till vic - to - ry is won,  
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.  
true to our God, true to our na - tive land,

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871-1938

Mus.: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING, J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873-1954

## **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 of grace,*

*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.*



+ MEAL +

## OFFERING

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

## ANTHEM

*"Center of my Life" -Inwood*

(Refrain)

O Lord, you are the center of my life:  
I will always praise you, I will always serve you,  
I will always keep you in my sight.

Keep me safe, O God, I take refuge in you.  
I say to the Lord, "You are my God.  
My happiness lies in you alone."

(Refrain)

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,  
who even at night directs my heart.  
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:  
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

(Refrain)

## OFFERING HYMN

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

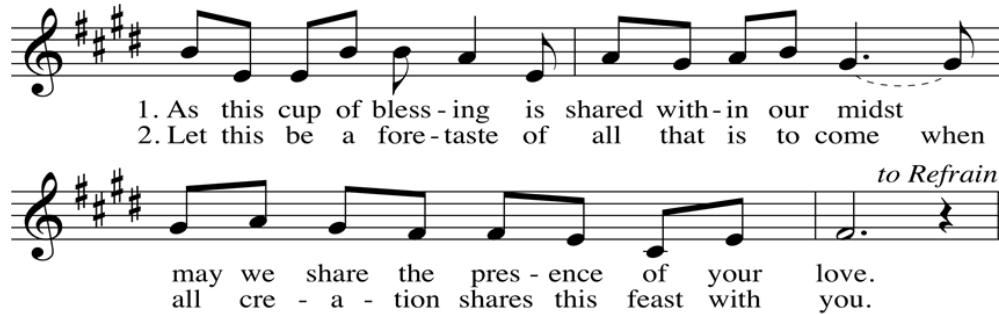
### Refrain

*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  
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. 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 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 repetitive, 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 features various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and quarter notes, and rests.

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!

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 Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

*The assembly is seated.*


## LAMB OF GOD

*Congregation:*      *Congregation or Assistant:*



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:*

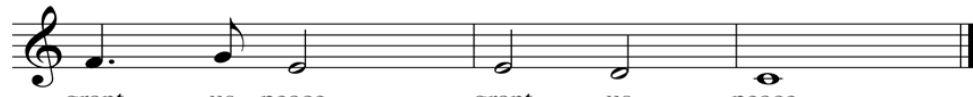


mer-cy      on      us.      Lamb of God,      you

*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 minister offers 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>690</b>	<i>We Raise Our Hands to You, O Lord</i>
	<b>713</b>	<i>O God of Every Nation</i>
	<b>494</b>	<i>For the Bread Which You Have Broken</i>

*The assembly stands.*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A Let us pray.

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

C **Amen.**

## **+ SENDING +**

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

P The God of glory, ✙ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SENDING HYMN**      **705**      *God of Grace and God of Glory*

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -  
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;  
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us  
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,  
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,


for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days,  
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.  
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore,

**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>CINDY AND DAVE SUHRWEIR DEDICATE TODAY’S ALTAR FLOWERS TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR 40 YEARS AS MEMBERS OF ST. STEPHEN.</b></p>
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<u><b>Calendar for October 22 - 29</b></u>				
Oct.	22	Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10:00 am	Worship, Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
	25	Wed.	7:00 pm	Choir practice
	29	Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10:00 am	Worship, Reformation Sunday (wear red)

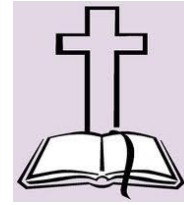
**Next Sunday, Reformation Sunday**

[Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)

[Psalm 46](#)

[Romans 3:19-28](#)

[John 8:31-36](#)



**SERVING EVERY SUNDAY**

Pastor Tom, presiding and preaching

Katharine Gossman, piano

Karl Barton, flute

Denise Bookwalter, announcements

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

**SERVING TODAY AND ONE WEEK FROM TODAY**

<b>Serving</b>	<b>October 22</b>	<b>October 29</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Colleen Holdcraft	Beth Alexander
<b>Cup Minister</b>	Rita Ford	Susan Warren
<b>Cantor</b>	Martin Guttenplan	
<b>Lector</b>	Violet Greeley	Jennifer Buchanan
<b>Acolyte</b>	Cup Minister - or Colton Allen or Graham Reece	
<b>Tech Team</b>	Jonas Holdcraft Sandy Lamb-Daniels	Denise Bookwalter Audrey Post
<b>Ushers</b>	Bob Eshleman Lawan Lamb-Daniels	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Beth Alexander	Rita Ford Susan Warren
<b>Counters</b>	Margaret Bowers Patricia Handschy	Margaret Bowers Patricia Handschy

## PRAYER REQUESTS

***New concerns:*** Debee Meyer, recovering from surgery; Kyle Magee and family (friend of Cheryl), our shared sympathy on the sudden death of his father, Robert; Steve Michael (cousin of Rob Schiffer), in rehab after a serious accident.

***For the sick:*** Val Sullivan; 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); Laura Ketchum-Jahn, (friend of Cheryl & Steve); Aubrey Thonvold (Reconciling Works Exec. Dir.).

***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.

***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

**ALL SAINTS:** We are now accepting names of loved ones for remembrance during the All Saints service on Nov. 5. Please email or call Lori with names by Wednesday, Nov. 1.

**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 \$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>.