

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



October 24, 2021

10:00 a.m.

## INTRODUCTION

*Can we pray the way Bartimaeus prays? People try to hush him up because by addressing Jesus as “Son of David” he is making a politically dangerous claim that Jesus is the rightful king. Could our prayers ever be heard as a threat to unjust powers that be? Bartimaeus won’t give up or go away quietly, but repeats his call for help more loudly. Do we ask so boldly? And are our prayers an honest answer to Jesus’ question, “What do you want me to do for you?”*

## PRELUDE



+ GATHERING +

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor (P) Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

Congregation (C) Amen.

P Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P God our comforter:

**C like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

P All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in ☩ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

**C Amen.**



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered  
 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;  
 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,  
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to  
 he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and  
 your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the  
 Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.  
 wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.  
 world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.  
 Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.

Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934-2003

Text and music © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## 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*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY



P Let us pray.

Eternal light, shine in our hearts. Eternal wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance. Eternal compassion, have mercy on us. Turn us to seek your face, and enable us to reflect your goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON



+ WORD +

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-9**

*This passage speaks not only of the southern kingdom, Judah, and its homecoming from exile in Babylon, but also of the northern kingdom (“Israel” or “Ephraim”) and its restoration. The northern tribes of Israel had been lost in exile to Assyria more than a century before Jeremiah prophesied.*

<sup>7</sup>Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, “Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel.” <sup>8</sup>See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. <sup>9</sup>With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Reader            The word of the Lord.

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

**PSALM: Psalm 126**

*We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader <sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,  
then were we like | those who dream.

**C**            <sup>2</sup>**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of  
joy.**

**Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great |  
things for them.”**

L            <sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great | things for us,  
and we are | glad indeed.

**C** <sup>4</sup>Restore our for- | tunes, **O LORD,**  
like the watercourses | of the Negeb.

**L** <sup>5</sup>Those who | sowed with tears  
will reap with | songs of joy.

**C** <sup>6</sup>Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,  
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.

*Spoken after the psalm is sung:*

**C** **Amen.**

## **SECOND READING: Hebrews 7:23-28**

*Human priests of old offered sacrifice for their own sins and served only until their death. In contrast, Jesus is God's Son, the holy, sinless, resurrected high priest. Death did not terminate his priestly service, but through his death he has interceded for our sins.*

<sup>23</sup>The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; <sup>24</sup>but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. <sup>25</sup>Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

<sup>26</sup>For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. <sup>27</sup>Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. <sup>28</sup>For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

Reader           The word of the Lord.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL: Mark 10:46-52

*Bartimaeus comes to Jesus with faith, asking that he might see again. Recognizing Jesus' identity, Bartimaeus is the first person to call him "Son of David" in the Gospel of Mark.*

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

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

They came to Jericho. <sup>46</sup>As [Jesus] and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. <sup>47</sup>When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>48</sup>Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>49</sup>Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." <sup>50</sup>So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. <sup>51</sup>Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." <sup>52</sup>Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

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

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.



## **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**

**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.*

## **OFFERING**

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

The musical score consists of six staves of music in a single system. The first five staves contain the lyrics, and the sixth staff is a concluding musical phrase. The lyrics are: "We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering." The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It features various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and includes triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above the notes) in several places.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an  
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our  
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,  
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.  
We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:  
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

Text: Dwight Liles, b. 1957  
Music: Dwight Liles  
Text and music © 1984 Word Music, LLC

OFFERING  
PM

### 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.

**+ SENDING +**

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

**P** People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, ✠ one God, bless you now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SENDING HYMN 843** *Praise the One Who Breaks Darkness (vs. 1&3)*

1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;  
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;  
 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;

praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.  
 praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.  
 Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.

Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease.  
 Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;  
 Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.

calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.  
 from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
 Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

## DISMISSAL

- P 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.**
- P Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.
- C Thanks be to God.**

+ + +

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**FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD  
AND IN GRATITUDE FOR HIS  
MANY BLESSINGS AND MERCIES  
THAT ALLOWED ME TO REACH  
MY 65TH BIRTHDAY.  
BY AUDREY POST**

### Calendar for October 24 - 31

Oct.	24	Sun.	10:00 am	Worship, Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost
	27	Wed.	noon	Bible study (online)
	31	Sun.	10:00 am	Worship, Reformation Day, <b>wear red</b>
			Noon	Council meeting

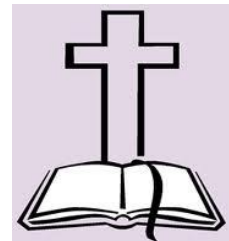
### Next Sunday's Readings, Reformation Day:

[Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)

[Psalm 46](#)

[Romans 3:19-28](#)

[John 8:31-36](#)



## SERVING TABLE

Serving	October 24	October 31
<b>Presiding</b>	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom
<b>Preaching</b>	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Colleen Holdcraft	Kirsten Ebbesen
<b>Cup Minister</b>	N/A	Audrey Post
<b>Welcoming</b>	Jan Harrison	Colleen Holdcraft
<b>Lector</b>	Elliot Reece	Jennifer Buchanan
<b>Cantors</b>	Kirsten Ebbesen Martin Guttenplan	Rita Ford Chris Reece
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Audrey Post Billie Reardon	Rita Ford Susan Warren
<b>Counters</b>	Bob Eshleman Linda Eshleman	Kirsten Ebbesen Rob Schiffer
<b>Announcements</b>	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom

## PRAYER REQUESTS

***For the sick:*** Val Sullivan; Margarete Decker (mother of Caroline Collins); 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); Gerhard Hofer (brother-in-law of Ridy Hofer).

***In treatment for cancer:*** Stephanie Barber; Cathie Nitti (niece of Sharon Simmons); Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; Maggie Soff (friend of Sandy Sampson); James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Isabell Cintron (friend of Sharon Simmons); Sarah Lucas (friend of Cassandra White); Bruce Blubaum (cousin of Sharon Simmons); Chris Dickman (synod council member), child of Pr. Katrina Foster (friend of Cheryl).

***For health and protection:*** For all affected by coronavirus: those experiencing mental health difficulties due to isolation; those with the disease struggling to recover; 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 US, including those “unaccounted for”.

*For prisoners:* Femi and Eddie; all those on death row.

*Other concerns:* Karen Olson; Blanche White (Melissa Barton).

*Church concerns:* St. Stephen's Congregational 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 recovering in the Florida Panhandle from Hurricane Michael, including Messiah Lutheran Church; the people of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands continuing to recover from hurricanes; migrants fleeing violence in Central America; all those migrants and asylum seekers imprisoned by the US government; the people of Venezuela (birthplace of Bp. Suarez) and Hong Kong; for the Supreme Court as it considers cases involving the LGBTQ community.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PLEDGE SUNDAY** will be on **Oct. 31**. Prayerfully consider your estimate of giving to continue the mission of St. Stephen. Pledge cards will be available in the narthex and you can drop off in the offering plate. You can also email your pledge to Lori: [sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com](mailto:sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com).

**ALL SAINTS:** We are now accepting names of loved ones for remembrance during the All Saints service on Nov. 7. Please email or call Lori with names by **Wednesday, Nov. 3**.

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:** Now that we are back to in-person worship service, we are in need of more worship assistants, mainly Cup Ministers. If you are interested, please contact Lori in the office.

**FLOWER CHART FOR 2021:** Do you have an anniversary, birthday or special memory you would like to honor? Celebrate the occasion by sponsoring the flowers for our service and signing up for the 2021 Flower Chart located in the narthex. The cost is \$35, and you can place that in the offering plate.

**RSVP FOR NEXT WEEK:** Remember to use the Sign-up Genius to reserve your spot for worship service (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c45a4a62ea7fbc16-sunday>). The deadline is noon on the Friday before worship. The calendar has dates available throughout the summer.



## 2022 Estimate of Giving

*In support of God's mission for St. Stephen Lutheran Church:  
To be an active community that welcomes all people to nurture and  
share their faith and gifts with everyone, according to God's call.*

**NAME(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

I/we pledge to intentionally give financially to the ministry of St. Stephen Lutheran Church:

*(Please select one option)*

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **per week**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **per month**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **per year**

*I/we understand that this plan can be changed by notifying the financial secretary.*