

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



November 14, 2021

10:00 a.m.

INTRODUCTION

November begins with All Saints Day and ends in or near Advent, when we anticipate Christ's coming again. It is fitting, then, that the readings today tell of the final resurrection and the end time. In the turmoil of hope, fear, and disbelief that these predictions provoke in us, Hebrews sounds a note of confident trust. Christ makes a way for us where there is no way, and we walk it confidently, our hearts and bodies washed in baptismal water, trusting the one who has promised forgiveness. The more we see the last day approaching, the more important it is to meet together to provoke one another to love.

PRELUDE



+ GATHERING +

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor (P) In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C) Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another .

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Have mercy on us, O God.

C We confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbor. We have built walls instead of tables and have turned away the stranger. We have sought glory for ourselves and have treasured that which does not satisfy. Help us to love as you love, to welcome those you send, and to treasure mercy and justice. Turn us from our ways to your ways, and free us to serve those in need. Amen.

P God, who makes all things new, forgives your sins for ✠ Jesus' sake and remembers them no more. Lift up your heads and your hearts. Yours is the kingdom of God.

C Amen.

The assembly is seated.



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.
Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678-1727

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.

Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON



FIRST READING: Daniel 12:1-3

The book of Daniel is an example of apocalyptic literature, which is full of strange visions and symbolism. Arising during times of great persecution, apocalyptic literature is concerned with God's revelation about the end time and the coming kingdom of God, when God will vindicate the righteous who have been persecuted.

¹“At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book.

²Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”

Reader The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 16 *We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader ¹Protect me, O God, for I take ref- | uge in you;
I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good a- | bove all other.”

**C ²All my delight is in the godly that are | in the land,
upon those who are noble a- | mong the people.**

L ³But those who run after | other gods
shall have their troubles | multiplied.

**C ⁴I will not pour out drink offerings | to such gods,
never take their names up- | on my lips.**

L ⁵O LORD, you are my portion | and my cup;
 it is you who up- | hold my lot.

C ⁶**My boundaries enclose a | pleasant land;
 indeed, I have a | rich inheritance.**

L ⁷I will bless the LORD who | gives me counsel;
 my heart teaches me night | after night.

C ⁸**I have set the LORD al- | ways before me;
 because God is at my right hand, I shall | not be shaken.**

L ⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir- | it rejoices;
 my body also shall | rest in hope.

C ¹⁰**For you will not abandon me | to the grave,
 nor let your holy one | see the pit.**

L ¹¹You will show me the | path of life;
 in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures
for- | evermore.

Spoken after the psalm is sung:

C **Amen.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25

Images of worship and sacrifice are used throughout Hebrews to highlight what Christ has uniquely accomplished through his death. Because we have received forgiveness through Christ's death, we live with sincere hearts by trusting in God's promises and encouraging love and good works from each other.

¹¹Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. ¹²But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, "he sat down at the right hand of God," ¹³and since then has been waiting "until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet." ¹⁴For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. [¹⁵And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, ¹⁶"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds," ¹⁷he also adds,

“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” ¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.]

¹⁹Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

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 13:1-8

In the last week of his life, Jesus warned his disciples concerning trials that were to come upon them and upon the world. He exhorts the listener: Do not be alarmed.

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” ²Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

³When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴“Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” ⁵Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. ⁷When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY **438** *My Lord, What a Morning*

Refrain

My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,

my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.

- 1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

Refrain

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

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.

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 is written on six staves of music. The lyrics are: "We lift our voice-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voice-es, 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 voice-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing." The music features treble clefs, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 3/4 time signature. There are several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above the notes) throughout the score.

We lift our voice-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voice-es, 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 voice-es, 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.

The assembly stands.

+ SENDING +

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

P God, the beginning and the end, who has written your name in the book of life,
✠ bless and keep you in grace and peace from this time forth and forevermore.

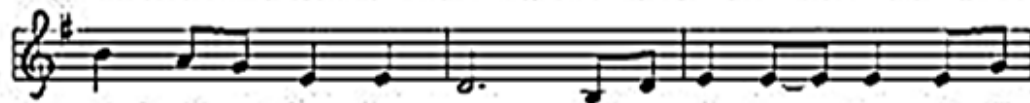
C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

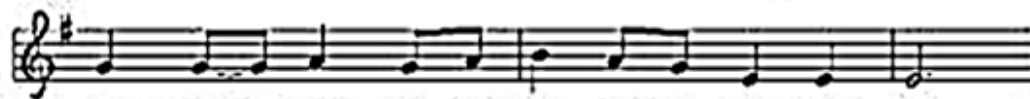
SENDING HYMN **723** *Canticle of the Turning (vs. 1-3)*



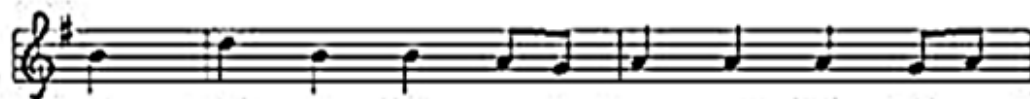
1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . . age to age, we re -



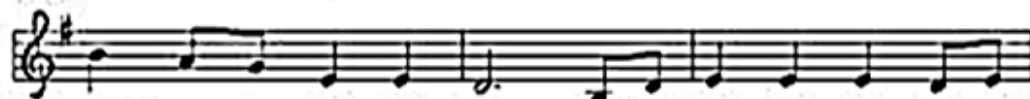
God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



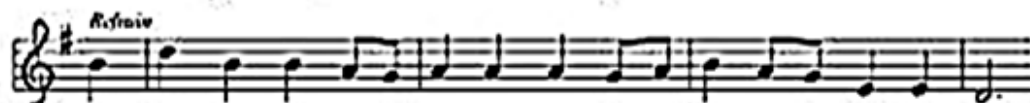
You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



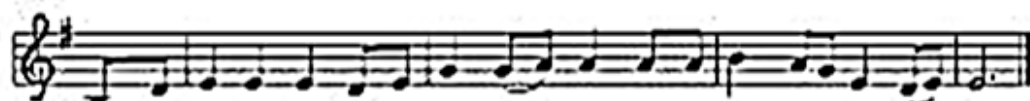
weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be best. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

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 Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

+ + +

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FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Calendar for November 14 - 21

Nov. 14	Sun.	10:00 am	Worship, Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
17	Wed.	noon	Bible study (online)
21	Sun.	10:00 am	Worship with communion, Christ the King Sunday

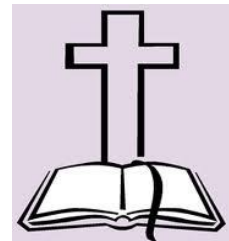
Next Sunday's Readings, Christ the King Sunday:

[Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14](#)

[Psalm 93](#)

[Revelation 1:4b-8](#)

[John 18:33-37](#)



SERVING TABLE

Serving	November 14	November 21
Presiding	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom
Preaching	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom
Assisting Minister	Jennifer Dritt	Rob Schiffer
Cup Minister	N/A	Beth Alexander
Lector	Jennifer Dritt	Jonas Holdcraft
Cantors	Rita Ford Susan Hehn	Rita Ford Jake Hartung
Altar Guild	Beth Alexander Erin Kenney	Audrey Post Billie Reardon
Counters	Bob Eshleman Linda Eshleman	Margaret Bowers Patricia Handschy
Announcements	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom

PRAYER REQUESTS

New concerns: Isaac (son of Terri Schmitt) for healing (both physical and emotional);

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

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.