

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

## EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



July 19, 2026

10 a.m.

## St. Stephen Lutheran Church

sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com, Email

<http://www.ststephenlutherantally.com>

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Rev. Tom Holdcraft, Pastor

Katharine Gossman, Music Director

Rita Ford, Office Manager

All Members, Ministers

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### Welcome, Everyone!

**We are glad to have you with us this morning.** If you need assistance in finding anything, one of our ushers will be glad to help you.

**Restrooms are found** in the fellowship hall and office building to the right as you exit the sanctuary. Proceed up the stairs and through the glass door.. Unisex bathrooms are available through the kitchen in the office area.

**“Let the Little Children Come” Matthew 19:14** - In accordance with St. Stephen’s mission “to be a welcoming community . . .” we encourage all ages to worship on Sundays. We also believe that children learn to welcome others by how they have been welcomed. If you are a parent of a young child, know that this community supports your efforts to engage your child in worship and understands that it can be a stressful process. Having children in worship is a joy that we treasure, so please know that we welcome you and your children as they learn to become active members in Christ’s body.

**Please remember** to turn off your cell phone during the liturgy.

**All the hymns** for the worship service are in the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship book and numbered by hymn, not page.

**St. Stephen Lutheran Church (ELCA) is a Reconciling in Christ congregation that explicitly welcomes people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. St. Stephen is equally committed to anti-racism. We welcome people without regard to race, ethnicity, age, family status, economic status, or differing abilities.**

**All are invited to receive the sacrament. Lutherans believe that Jesus Christ is present in, with and under the consecrated bread and wine of Holy Communion. Those not wishing to commune are welcome to the altar to receive a blessing. To indicate this, please cross your arms over your chest. If you are not able to come forward, please inform the ushers and the meal will be brought to you.**

## INTRODUCTION

*It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.*

## WELCOME

## 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.*

Pastor      Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose compassion endures forever.  
.

**Congregation      Amen.**

P      Let us confess our sin to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P      Compassionate God,

**C      we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.  
In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.  
Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

P      Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven.  
Rest in God's love.

**C      Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 689 *Praise and Thanksgiving*

1 Praise and thanks-giv-ing, God, we would of-fer for all things  
 2 God, bless the la-bor we bring to serve you, that with our  
 3 Fa-ther, pro-vid-ing food for your chil-dren, by Wis-dom's  
 4 Then will your bless-ing reach ev-'ry peo-ple, free-ly con-

liv-ing, you have made good: har-vest of sown fields, fruits of the  
 neigh-bor we may be fed. Sow-ing or till-ing, we would work  
 guid-ing teach us to share one with an-oth-er, so that, re-  
 fess-ing your gra-cious hand, Where you are reign-ing, no one will

or-chard, hay from the mown fields, blos-som and wood.  
 with you, har-vest-ing, mill-ing for dai-ly bread.  
 joic-ing with us, all oth-ers may know your care.  
 hun-ger; your love sus-tain-ing show-ers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.  
 Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version  
 Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

## 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*

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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY



P Let us pray.

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

## CHILDREN'S TIME



+ WORD +

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 44:6-8

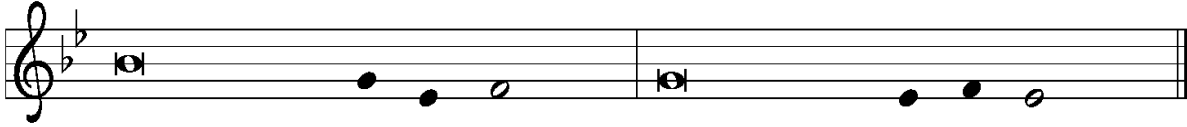
*There are no other gods besides God: the word of the Lord does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel—and we—are redeemed.*

<sup>6</sup>Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:  
I am the first, and I am the last; besides me there is no god. <sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let them proclaim it; let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. <sup>8</sup>Do not fear or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

**PSALM:** Psalm 86:11-17 *We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader <sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk | in your truth;  
give me an undivided heart to re- | vere your name.

**C** <sup>12</sup> I will thank you, O Lord my God, with | all my heart,  
and glorify your name for- | evermore.

L     <sup>13</sup>For great is your | love toward me;  
            you have delivered me from the | pit of death.

C <sup>14</sup> The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people | seeks  
my life;  
they have not set you be- | fore their eyes.

L     15 But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

**C** <sup>16</sup> Turn to me and have mer- | cy on me;  
give your strength to your servant, and save the child | of your handmaid.

L <sup>17</sup>Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be | put to  
shame;  
because you, Lord, have helped me and com- | forted me.

*Spoken after the psalm is sung:*

**Amen.**

## SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25

*For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.*

<sup>2-14</sup> So don't you see that we don't owe this old do-it-yourself life one red cent. There's nothing in it for us, nothing at all. The best thing to do is give it a decent burial and get on with your new life. God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do and places to go! <sup>15-17</sup> This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike "What's next, Papa?" God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children. And we know we are going to get what's coming to us—an unbelievable inheritance! We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with him!

<sup>18-21</sup> That's why I don't think there's any comparison between the present hard times and the coming good times. The created world itself can hardly wait for what's coming next. Everything in creation is being more or less held back. God reins it in until both creation and all the creatures are ready and can be released at the same moment into the glorious times ahead. Meanwhile, the joyful anticipation deepens.

<sup>22-25</sup> All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it's not only around us; it's *within* us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We're also feeling the birth pangs. These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy.

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: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

*Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.*

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

## C Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>24</sup> [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,<sup>25</sup> but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. <sup>26</sup> So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup> And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ <sup>28</sup> He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ <sup>29</sup> But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup> Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

<sup>36</sup> Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” <sup>37</sup> He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup> the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup> and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup> Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup> and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>43</sup> Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

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.*

*Quiet reflection.*

*The assembly stands.*

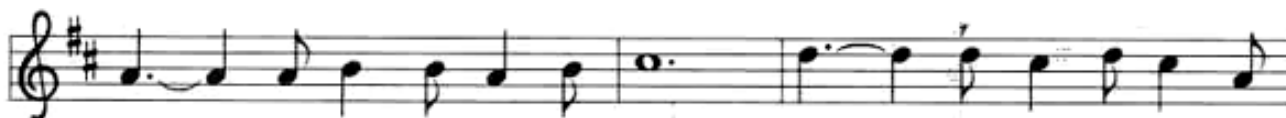
**HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 736** *God the Sculptor of the Mountains*



|   |     |                   |          |             |     |                        |        |
|---|-----|-------------------|----------|-------------|-----|------------------------|--------|
| 1 | God | the sculp-tor     | of the   | moun-tains, | God | the mill-er            | of the |
| 2 | God | the nui-sance     | to the   | Pha-raoh,   | God | the cleav-er           | of the |
| 3 | God | the dress-er      | of the   | vine-yard,  | God | the plant-er           | of the |
| 4 | God | the un-ex-pect-ed | in-fant, |             | God | the calm, de-ter-mined |        |



|        |     |                     |        |            |
|--------|-----|---------------------|--------|------------|
| sand,  | God | the jewel-er        | of the | heav-ens,  |
| sea,   | God | the pil-lar         | in the | dark-ness, |
| wheat, | God | the reap-er         | of the | har-vest,  |
| youth, | God | the ta-ble-turn-ing |        | proph-et,  |



|     |                    |        |         |     |              |           |      |
|-----|--------------------|--------|---------|-----|--------------|-----------|------|
| God | the pot-ter        | of the | land:   | you | are womb     | of all    | cre- |
| God | the bea-con        | of the | free:   | you | are fount    | of all    | de-  |
| God | the source         | of all | we eat: | you | are host     | at ev-'ry |      |
| God | the re-sur-rect-ed | truth: |         | you | are pres-ent | ev-'ry    |      |



|     |   |         |    |                 |       |    |      |
|-----|---|---------|----|-----------------|-------|----|------|
| a   | - | tion,   | we | are form-less;  | shape | us | now. |
| liv | - | 'rance, | we | are sight-less; | lead  | us | now. |
| ta  | - | ble,    | we | are hun-gry;    | feed  | us | now. |
| mo  | - | ment,   | we | are search-ing; | meet  | us | now. |

## 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

Trusting in the steadfast love of God, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*(A brief silence)*

God our source, protect your church from those who sow weeds among the wheat. Remind us to strengthen the fragile and restore those who become lost in the complexities of life. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God our creator, mold humankind to be in solidarity with creation, and to groan when creation groans. May we share the earth's dedication to hope for what we do not yet see. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God our soil, we yearn to live on what's been entrusted to us. Help us see the forest through the trees. We pray for a renewal of heart for all in authority, so leaders guide wisely to common good. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God our rock, uproot war and banish climate change. Assist the under and unemployed. We pray for those in hospital and assisted living. St. Stephen whom else requires prayer today?

(Pause for people to speak petitions.)

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God our teacher, guide and provide for children in summer camp, strengthen counselors and daycare providers. We pray for teachers preparing for the coming academic year, and for their students. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

A few at a time, each week, we pray for people within the St. Stephen worship community. We pray today for Gordon Fleischer, Rita and Rath Ford, Mia Fuller and Cam Metcalfe and for all their families. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God our hope, the message of your salvation is planted among us in all times and places. We give you thanks for the witness of all the saints who shine like the sun in your presence. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

**AMEN!**

The peace of Christ be with you, always!

**And also with you!**

Let us share the peace of God with one another.

*The assembly is seated.*



+ MEAL +

## OFFERING

*An offering is presented 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:*

Musical notation for the Refrain of the Offering Hymn. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are: "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." The first staff ends with a double bar line.

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

Musical notation for the Verses of the Offering Hymn. It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are: "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." The first staff ends with a double bar line.

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.

*to Refrain*

## 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 in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a 6/8 time signature. The second staff changes to 3/8 time. The third staff returns to 6/8. The fourth staff continues in 6/8. The fifth staff concludes the phrase in 6/8. 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!'.

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 Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

*The assembly is seated.*

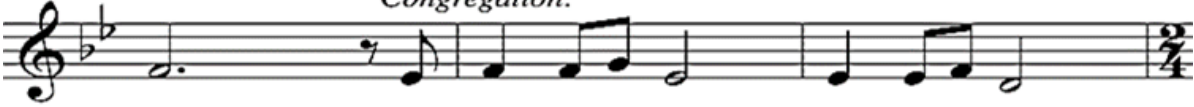
## LAMB OF GOD

*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:*

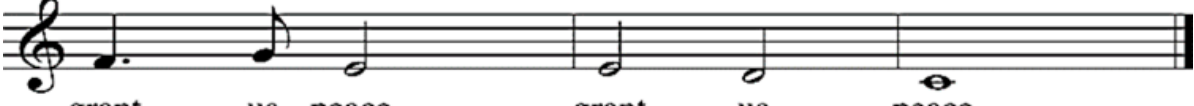


mer-cy    on    us.      Lamb of God,    you

*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 ministers offer both wine (first) and grape juice (second) from pouring cups. Take a communion glass from one of the trays at the corners as you approach the rail. Leave the empty glass on the lower rail. Wheat-free wafers are available, simply tell the pastor.*

## COMMUNION HYMNS

\* ELW 697      *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

\* ELW 435      *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*

\* *Requested hymn*

*The assembly stands.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The assembly stands.*

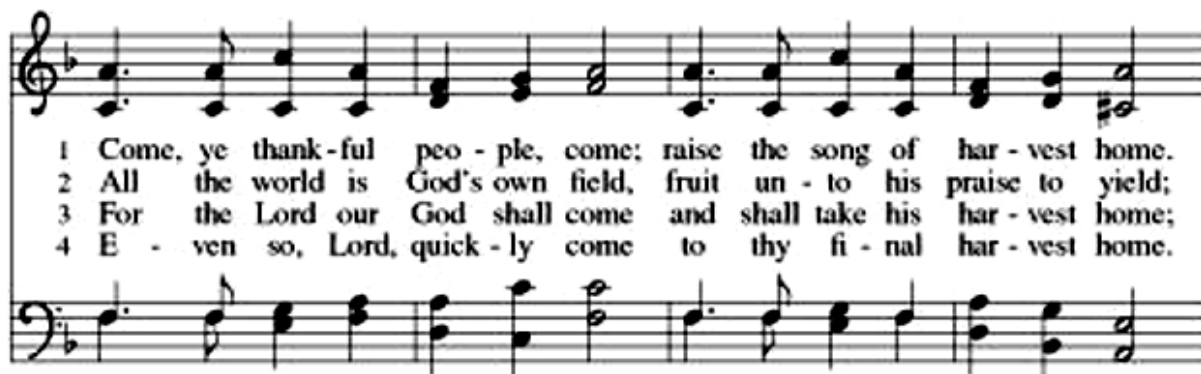
+ SENDING +

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

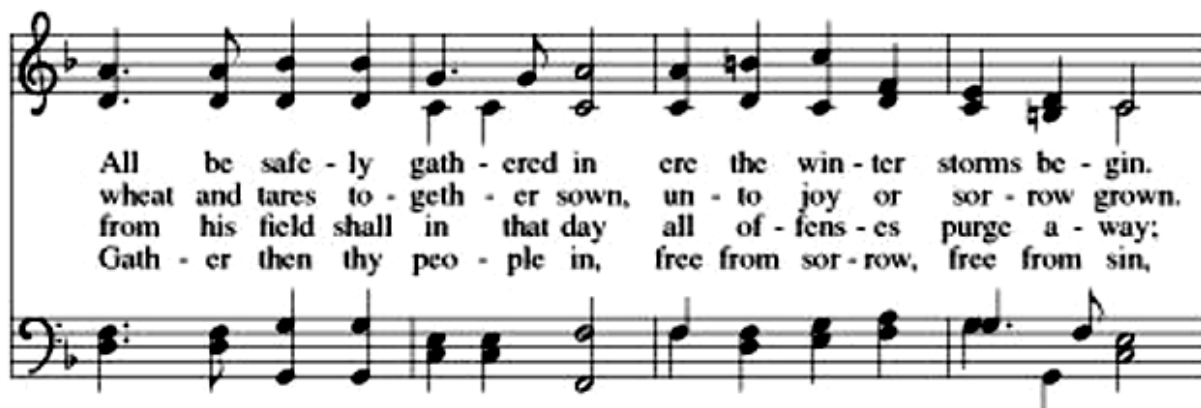
P Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✠ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C Amen.

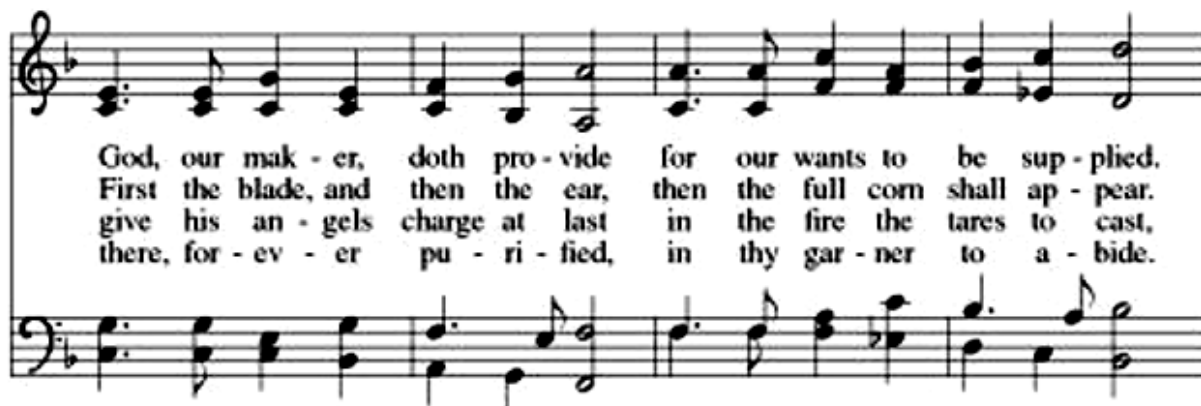
**SENDING HYMN**      **ELW 693**      *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come (please see next page)*



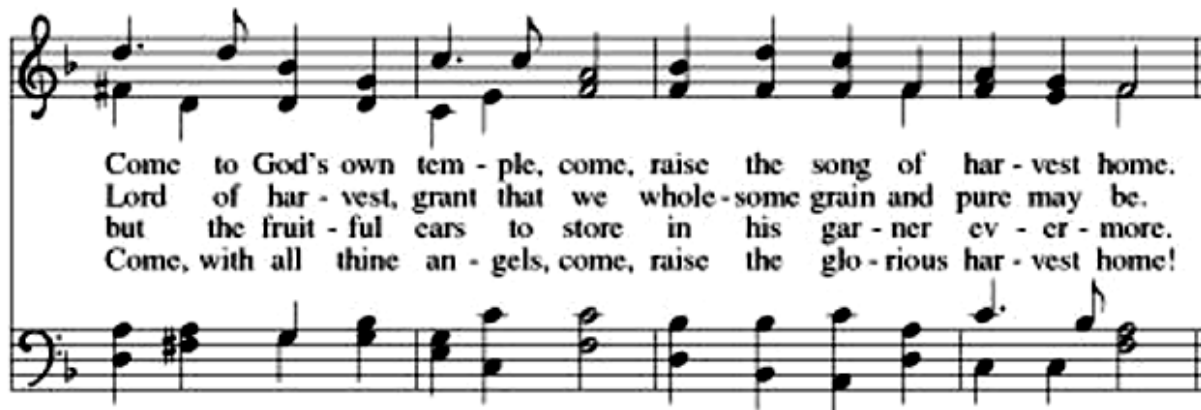
1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.  
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;  
 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;  
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.  
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.  
 from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;  
 Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.  
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.  
 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
 there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.  
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.  
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.  
 Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

## 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 Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C **Thanks be to God.**

+ + +

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**The mystery donor of today's altar flowers  
thanks God for the many blessings  
that flow from being part of St. Stephen.**

### Calendar for July 19 - July 26

|      |    |        |       |                                        |
|------|----|--------|-------|----------------------------------------|
| July | 19 | Sun.   | 9 am  | Bible study                            |
|      |    |        | 10 am | Worship, Eighth Sunday after Pentecost |
| July | 21 | Tues   | 6 pm  | Confirmation for adults                |
|      | 23 | Thurs. | 10 am | Bible study                            |
|      | 26 | Sun.   | 9 am  | Bible study                            |
|      |    |        | 10 am | Worship, Ninth Sunday after Pentecost  |

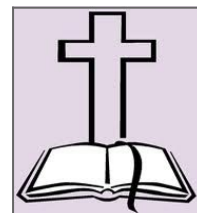
## Next Sunday's Readings, Ninth Sunday after Pentecost:

[Isaiah 44:6-8](#)

[Psalms 86:11-17](#)

[Romans 8:12-25](#)

[Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43](#)



## SERVING EVERY SUNDAY

Pastor Tom, presiding and preaching

Katharine Gossman, piano

Karl Barton, flute

Denise Bookwalter, announcements

Choir: The choir is taking a well-deserved rest during the summer:

Karl Barton, Melissa Barton, Mark Canning, Austin Cowan, Kirsten Ebbesen, Rita Ford, Alison Haney, Rudy Hehn, Susan Hehn, Colleen Holdcraft, Pastor Tom Holdcraft, Olivia James, Lawana Lamb-Daniels, Simone Schuster, Sylvia Smith, Dave Suhrweir, Cassandra White.

## SERVING TODAY AND ONE WEEK FROM TODAY

| Serving                   | July 19                                   | July 26                          |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Assisting Minister</b> | Beth Alexander                            | Kirsten Ebbesen                  |
| <b>Cup Minister</b>       | Loraine Sundberg                          | Audrey Post                      |
| <b>Cantor</b>             | Rudy Hehn                                 | Susan Hehn                       |
| <b>Lector</b>             | Ron Hartung                               | Judi Duffy                       |
| <b>Acolyte</b>            |                                           |                                  |
| <b>Tech Team</b>          | Loraine Sundberg<br>Colin Hackley         | Audrey Post<br>Ben Bush          |
| <b>Ushers</b>             | Jacob Nallapu<br>Erik Robinson            | Jacob Nallapu<br>Patrick Kennell |
| <b>Altar Guild</b>        | Lawana Lamb-Daniels<br>Sandy Lamb-Daniels | Beth Alexander                   |
| <b>Counters</b>           | Susan Warren<br>Kirsten Ebbesen           | Rob Schiffer<br>Kirsten Ebbesen  |

## PRAYER REQUESTS

***For the sick:*** Sallie Robinson (wife of Erik Robinson); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White); Laura McDuffie (sister of Rob Schiffer).

***In treatment for cancer:*** Kevin Vislocky (friend of Bob and Linda Eshleman); Scott Simmons (son of Sharon Simmons); Gordon Fleischer; Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; Linda Bobbitt (friend of Cheryl Stuart), diagnosed with metastasized breast cancer; David McManus (friend of Audrey Post); Shannon Miller (friend of Barb O'Donnell); Pat Yeager (sister of Sue Canning); Roger Stomberg (friend of Margaret Bowers).

***Health and protection:*** For Frank “Rame” Meyers, in assisted living after broken leg. For those encountering fear & uncertainty around government cuts and the future of Medicaid. For immigrants and refugees who are working and raising families in the United States, that they may be safe and secure without unnecessary deportations.

***For prisoners:*** All those on Death Row.

***Other concerns:*** For Charlie Cogswell, son of Judee Light, who is in rehab in Carrabelle for brain injury; Haley Larsen (daughter of Rob Schiffer's cousin), experiencing serious gastrointestinal problems; Jeanette Sickel and family following the death of her cousin, Elaine Harris; Sharon Simmons and family following the death of her sister, Sue Berent; Kevin Robinson (son of Erik Robinson), in need of encouragement; Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Allana Lochan-Tekaram (sister of Anita Sawh and Rita Ford), with hormone imbalance; Walt Steinvorth (friend of Rob Schiffer), suffering from pericarditis and vestibular neuritis and learning to cope with dizziness and severe equilibrium problems; Karen Elizabeth Olson.

***Church concerns:*** St. Stephen Church Council; the Florida-Bahamas Synod Council; all congregations searching for ways to stay connected and proclaim the Good News; Reconciling Works; Bishops Pedro Suarez and Yehiel Curry; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA advocacy offices and ministry.

***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 Gaza and the Middle East.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SUMMER HYMN REQUEST:** Do you have a hymn you would like to hear this summer? Just fill out a form in the narthex and drop it in the offering plate. You can also email the request directly to Rita.

**FLOWER CHART FOR 2026:** 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 2026 Flower Chart located on the sidewalk near 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/sermons>. 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/songs-of-st-stephen>.

*For your peace of mind: St. Stephen has installed the REME HALO Air Purification System in its heating and air-conditioning systems to guard against virus spread in the sanctuary, fellowship hall and office spaces. Details: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wa3nomhaDqY&t=8s>*

| CHURCH COUNCIL                          |                                           |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| President, Denise Bookwalter            |                                           |
| Treasurer, Jennifer Dritt               | Buildings Coordinator, Sandy Lamb-Daniels |
| Worship & Music, Susan Hehn             | Grounds Coordinator, Rob Schiffer         |
| Care & Hospitality, Lawana Lamb-Daniels | Outreach, Sharon Simmons                  |
| Mutual Ministry, Sylvia Smith           | Education & Discipleship, Emily Stover    |
| Communications, Colleen Holdcraft       | Youth, Graham Reece                       |