

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

## FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



JULY 13, 2025

10 A.M.

WE WELCOME OLIVIA AHYOUNG, GUEST MUSICIAN.

**St. Stephen Lutheran Church**

(850) 385-2728, Office

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

Lori Zengel, 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. Please do not leave children under 12 unattended.

**“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. A nursery is available if parent or guardian desires. See usher for details.

**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.

**For safety** we no longer pass the offering plate. Financial gifts can be placed in the plate by the baptismal font.

**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

*To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God's mercy in responding to one's neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the "gospel that has come to you"—namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to you.*

## 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 In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation            Amen.**

P        Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P        Merciful God,

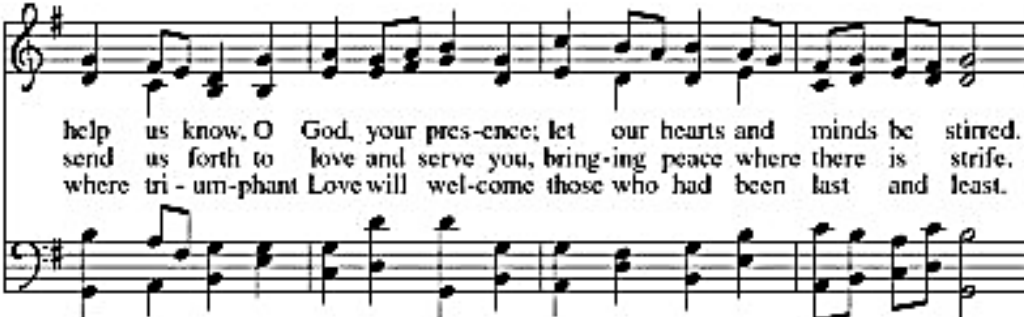
**C        you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

P        You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ☩ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

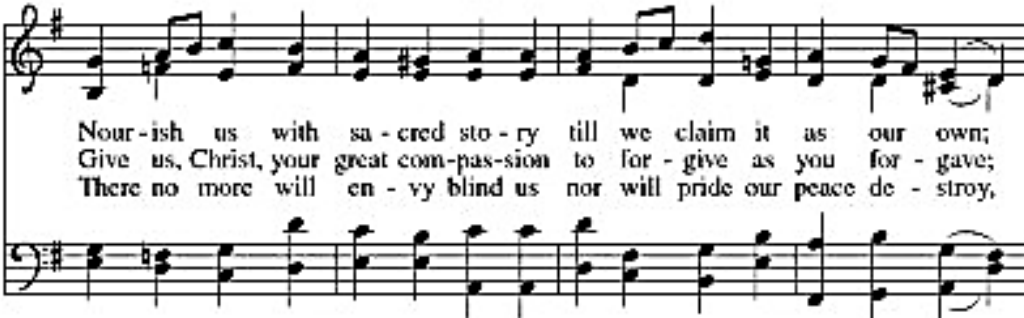
**C        Amen.**



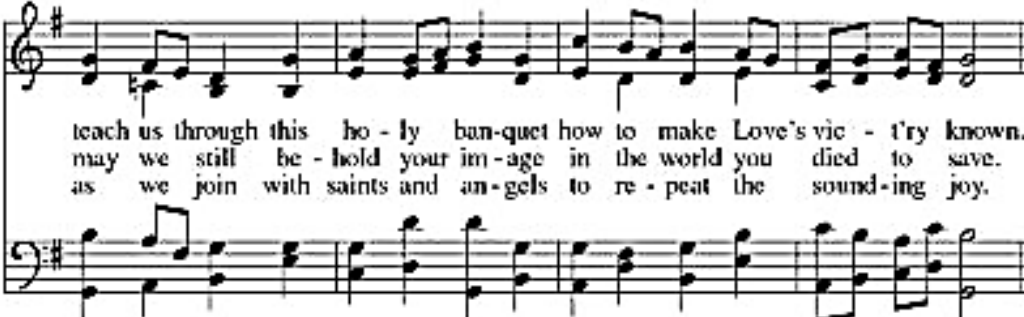
1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
 2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
 3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife,  
 where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
 Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
 There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known,  
 may we still be - hold your im-age in the world you died to save.  
 as we join with saints and an-gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy,

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: EN BABILONI, *Quintus et Sextus Hoffmanns Boekendelen en Contradanses*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855-1932

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## 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.

*Refrain*

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

al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis-dom, and

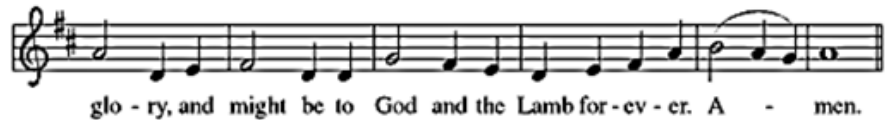
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

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

al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.



O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

## CHILDREN'S TIME



+ WORD +

**FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:9-14**

*Moses calls the people who are about to enter the promised land to renew the covenant God made with their ancestors. Through this covenant God gives life and asks for obedience. God's commandment is neither burdensome nor too far off, but dwells in the people's hearts.*

<sup>9</sup> The Lord your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the Lord will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors,  
<sup>10</sup> when you obey the Lord your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

<sup>11</sup> Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. <sup>12</sup> It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" <sup>13</sup> Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" <sup>14</sup> No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

**C**      **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:**      **Psalm 25:1-10**      *We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader <sup>1</sup> To | you, O Lord,  
I lift | up my soul.

**C**      <sup>2</sup> **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,**  
**nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

L       <sup>3</sup> Let none who look to you be <sup>1</sup> put to shame;  
              rather let those be put to shame <sup>1</sup> who are treacherous.

C       <sup>4</sup> **Show me your <sup>1</sup> ways, O Lord,  
              and teach <sup>1</sup> me your paths.**

L       <sup>5</sup> Lead me in your <sup>1</sup> truth and teach me,  
              for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all <sup>1</sup> the day long.

C       <sup>6</sup> **Remember, O Lord, your compas- <sup>1</sup> sion and love,  
              for they are from <sup>1</sup> everlasting.**

L       <sup>7</sup> Remember not the sins of my youth and <sup>1</sup> my transgressions;  
              remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your  
good- <sup>1</sup> ness, O Lord.

C       <sup>8</sup> **You are gracious and up- <sup>1</sup> right, O Lord;  
              therefore you teach sinners <sup>1</sup> in your way.**

L       <sup>9</sup> You lead the low- <sup>1</sup> ly in justice  
              and teach the low- <sup>1</sup> ly your way.

C       <sup>10</sup> **All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast <sup>1</sup> love and faithfulness  
              to those who keep your covenant and your <sup>1</sup> testimonies.**

*Spoken after the psalm is sung:*

**Amen.**

## **SECOND READING: Colossians 1:1-14**

*The letter to the Colossians was written to warn its readers of various false teachings. The first part of the letter is an expression of thanks for the faith, hope, and love that mark this community, including a prayer for strength and courage.*

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

<sup>2</sup> To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.



<sup>3</sup>In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup>for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, <sup>5</sup>because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel <sup>6</sup>that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. <sup>7</sup>This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, <sup>8</sup>and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

<sup>9</sup>For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup>so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. <sup>11</sup>May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully <sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup>He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

R The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God**

*The assembly stands.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



**GOSPEL: Luke 10:25-37**

*Jesus is challenged to explain what is involved in obeying the greatest commandment. He tells a parable rich in surprises: those expected to show pity display hard hearts while the lowly give and receive unexpected and lavish mercy.*

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

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

<sup>25</sup> Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>26</sup> He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” <sup>27</sup> He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>28</sup> And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup> But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” <sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ <sup>36</sup> Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” <sup>37</sup> He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

*The assembly is seated.*

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

*The assembly stands.*

1 What is the world like when God's will is  
 2 What is the world like when God's will is  
 3 What is the world like when God's will is  
 4 What is the world like when God's will is  
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im -

done? Mus - tard seeds grow more than  
 done? Wit - ness the wan - der - ing  
 done? No more is neigh - bor - just  
 done? Read - y for feast - ing, we  
 parts, filled with the Spir - it who

we can con - ceive: roots thread the  
 child com - ing home; watch as the  
 al - ly or friend; peace thrives in  
 watch through the night, tend - ing our  
 joins us as one. Born through our

soil; branch - es reach for the sun.  
 par - ent breaks in - to a run.  
 plac - es where once there was none.  
 lamps till the new day's be - gun.  
 voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,

This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.  
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.  
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.  
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.  
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: NEW WORLD, Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952

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## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**A** Let us confess our faith.

**C** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Each petition ends: Hear us, O God.*

*Congregational response: Your mercy is great.*

## **PEACE**

**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.*



## OFFERING

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

## OFFERING HYMN      ELW 870 (verse 1)

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

### We Praise You, O God

I We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;  
in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.  
We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;  
we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.

Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882–1963  
Music: KREMSER, A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626

## 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

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.'

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. 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.

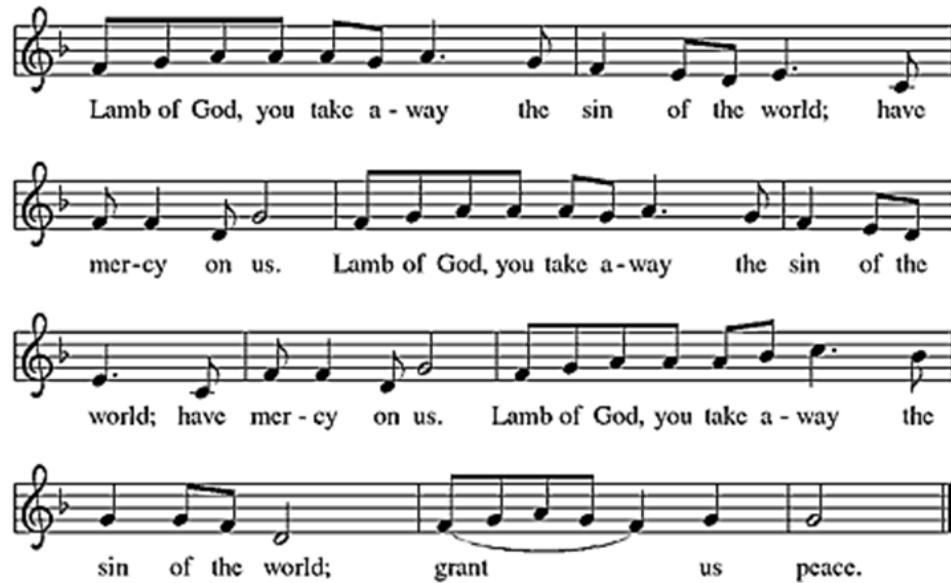
C      **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P      The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

*The assembly is seated.*

## LAMB OF GOD



## 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 and grape juice 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. If you do not wish to receive the meal, simply fold your arms over your chest to receive a blessing from the pastor.*

**COMMUNION HYMNS**    **632\***    *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*  
                                      **722**    *O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate*

*\*Requested hymn*

*The assembly stands.*



## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace.  
Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love  
in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

## + SENDING +

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

P The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;  
and the life of the Spirit ✠ bless you and give you peace.

C Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The assembly stands.*

**SENDING HYMN**

717 *Let Justice Flow like Streams*

1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar - kling wa - ter, pure,  
 2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,  
 3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.  
 an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.  
 and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926  
 Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731-1776  
 Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press.

## 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. Live by the Spirit.
- C Thanks be to God.

+ + +

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**Calendar for July 13 - 20**

July	13	Sun.	9 am	Book study
			10 am	Worship, Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
	20	Sun.	9 am	Book study
			10 am	Worship, Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

*\*Lori will be on vacation from July 11-26.*

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

[Genesis 18:1-10a](#)

[Psalms 15](#)

[Colossians 1:15-28](#)

[Luke 10:38-42](#)



**Today's altar flowers are dedicated  
to the glory of God.**

## SERVING EVERY SUNDAY

Pastor Tom, presiding and preaching

Katharine Gossman, piano

Karl Barton, flute

Denise Bookwalter, announcements

Choir: Jordi Banitt, Karl Barton, Melissa Barton, Mark Canning, Kirsten Ebbesen, Rita Ford, Rudy Hehn, Susan Hehn, Colleen Holdcraft, Pastor Tom Holdcraft, Olivia James, Sandy Ness, Simone Schuster, Dave Suhrweir, Cassandra White

## SERVING TODAY AND ONE WEEK FROM TODAY

Serving	July 13	July 20
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Jennifer Dritt	Colleen Holdcraft
<b>Cup Minister</b>	Rita Ford	Audrey Post
<b>Cantor</b>	Pr. Tom	Rita Ford
<b>Lector</b>	Karen Olson	Violet Greeley
<b>Acolyte</b>	Ceilia Greeley or Graham Reece or Bastian Stover	
<b>Tech Team</b>	Colin Hackley Sandy Lamb-Daniels	Mark Greeley Audrey Post
<b>Ushers</b>		
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Linda Eshleman Barbara Sullivan	Rita Ford Susan Warren
<b>Counters</b>	Margaret Bowers Patricia Handschy Diane Hines	Rob Schiffer Susan Warren

## PRAYER REQUESTS

***New concerns:*** Prayers for healing for Margarete Decker (mother of Caroline Collins) recovering from pneumonia

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

***In treatment for cancer:*** Ruth Hartung; Scott Simmons (son of Sharon Simmons); Gordon Fleischer; Jim Saxman (uncle of Rob Schiffer); Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; Craig Timm (friend of Cheryl & Steve); Gil Johnson (friend of Judi Duffy); David McManus (friend of Audrey Post); Shannon Miller (friend of Barb O'Donnell); Timothy Stewart (son of Pepper Stewart).

***Health and protection:*** 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 to be safe and secure without unnecessary deportations.

***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; Margarete Deckert (mother of Caroline Collins), ongoing prayers for strength as she is recovering from illness; Donna Dickson Miller (friend of Audrey Post), facing health challenges; Gladys Kane for continued healing; Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart).

***Church concerns:*** St. Stephen's Church Council; the Florida-Bahamas Synod Council; all congregations searching for ways to stay connected and proclaim the Good News; Reconciling Works; Grace Lutheran Church; Bishop Pedro Suarez; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA Advocacy offices and ministry; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pensacola.

***World concerns:*** For all people suffering and/or recovering from hurricanes; migrants and asylum seekers; civil rights for people around the world; a ceasefire in Ethiopia and in Ukraine; peace in Gaza and the Middle East.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** The next Congregational meeting will be on Aug. 3, following worship.

**FLOWER CHART FOR 2025:** 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 2025 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/sermons\*](https://ststephenlutherantally.com/sermons). Want to read the latest newsletters? Go to [\*https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters\*](https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters). Want to browse a collection of St. Stephen songs? They're at [\*https://ststephenlutherantally.com/songs-of-st-stephen\*](https://ststephenlutherantally.com/songs-of-st-stephen).