



ELCA

*14th Sunday after Pentecost  
September 3, 2023*

*Saint Stephen Lutheran Church*

*<http://www.saintstephenlutheran.net>*

*Our Saviour's Lutheran Church*

*<https://www.oslc norge.org>*

**Lectionary readings for this week:**

**Monday:** 2 Samuel 11:2-26 Revelation 3:1-6 Psalm 17

**Tuesday:** 2 Samuel 11:27b–12:15 Revelation 3:7-13 Psalm 17

**Wednesday:** Jeremiah 17:5-18 Matthew 12:22-32 Psalm 17

**Thursday:** Ezekiel 24:1-14 2 Corinthians 12:11-21 Psalm 119:33-40

**Friday:** Ezekiel 24:15-27 Romans 10:15b-21 Psalm 119:33-40

**Saturday:** Ezekiel 33:1-6 Matthew 23:29-36 Psalm 119:33-40

**Next Sunday:** Ezekiel 33:7-11 Psalm 119:33-40 (35) Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20

**I. Gathering: *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God***

**Welcome**

**Thanksgiving for Baptisms**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness,  
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, fountain of living water,  
source of mercy, tender and mighty,  
you are clothed with majesty and splendor.  
Your steadfast love fills the earth.

**Your steadfast love fills the earth.**

Your love flows through water,  
satisfying the thirst of all living things,  
sustaining life in this community,  
nourishing and delighting us.

We bless you for these gifts of water:

*Especially we give thanks for the  
Chickahominy, James & York Rivers,  
the Chesapeake Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean.*

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

**Your steadfast love fills the earth.**

Your love flows through water,  
a sign of your saving power:  
Noah and the animals survive the flood,  
Hagar discovers your well.

The Israelites escape through the sea,  
and they drink from your gushing rock.

Naaman washes his leprosy away,  
and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

**Your steadfast love fills the earth.**

Your love flows through the water of baptism  
joined to your life-giving Word:  
your well of mercy and cleansing flood,  
your sea of deliverance from death into life,  
your healing river washing sin away,  
your living water springing up to eternal life.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

**Your steadfast love fills the earth.**

Shower us with your Holy Spirit.

Fill us with your love.

Clothe us and all your people with grace.

Embolden us to do justice.

Bless us to love mercy.

Guide us to walk humbly with you,  
whom we thank and praise, through Jesus Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Songs:**

*Sanctuary*

**Lord, prepare me, to be a sanctuary,  
Pure and holy, tried and true—  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living,  
Sanctuary for you.**

**Lord, prepare me, to be a testimony,  
Sweet and simple, tried and true –  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living,  
Testimony for you.**

**When the Lord comes, with shouts of glory  
And my work on Earth is done –  
How I long to, hear God saying  
Faithful servant, well done.**

**(Repeat First Stanza)**



## Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## Kyrie


*Refrain*




Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.




Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the  
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for  
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for  
hun - gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam - i - ly; for  
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



*Refrain*  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

## II. Word: *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

*Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."*

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, you know;

remember me and visit me,  
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;  
know that on your account I suffer insult.

<sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy  
and the delight of my heart;

for I am called by your name,  
O LORD, God of hosts.

<sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,  
nor did I rejoice;  
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,  
for you had filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing,  
my wound incurable,  
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,  
like waters that fail.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD:

If you turn back, I will take you back,  
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,  
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,  
not you who will turn to them.

<sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people  
a fortified wall of bronze;

they will fight against you,  
but they shall not prevail over you,

for I am with you  
to save you and deliver you,

says the LORD.

<sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,  
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Reader: "The Word of the Lord." Response: "**Thanks be to God.**"

## Second Reading

## Romans 12:9-21

*Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people..*

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup>No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Reader: "The Word of the Lord." Response: "Thanks be to God."

### Gospel Acclamation (Sung Twice)

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

*After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."*

*Response after announcement of the Gospel: "Glory to you, O Lord."*

<sup>21</sup>From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

<sup>27</sup>"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

*Response at the conclusion of the Gospel: "Praise to you, O Christ."*

**Sermon**

The Cross We Bear

Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt

*The Hymn of the Day will be announced in a few moments. First, please take time during the silence: What are your prayers in response to the sermon?*

**Hymn of the Day***Will You Come and Follow Me*

ELW 798

Bulletin page 11

**Prayers**

*Each petition concludes, "Lord in your mercy." Response: "Hear our prayer."*

**III. Meal: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ****Offering**

*Offerings are gathered for the mission of the church: preaching and teaching the good news of our salvation through the death and resurrection of Christ, and caring for the poor. During the offering, the table is set for the Lord's Supper. All loose plate collections of cash today will go to FISH.*

**Offering of Song** *Take My Life That I May Be*

ELW 583



**Offertory Prayer  
Words of Institution**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

**Holy Communion**

*When receiving Communion, please walk forward to the communion station. The Pastor will distribute the bread. After receiving the bread please take a cup from the basket and have it filled with either wine or grape juice from the Communion Assistant. Please deposit used cups in the basket provided. Gluten-free wafers are available as an alternative to bread. All are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper.*

**Communion Music**    *Let Us Break Bread Together*

ELW 471

Bulletin page 13

*Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God*

WOV 783

Bulletin page 14

*They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love*

Bulletin page 15

*Awesome God*

W&P 13

Bulletin page 15

**Table Blessing**

**Prayer after Communion**

**IV. Sending: *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world***

**Blessing**

**The God of glory,**

**✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names,  
and the Spirit who lives in you,  
bless you now and forever.**

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. God is at work in you.. **Thanks be to God.**

A special thank you to our guitarists Marj Gottschalk-Trone and Jim Larsen.



*Take up your cross  
and follow me*

MATTHEW 16:24

# Will You Come and Follow Me

## *The Summons*



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call  
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call  
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call  
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call  
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't  
 your name? Will you care for cruel and  
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners  
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -  
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



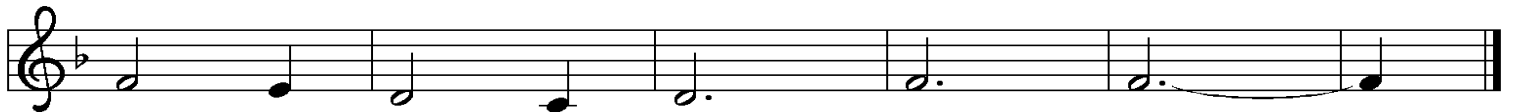
know and nev - er be the same?  
 kind and nev - er be the same?  
 free and nev - er be the same?  
 side and nev - er be the same?  
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as  
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the  
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be  
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer  
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I  
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and  
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"  
 pray'r in you and you in me?"  
 mean in you and you in me?"  
 sound in you and you in me?"  
 grow in you and you in me.

# Take My Life, That I May Be Toma, oh Dios, mi voluntad

*Refrain/Estribillo*



To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -  
Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,



da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón  
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;



y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.  
let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.



1 Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té  
1 Take my hands and let them move  
2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,  
3 Take my voice and let me sing  
4 Take my will and make it thine;



con - sa - gra - da a ti, Se - ñor;  
at the im - pulse of thy love;  
not a mite would I with - hold;  
al - ways, on - ly for my King;  
it shall be no lon - ger mine;



que a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -  
take my feet and let them be swift and  
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry  
take my lips and let them be filled with  
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall



pul - so de tu a - mor.  
beau - ti - ful for thee.  
pow'r as thou shalt choose.  
mes - sag - es from thee.  
be thy roy - al throne.

*Refrain/Estribillo*

2 Que mis pies tan sólo en pos  
de lo santo puedan ir,  
y que a ti, Señor, mi voz,  
se complazca en bendecir. Estribillo

3 Que mis labios al hablar  
hablen sólo de tu amor;  
que mis bienes dedicar  
yo los quiera a ti, Señor. Estribillo

4 Que mi tiempo todo esté  
consagrado a tu loor;  
que mi mente y su poder  
sean usados en tu honor. Estribillo

# Let Us Break Bread Together

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are arranged in three lines, each corresponding to a different part of the song.

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are arranged in three lines, each corresponding to a different part of the song.

*Refrain*

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

The Refrain section begins with a treble and bass staff. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are arranged in one line, corresponding to the first part of the refrain.

sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

The second part of the Refrain section continues the melody and accompaniment from the first part. The lyrics are arranged in one line, corresponding to the second part of the refrain.

*Descant*

Al - le - lu - ia, al -  
 D F#m G D G

1 Seek ye . . . first the king - dom of God and its  
 2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and  
 3 We do not live by bread . . . a - lone, but by

le - lu - ia, al - le -  
 D Em A<sup>7</sup> D F#m

righteous - ness, and all these things shall be  
 you shall find; knock and the door shall be  
 ev - 'ry word that pro - ceeds from the

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
 G D G D Em A D

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.  
 o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.  
 mouth . . . of . . . God. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

# **They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love**

by Peter Scholtes. Copyright 1966 F.E.L. Publications (a div. of the Lorenz Corporation)

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.

And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

*Chorus:*

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.

Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand

And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. (*Chorus*)

We will work with each other, we will work side by side.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side.

And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride. (*Chorus*)

All praise to the Father, From whom all thing come,

And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son,

And all praise to the Spirit, who Makes us one. (*Chorus*)

## **Awesome God**

*W&P 13*

Our God is an awesome God, he reigns from heaven above with wisdom, pow'r and love - our God is an awesome God. (*Repeat*)

Our God is an awesome God!

Our God is an awesome God!

*Refrain*  
F

Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that

C<sup>7</sup> F F

can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord,

Dm Gm C F

bind us to - geth - er, Lord; bind us to - geth - er in love.

F C<sup>7</sup> F F C<sup>7</sup> F

1 There . . is on - ly one God. There . . is on - ly one King.  
2 You are the fam - ly of God. You are the prom - ise di - vine.

F C<sup>7</sup> F F C<sup>7</sup> F *Refrain* B<sup>b</sup>/C

There . . is on - ly one Bod-y; that . . is why we can sing:  
You are God's cho - sen de - sire, you are the glo - rious new wine.





# St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Love God, Love People, Form Faith.

**Join your prayers for healing** with God's desires for **Ed Brown, Kristin Carter, Jack Harris, Sharon Jacobs, Marilyn Johnson, Evelyn Kernan, Jim Mayfield, and Linda Reuben.**

**Pray for those unable to come to worship:** **Martin Bleck, Ed Brown, Birdie Burton, York Doerr, Bob and Angie Groom, Edith Haecker, Pat Janot, Jeanne Nelson, Darlene Simon, and Kay Wasaff**

**We hold** **Bill Dichtel** and his family in prayer on the death of his brother-in-law, **Paul Dwiggin.**

**Pray for these loved ones of our congregation:** Dawn Allen, Donald and Carol Baum, Rose Baumgarten, Sally Blackburn, Nelson Blish, Mary Bloom, Ann Bunn Jerry & Elijah Connor, Judy Craun, Doug Crinklaw, Judy Drezek, Derald Edwards, Joan and Frank Goodhart, Catherine Harbison, Deanna Harbison, Jeanne Hartung & Brett Hartung, Tom Hay, Bradley Kim Joan and Laurie Heintzelman, Char Henry, Zac and Jen Holtzman and family, Linda Jackson, Brian Johnson, Mason Jones, Sean Kelley, Connie Kendrick, The Kennedy family, Bob Lamoureux, Ron Luchetti, Isabelle Lutzke, Julia Mahony, Marnah Lund, Doug Mayes, Laura McGolin, Detra Michaels, Bob Myers, Lori Ogborn, Gina Peterson, Paula Rega, Betty Roth, Kylen Saunders, Inge Seiter, David Shoberg, Kelsey Slay, Vasili Soultoukis, Chad Strausbaugh, Charley Underdahl, Caleb Winig and Holly Yohe

**St. Stephen Calendar – September 3-10 , 2023**

*Our worship service is available on our website [www.saintstephenlutheran.net](http://www.saintstephenlutheran.net),  
click on “Worship with Us” and “Services.”*

**SUNDAY, September 3**

**10:30 AM** Worship at Chickahominy Park-Holy Communion  
(located in the shelter between the playground and the pool)

**MONDAY September 4**

Office closed

**TUESDAY, September 5**

**WEDNESDAY, September 6**

7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 PM Chancel Choir (Worship Space)

**THURSDAY, September 7**

12:00 PM Bulletin review (Library/Conference Room)

5:30 PM St. Stephen Rings Rehearsal (Worship Space)

**FRIDAY, September 8**

**SATURDAY, September 9**

5:30 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

**SUNDAY, September 10**

8:00 AM Matins Choir Warm up (Worship Space)

**8:30 AM** **Worship – Holy Communion** (*livestreamed on our YouTube channel*)

9:45 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)

9:45 AM Gods work Our Hands (Fellowship Hall)

**11:00 AM** **Worship – Holy Communion**