



St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Love God, Love People, Form Faith.

One of 13,000 Stephen Ministry Congregations Around the World

We believe that community is beautiful and messy and fulfilling and conflicted and...the POINT. God calls us together into community for the sake of one another, our neighbors, and creation. We don't always get it right, but we trust that when we center the love and grace that Jesus taught, we will get it right more often than not.

You are welcome here! We don't expect perfect, put-together people; we don't want you to conform to us and our ways; we want you to show up as who you are and to experience the love and grace of God as we have experienced it. And we hope that once you do, you will join us in sharing it with others too.

July 26, 2026
9th Sunday after Pentecost

For Your Prayers - July 27-August 2, 2026

Lectionary readings for this week:

Mon – July 27: 1 Kings 3:16-28; James 3:13-18; Psalm 119:121-128

Tue – July 28: 1 Kings 4:29-34; Ephesians 6:10-18; Psalm 119:121-128

Wed – July 29: Proverbs 1:1-7, 20-33; Mark 4:30-34; Psalm 119:121-128

Thu – July 30: Proverbs 10:1-5; Philippians 4:10-15; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

Fri – July 31: Isaiah 51:17-23 ;Romans 9:6-13; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

Sat – Aug 1: Isaiah 44:1-5 Matthew 7:7-11; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

Next Sunday: Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 (16) Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Kristin Carter, Ginny Cummings, Craig Eichfeld, Edith Haecker, Dave Hoyer, Jim Ivey, Sharon Jacobs, Marilyn Johnson, Donna Kittelson, Terri Larsen, and Carole Meyer.**

Pray for those unable to come to worship: **Ailene Bartlett, Ed Brown, Pat Janot, Marilyn Johnson, Susan Kauffman, Jon Lund, Darlene Simon, and Kay Wasaff.**

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Bob Alt, Thomas Alt, Randy Altona, Phyllis Andrews, Sam Areheart, Kristin Carter, Philip Baker ,Bob Bastian, Carol Baum, Robi Bayard, Lila Bradley, Carol Bergh, Mary Bloom, Doug Bolick, Robert Bunn, David Carr, John Coski, Amaree Cluff, Ronnie Dodson, Pat D'Orazio, Dru Dowdy, Judy Drezek, Danny Gass, Keith and Debbie Glenn, Joan Goodhart ,Charee Hampton, Sue Hassan and family, Andy Havola, Nick Havola, Bradley, Kim, Joan and Laurie Heintzelman, Char Henry, Lisa Hill, Doris Hillenbrand, Bob Hirsch, Michelle Holdsworth, Jaxon Ireland, Don Johnson, Connie Kendrick, Jenn Kramer, Bob Loubach, Pat Layton, Marnah Lund, Doug MacKenzie, Keara Mahony, Trish Macerelli, Laura Margolin, Barry and Mabel Martin, Ellen Martin, Mabel Mater, Jackie Mazzone, Jimmy Mitchell, Carolyn Moneymaker Marian Mongelli, Liz Montalvo, Chuckie Moore, Bob Myers, Jeanette Osborn, Rodger Osborn, Maricel Paulin, Dima Pavlenko, Coral Pumley, Scott Radley, Kurt Recktenwald, Paula Rega, Carol Sue Repass , Brian Ritter, Ruth Sandoval, Lou Schuster, Pamela Sharp, Kelsey Slay, Valerie Smith, Vasili Soultoukis, Laura Spencer, Charlie Stayton, Chad Strausbaugh, Al Stern, Monika Stern, Lara Templin, Lenorah Thomas, Karli Wallace Thompson, Betty Lou Tulloh, Elaine Wrich, Lynda Wright, and Bev Utrich.

9th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Welcome

Centering Music

Gather Us In

John A. Behnke

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **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.**

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. **Amen.**

Opening Litany (*from enfleshed.com*)

Let us come together rejoicing. For nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Not life nor death.

Not prejudice nor power.

Not our grief nor our fears.

When nothing feels certain, this truth remains:

The Spirit is our constant companion, ushering us toward life.

Let every heart be lifted!

The kingdom of God is so close.

Nothing can keep love from enfleshing among us.

Opening Prayer (*from enfleshed.com*)

Spirit of God, you intercede through us with your sighs too deep for words. In the midst of all that aches, we know that you are with us. As we feel it all. As we hope for more. As we work together to find our way through uncertainties and loss. You accompany us with compassion and wisdom. Encourage us, O God, in the journey before us. **Amen.**

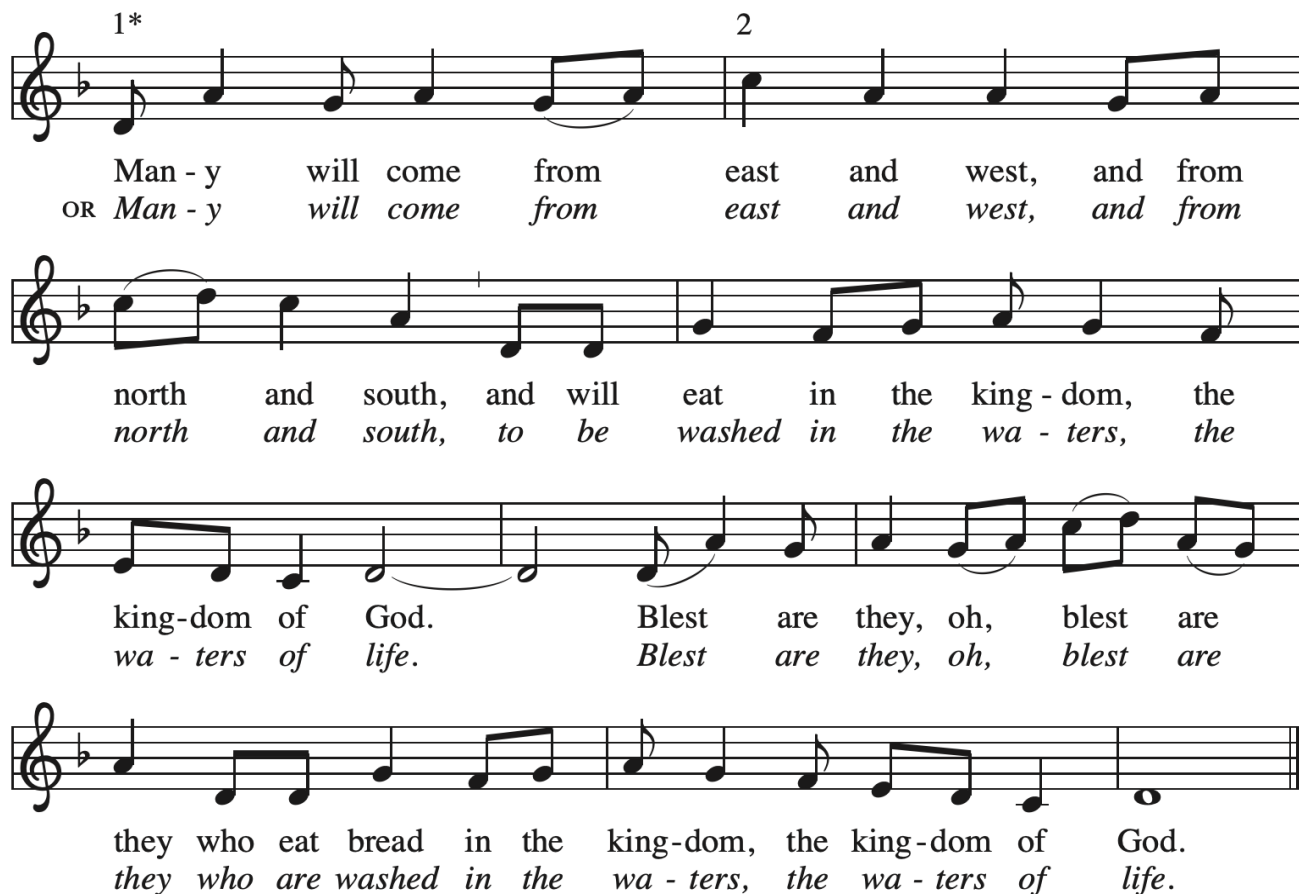
Gathering Hymn

Gather Us In

ELW 532
Bulletin page 11

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**

Hymn of Praise (Sing three times, the 3rd time in canon joining the part that “needs” you.)



1* 2

Man - y will come from east and west, and from
OR Man - y will come from east and west, and from

north and south, and will eat in the king - dom, the
north and south, to be washed in the wa - ters, the

king - dom of God. Blest are they, oh, blest are
wa - ters of life. Blest are they, oh, blest are

they who eat bread in the king - dom, the king - dom of God.
they who are washed in the wa - ters, the wa - ters of life.

Prayer of the Day

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

First Reading

1 Kings 3:5-12

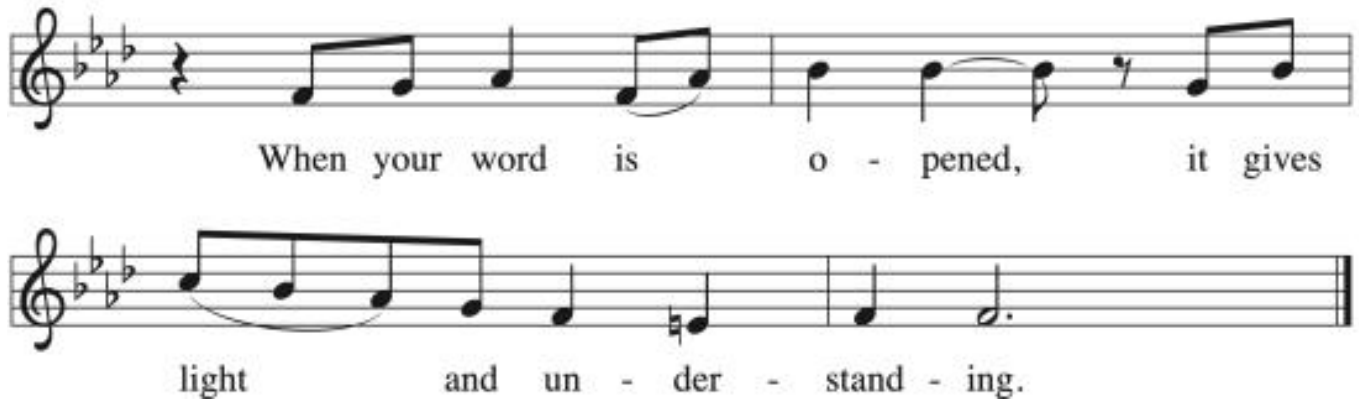
Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶ And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern

between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?” ¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, “Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.

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

Psalm 119:129-136



- ¹²⁹ Your de- | crees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with | all my heart.
- ¹³⁰ **When your word is opened | it gives light;
it gives understanding | to the simple.**
- ¹³¹ I open my | mouth and pant
because I long for | your commandments.
- ¹³² **Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,
as you always do to those who | love your name. REFRAIN**
- ¹³³ Order my footsteps | in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion | over me.
- ¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those | who oppress me,
and I will keep | your commandments.**
- ¹³⁵ Let your face shine up- | on your servant
and teach | me your statutes.
- ¹³⁶ **My eyes shed | streams of tears,
because people do not | keep your teaching. REFRAIN**

Reading

Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called

according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

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

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." ³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." ⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ "Again, the

kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Response at the conclusion of the Gospel: “Praise to you, O Christ.”

Sermon

The Resistance of a Hearing Heart

Pastor Jon Nelson

Hymn of the Day

Neither Death nor Life

ELW 622

Bulletin page 12 & 13

Ancient and Ecumenical Nicene Creed *(see note at end of bulletin)*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers

Each petition concludes: God of grace, hear our prayer.

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

Offering Invitation

As all of creation yearns for freedom, we remember that all of life is bound up together. Our own spirits are entangled with the well-being of every living thing. With humility, let us acknowledge our own ongoing journeys of transformation as we seek to do our part in the collective labors of healing, justice, and companionship. In gratitude for the grace of God that sustains us, let us bring our offerings together.

Offertory Prayer

Spirit of Solidarity, wherever there is ache, you are there. You groan with those who suffer. You cry out through prophets calling for justice. You stir the spirits of the complacent and trouble the hearts of the indifferent. With thanks for your presence that transforms and your hope that endures, we bring our offerings and pray that we may be faithful companions to one another and every neighbor in struggle. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... and join their unending hymn:

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff begins with a repeat sign, indicating the hymn's unending nature.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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 - san - na in the high - est.

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, either stand or kneel at the Rail. Pastor will distribute the bread and a Communion Assistant will come with a tray of pre-filled cups of wine and grape juice. The juice will be in the middle of the tray. Gluten-free wafers are available as an alternative to bread. All are welcome to the Lord's Supper.*



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Communion Hymns

We Eat the Bread of Teaching

ELW 518

Bulletin page 14

Sometimes Our Only Song Is Weeping

ACS 1050

Bulletin page 15

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

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. **Amen.**

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

Sending Hymn

What Is the World Like

ACS 1047

Bulletin page 16

Blessing of VBS Volunteers

Blessing

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. Amen.

Dismissal

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude

My Faith's Got Shoes
Pop-up Choir

Mark Burrows

Note on the Ancient and Ecumenical Nicene Creed: During the summer months, you will notice a slight variation in the Nicene Creed as we omit the phrase “and the Son” (*Filioque*) regarding the procession of the Holy Spirit. This temporary shift is inspired by a historic common statement from the Lutheran-Orthodox international theological dialogue, which suggests using the original Greek text to help heal age-old divisions between Eastern and Western church traditions and promote global ecumenical unity. By returning to this foundational wording, we look forward to a renewed focus on Trinitarian theology and a deeper sense of reconciliation across the wider body of Christ. Learn more about the ecumenical work between LWF and the Orthodox traditions here: <https://lutheranworld.org/>

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Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

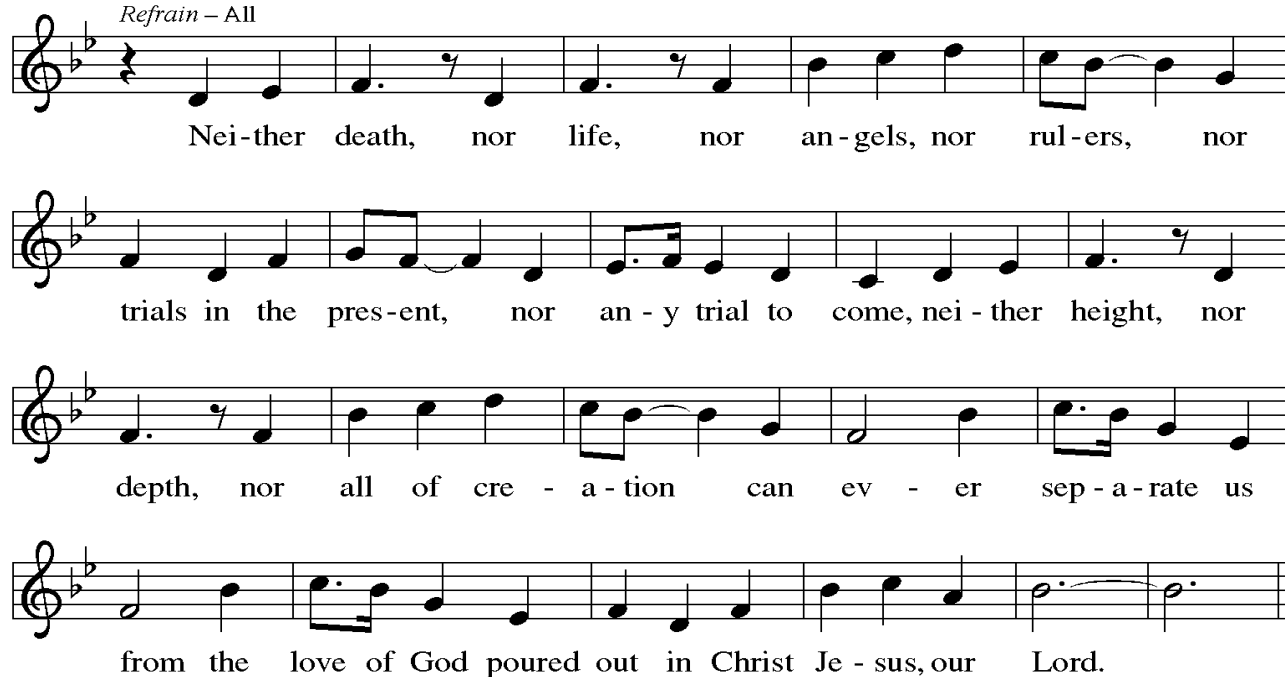
Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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Neither Death nor Life

Refrain – All



Nei-ther death, nor life, nor an-gels, nor rul-ers, nor
trials in the pres-ent, nor an - y trial to come, nei - ther height, nor
depth, nor all of cre - a - tion can ev - er sep - a - rate us
from the love of God poured out in Christ Je - sus, our Lord.

Leader or All



1 Dwell in the one who raised Christ from the dead; though your
2 All who are led by the Spir-it shall live as
3 All of the suf - f'ring we now must en - dure is
4 All of cre - a - tion a - waits the new birth, the
5 Who can sep - a - rate us from the love of Christ? Will

bod-y shall die, in Christ you shall rise through the
 chil - dren of God, and heirs with Christ Je - sus, God's a -
 noth - ing to the glo - ry so soon to be re - vealed when cre -
 full - ness of re - demp - tion, through la - bor pains of love, and
 hard - ship or dis - tress, per - se - cu - tion or fam - ine, or

Refrain

Spir - it who brings you to life.
 dopt - ed and cho - sen and loved.
 a - tion it - self is set free.
 so we wait in pa - tience and hope.
 na - ked - ness or per - il or sword?

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Romans 8
 Music: NEITHER DEATH NOR LIFE, Marty Haugen
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We Eat the Bread of Teaching

Refrain



We eat the bread of teach-ing, drink wine of wis-dom, are



giv-en here a taste of the king-dom. To-geth-er



joined, the great-est and the least, we all are



one at Wis-dom's ho-ly feast.



1 Wis-dom calls through-out the cit-y, knows our
2 Sim-ple ones whose hearts are yearn-ing, come and
3 En-ter with de-light and sing-ing, for her



hun-ger, and in pit-y gives her lov-ing in-vi-
gain from Wis-dom's learn-ing; bread and wine she is pre-
rich-ness now is bring-ing us this joy-ous cel-e-

Refrain



ta-tion to the ban-quet of sal-va-tion.
par-ing, know her lov-ing in the shar-ing.
bra-tion; eat and drink in ju-bi-la-tion.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997

Music: WISDOM'S FEAST, Jerry Ray Brubaker, b. 1946

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Sometimes Our Only Song Is Weeping



1 Some-times our on - ly song is weep - ing; our on - ly
2 Some-times we catch the faint-est hum - ming, a far - off



sound is gasp - ing breath. Some-times it seems that God is
tune our hearts know well. Some-times we sense the Spir - it



sleep-ing while our brief lives are bound in death.
com - ing. Our song re - turns; our voic - es swell.



Who hears the song our sor-rows swal-low and of - fers
The Spir - it sings though we are shak-en, and Christ has



hope to calm our fears? When all our words seem frail and
shared our heart-felt cries. Re - stored, our wea - ry souls a -



hol - low, God heeds the prayers with - in our tears.
wak - en to join God's song that nev - er dies.

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

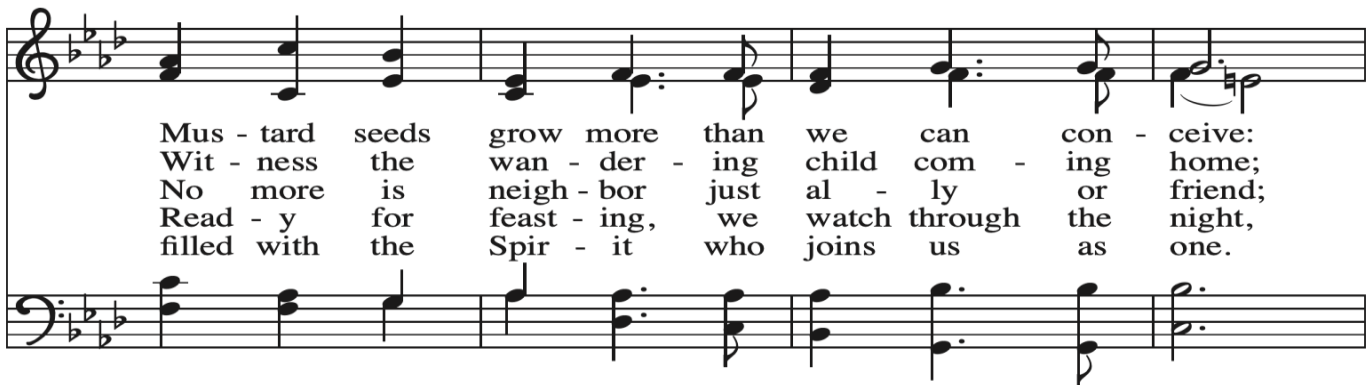
Music: WAYFARING STRANGER, North American traditional

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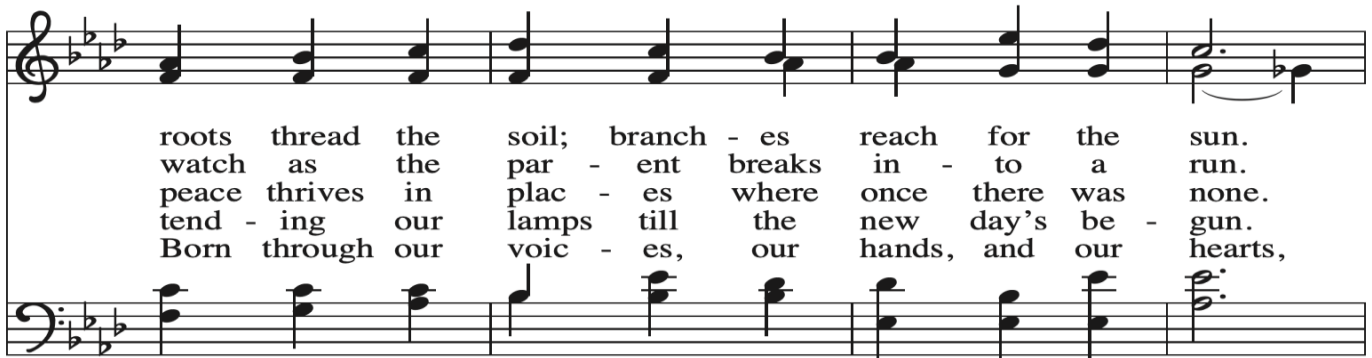
What Is the World Like



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



Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive:
 Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;
 No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;
 Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,
 filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.



roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
 watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.
 peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.
 tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.
 Born through our 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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As We Gather

Restrooms & First Aid

- ❖ A gender-neutral, family restroom and a Women's restroom can be found in the hallway behind our Worship Space.
- ❖ Additional Men's and Women's restrooms can be found on the lower level of the church building.
- ❖ A first aid kit and an A.E.D. can be found hanging on the wall in the hallway behind our Worship Space.

Live-streaming

- ❖ We regularly live-stream our services and cannot guarantee that you will not appear on our YouTube or Facebook channel. Sitting in the East Wing or the NE section of the Worship Space will minimize your chances of being on screen. We can also bring communion to you if you inform an usher of that desire. Both services are live streamed.

Parents! Thanks for bringing your children to worship.

- ❖ Did you know that intergenerational worship is the single most important activity encouraging children's faith formation? (See vibrantfaith.org)
- ❖ When parents and children need to take a break for a few minutes, there's a play area (aka "playground") with toys and books in the East wing of the Worship Space.
- ❖ Age-appropriate activity bags are available in the Gathering Space – ask an usher for assistance.

Assistance is Available for You:

- ❖ **An induction loop** is provided for the benefit of hearing aid users. To use, please switch your hearing aid to "T."
- ❖ **Large print** worship materials are available – ask an usher.

Health Update: We always encourage you to monitor yourself for symptoms of illness and to worship from home if you are experiencing any. We have masks and hand sanitizer available for use in our building should you require.

What's Happening Today

Flowers this morning are given by Heidi Flatin to the Glory of God!

Thank you to our Pop-up Choir for leading and supporting our worship this morning.

Summer Film Series: Our next movie is True Grit (2010), a classic Western tale of justice, revenge, and whether there's a difference between them. **July 26 2:00 – True Grit 2010 PG13**

Information & Upcoming

Shoes For Grove. Our St. Stephen community starts its third decade of giving new sneakers to Grove students for school. As in past years, if you like to shop, please buy **GIRLS sneakers in any size from 6 to 11**, or **BOYS sneakers in any size from 6 to 12**, including half sizes for both (these are the most needed sizes). **Shoes will be collected in the Gathering Space until Sunday, August 2.** If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please write the check to St. Stephen Lutheran Church with SHOES FOR GROVE on the memo line. Cash is also accepted, but please indicate that it is for Grove in/on the envelope. **Please place envelopes containing checks or cash in the offering plate or in the outside mailbox near the side door by Sunday, July 26.** Contact Nancy Egloff with questions.

SAVE THE DATE! November 6-7, 2026 Fall Women's Workshop

The St. Stephen Fall Women's Workshop is being planned as a one-day event at St. Stephen on Saturday, November 7, with a Friday evening social the evening before, November 6. The Saturday workshop sessions will have spiritual themes and highlight relevancies to women's daily lives, and the schedule is designed to allow for longer breaks (thanks to feedback from last fall!). Plan to come and bring a friend for the day Saturday, or Friday evening, or better yet – both! Details will be shared as planning progresses. Thanks to Sandy Johnson and the planning team for their preparations. (Note: This annual St. Stephen women's event was formerly known as the Fall Women's Retreat; the planning team has renamed it the Fall Women's Workshop to better reflect its format.)

New Member Welcome: We will have a new member welcome at the end-of-summer church picnic on Sunday, September 6th, at Freedom Park. On Sunday August 30th we invite all new members/transfers for a class and lunch after service. If you are attending either event, please fill out the insert so that we can plan food for both activities.

St. Stephen Calendar: July 26-Aug 2, 2026

SUNDAY, July 26 ~ 9th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM Coffee and Fellowship (Gathering Space)
9:15 AM Pop-Up Choir rehearsal (Worship Space)
9:45 AM Worship – Communion (*livestreamed on our YouTube channel*)
2:00 PM Movie: True Grit (Fellowship Hall)

MONDAY, July 27

Week 7 Preschool Summer Camp, Mon- Fri., 9AM-12PM
VBS Mon-Fri 12-4PM

TUESDAY, July 28

WEDNESDAY, July 29

8:45AM Yoga (Gathering Space)
5:00 PM Girl Scouts (Preschool room)
7:00 PM AA meeting (Fellowship Hall)

THURSDAY, July 30

FRIDAY, July 31

SATURDAY, Aug 1

5:30 PM AA Meeting (Library/Conference room)
5:30 PM Al-Anon (Gathering Space)

SUNDAY, Aug 2 ~ 10th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM Coffee and Fellowship (Gathering Space)
9:45 AM Worship – Communion (*livestreamed on our YouTube channel*)

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer..... (9:45) Diana Tiller-Dichtel
Altar Guild (9:45) Nancy Egloff
Audio-Visual Team.....(9:45) Mike Morgan & Charles Osborn
Bread Baker..... Sharron Powell
Cantor (9:45) Karen Shoberg
Communion Assistants (9:45) Sandy Johnson and Emily Rossiter
Flower Delivery Karen Nester
Greeters/Hosts (9:45) JR and Diana Lyons
Lectors Harlan Schone and Elara Strand
Pastor Pastor Jon Nelson
Tellers Tom & Sandy Peterkin and Sandy Croushore
Ushers..... (9:45) Sonya Lim and Corey Knestrick



Did you enjoy our service this morning? If so, please consider donating to our general fund by scanning the QR code. This helps us with various ministries in our community and abroad. Thank You!

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
612 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185
www.saintstephenlutheran.net
(757) 229-6688

Love God, Love People, Form Faith.
(St. Stephen Lutheran Church Vision Statement)

All of Us, Called Through Our Baptisms
Pastor Jon Nelson (320-295-8861)
Karen Ives – Director of Music (757-229-6688)
Hollie Jones – Parish Administrator (229-6688)
Jessica Kimball – Preschool Director (229-6688)
LSA Pastor Gerry Johnson (703) 209-3599
Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center (873-2273; counselors are in Williamsburg on Thursdays)

Doing Ministry in the World
Pastorjn@saintstephenlutheran.net
MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.net
Office@saintstephenlutheran.net
Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net
pastorgfj@gmail.com

Welcome to St. Stephen Lutheran Church!
Please fill this out and drop it in the offering plate
or give it to an usher.

July 26, 2026

Name: _____

For guests and members with changes:

Address (Home) _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # _____

E-Mail Address _____

Guests Only:

I belong to _____

Church Address _____

Please check as many as pertain:

_____ Member

_____ First time guest

_____ Regular guest

_____ Guest (out of town)

_____ Student at William & Mary

_____ LSA member

_____ Looking for a church home

_____ Desire to speak with pastor

_____ Would like more information about Stephen Ministry

Any comments? Please be sure your name is above, so we may respond, if necessary.

Prayer Requests

Please **add** to the prayer list in this month's bulletin and next month's *Quill*:

Name: _____

Please **remove** from prayer concerns:

Name: _____

_____ I am a **new member** and will be attending:

_____ Sunday **August 30th** Class/meal

_____ I / We will be attending Sunday **September 6th** picnic in the park:

of Attending _____

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