



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.

September 13, 2026

16th Sunday after Pentecost

For Your Prayers - September 13-20, 2026

Lectionary readings for this week:

Mon – Sep 14: Genesis 48:8-22 Hebrews 11:23-29 Psalm 133

Tue – Sep 15: Genesis 49:29—50:14 Romans 14:13—15:2 Psalm 133

Wed – Sep 16: Genesis 50:22-26 Mark 11:20-25 Psalm 133

Thu – Sep 17: Nahum 1:1, 14—2:2 2 Corinthians 13:1-42 Psalm 145:1-8

Fri – Sep 18: Nahum 2:3-13 2 Corinthians 13:5-10 Psalm 145:1-8

Sat – Sep 19: Zephaniah 2:13-15 Matthew 19:23-30 Psalm 145:1-8

Next Sunday: Jonah 3:10—4:11 Psalm 145:1-8 (8) Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16

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, Carole Meyer, Gayle Spencer, and Charles Osborn.**

Pray for those unable to come to worship: **Ailene Bartlett, Ed Brown, Pat Janot, Marilyn Johnson, 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, Philip Baker, Bob Bastian, Carol Baum, Robi Bayard, Lila Bradley, Carol Bergh, Mary Bloom, Doug Bolick, Robert Bunn, David Carr, John Coski, Amaree Cluff, Judy Craun, Ronnie Dodson, Pat D'Orazio, Dru Dowdy, Judy Drezek, Anne Dwiggin, Bob Friend, Danny Gass, Debbie Glenn, Joan Goodhart, Charee Hampton, Sue Hassan and family, Andy Havola, Nick Havola, Bradley, Kim, Joan and Laurie Heintzelman, Char Henry, Henry Hespeneide, Lisa Hill, Doris Hillenbrand, 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 Money-maker Marian Mongelli, Liz Montalvo, Chuckie Moore, Bob Myers, Jeanette Osborn, Rodger Osborn, Maricel Paulin, Dima Pavlenko, Lloyd Peppard, Coral Pumley, Scott Radley, Kurt Recktenwald, Paula Rega, Carol Sue Repass, Brian Ritter, Ruth Sandoval, Lou Schuster, Pamela Sharp, Kelsey Slay, Valerie Smith, Vasili Soutoukis, Laura Spencer, Charlie Stayton, Chad Strausbaugh, John Steigerwalt, Al Stern, Monika Stern, Lara Templin, Lenorah Thomas, Karli Wallace Thompson, Betty Lou Tulloh, Elaine Wrich, Lynda Wright, Shelly Wrenn, and Bev Utrich.

16th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Welcome

Centering Music

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death

Tracy Craig McKibben

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,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.**
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ✙ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death

ELW 452

Bulletin page 10

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

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



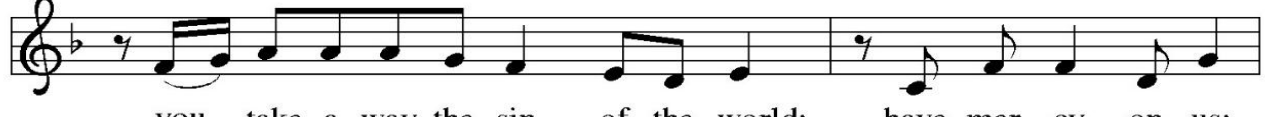
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



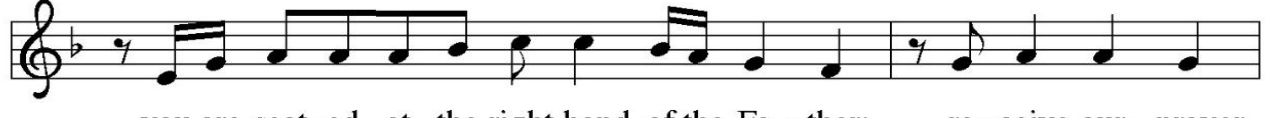
we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

First Reading

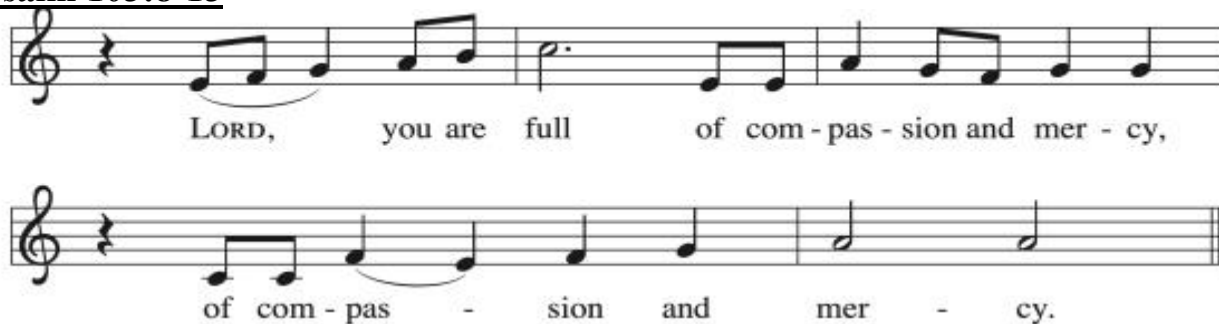
Genesis 50:15-21

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

Psalm 103:8-13



⁸ LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;

⁹ **you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever. REFRAIN**

¹⁰ You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.

¹¹ **For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.**

¹² As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.

¹³ **As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD. REFRAIN**

Second Reading

Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over

opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God. ¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

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

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

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

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly

distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.

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

Sermon

Pastor Jon Nelson

Hymn of the Day

Forgive Our Sins as we Forgive

ELW 605

Bulletin page 11

Prayers

Each petition concludes: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

Offering Invitation

This Sacred gathering is a practice of baptism. We are family in Christ. We do not give up on one another easily. Neither do we excuse patterns of harm or legacies of evil. Love has called us together to support each other in growing, healing, and being made new. With gratitude for this gift of community, let us bring what we have together.

Offering of Music:

Ten Thousand Reasons

Lloyd Larson

Offertory Prayer

Beloved One, these are difficult days. In the midst of all that overwhelms, keep us from doing harm where we intend to do good. You have shown us how to prioritize what is true, what is just, and what is compassionate. Bless our offerings and our intentions, that we might faithfully apply your teachings in every aspect of our lives. **Amen.**

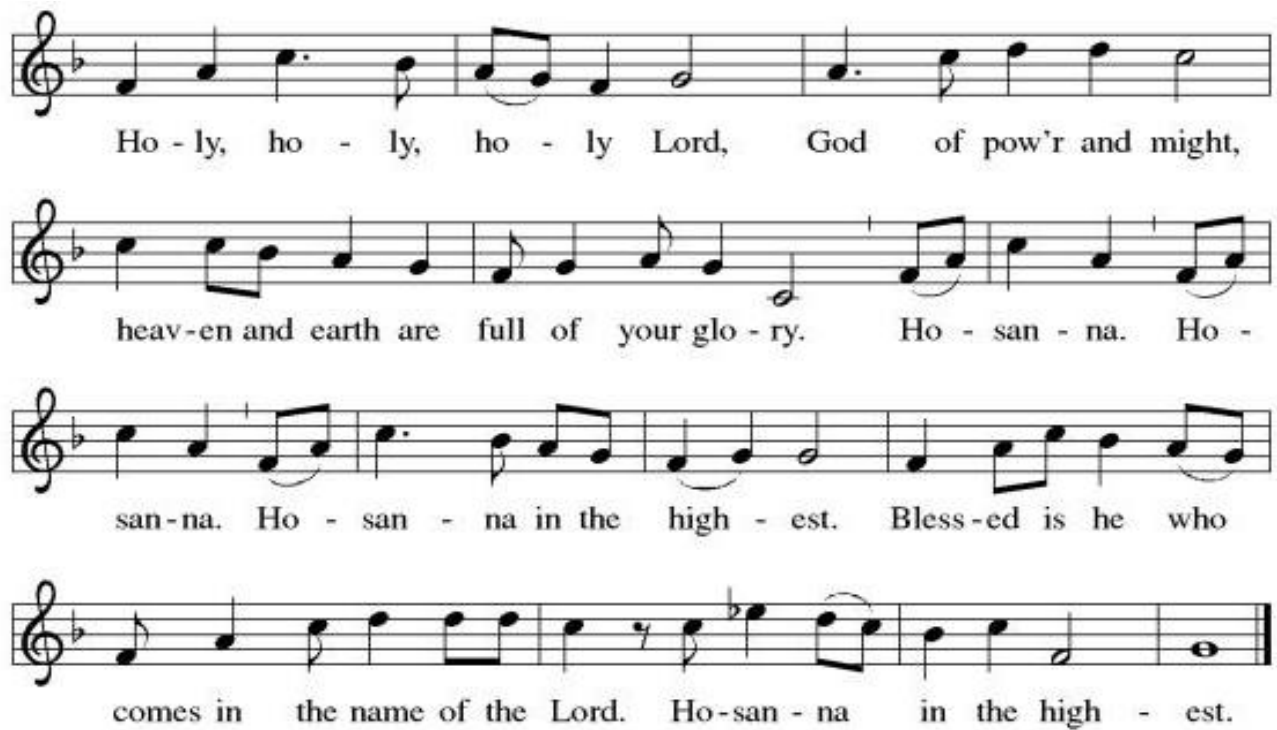
The Great Thanksgiving

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, 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:

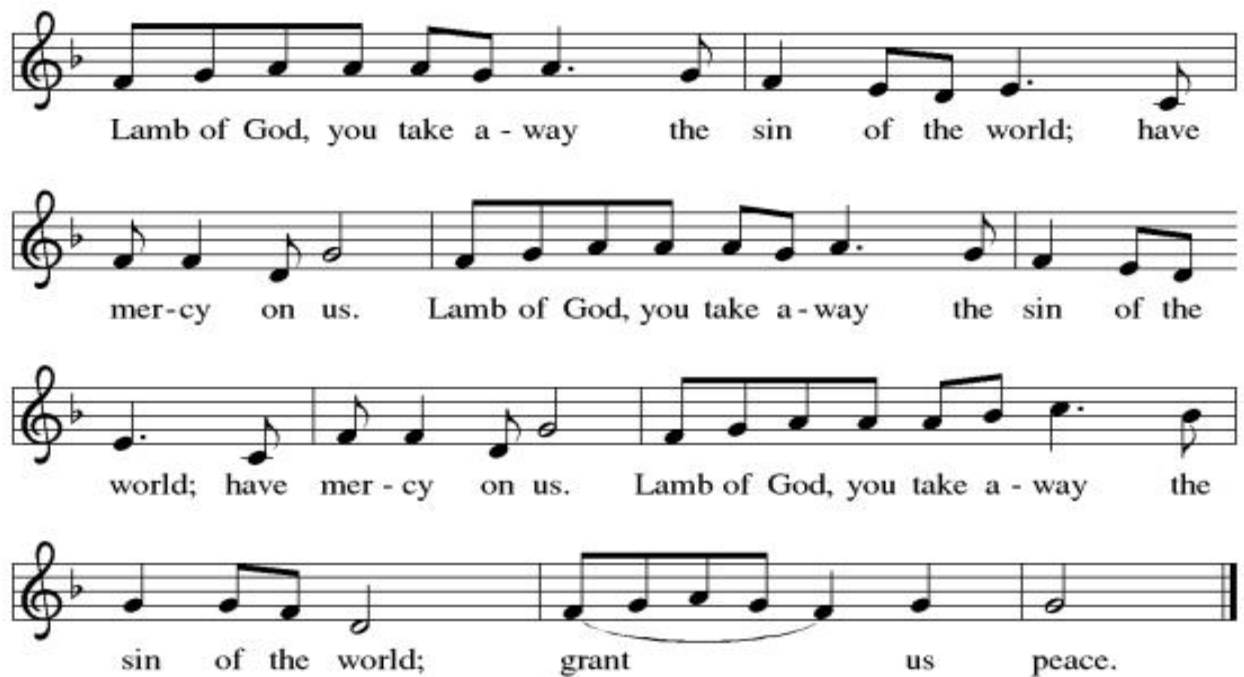


Words of Institution

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.*



Communion Hymn

Forgive Your People

ACS 1008

Bulletin page 12

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

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

Sending Hymn

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven

ELW 864

Bulletin page 13

Blessing

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. Amen.

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever. Amen.

Dismissal

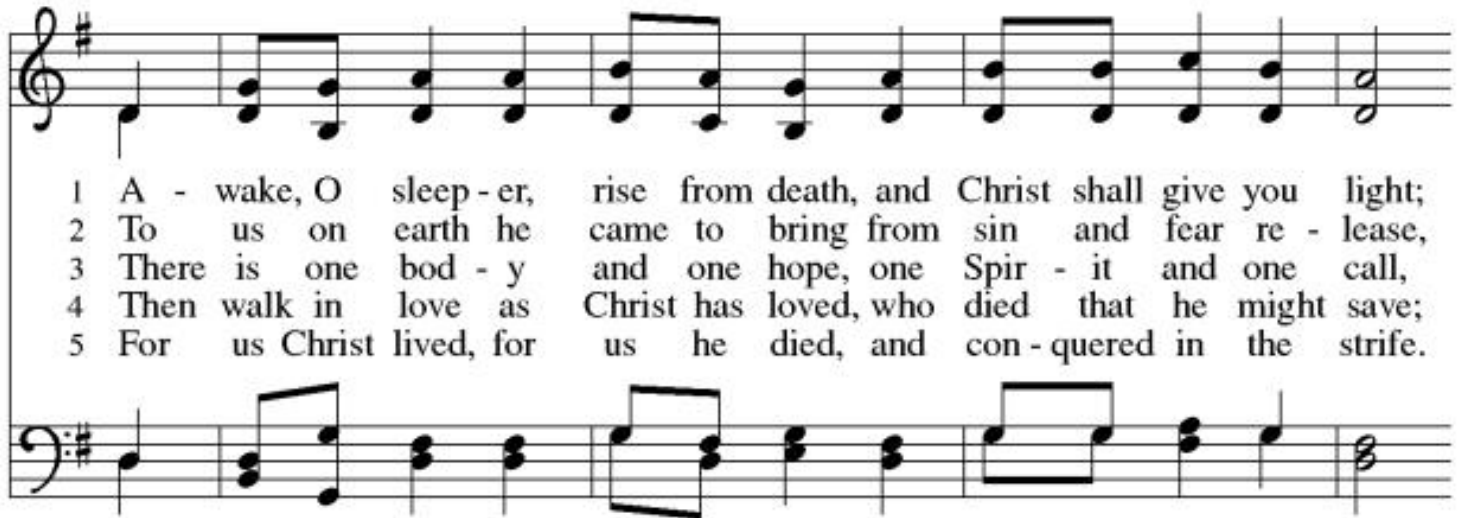
Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

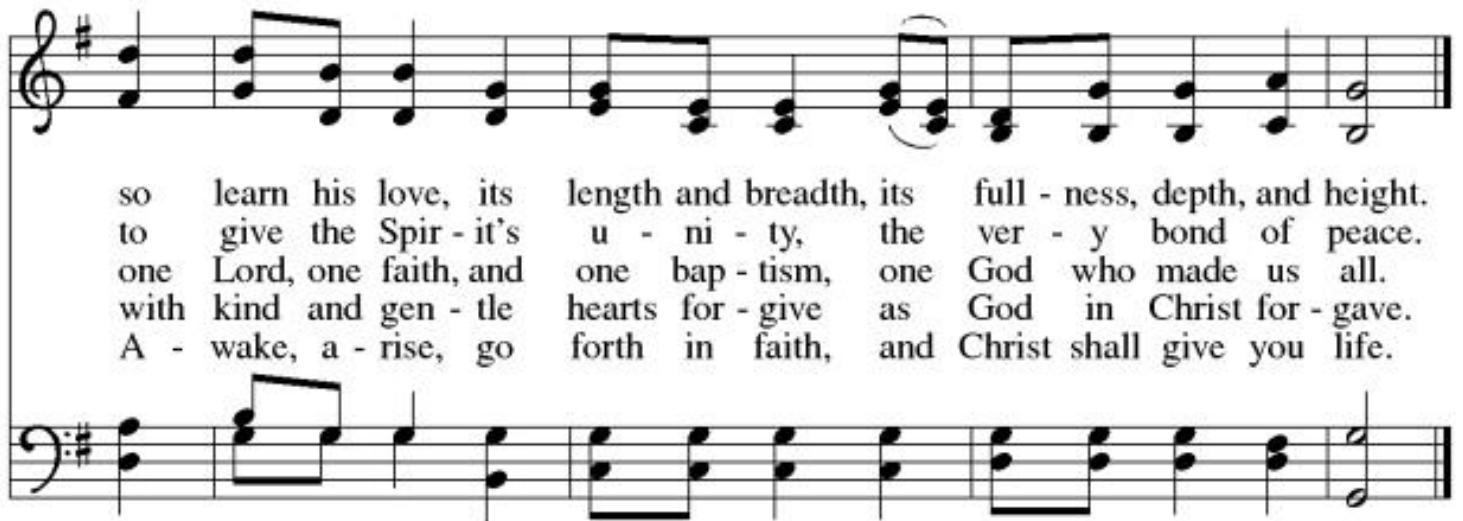
Jigg in C

William Edmund

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death



1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive



- 1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray;
- 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
- 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.

Music: DETROIT, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

Text © Oxford University Press 1969.

Forgive Your People

Perdona a tu pueblo

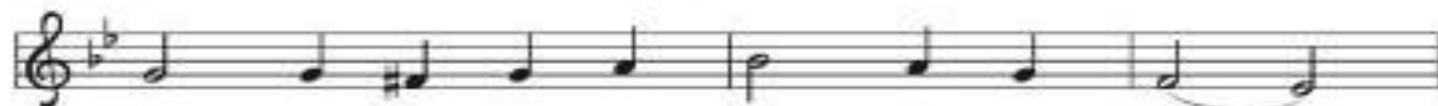
Refrain / Estribillo



Per - do - na_a tu pue - blo, Se - ñor. Per -
For - give your . . . peo - ple, O Lord. For -



do - na_a tu pue - blo, per - dó - na - le, Se - ñor.
give your . . . peo - ple, for - give . . . us, O Lord.



1 Por e - sos hie - rros que te cla - va -
1 For cold and cru - el nails that im - pale
2 For all the dead - ly blows that have torn
3 For bear - ing all our wounds, we a - dore
4 May your whole life out - poured now flow through



ron, por las es - pi - nas que te pun -
you, for rag - ged rings of thorns that as -
you, for all the bit - ter words that still
you, Show us your feet, your hands, we im -
us, and may your death re - store and re -

Refrain / Estribillo



za - ron, per - dó - na - le, Se - ñor.
sail you, for - give . . . us, O Lord.
scorn you, for - give . . . us, O Lord.
plore you, For - give . . . us, O Lord.
new us, For - give . . . us, O Lord.

2 Por tus sangrientas llagas tan crueles, 3 Por tus heridas de pies y manos,
por los insultos y por las hieles, por los azotes tan inhumanos,
perdónale, Señor. perdónale, Señor.

4 Por la abertura de tu costado,
por haber muerto abandonado,
perdónale, Señor.

Text: Anonymous; English text Martin A. Selts, b. 1951

Music: PERDONA A TU PUEBLO, Anonymous

English text © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven



1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; joy - ful - ly your trib-ute bring.
 2 God be praised for grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis-tress.
 3 Frail as sum-mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;
 4 An - gels sing in ad - o - ra - tion, in God's pres-ence, face to face.



Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more God's prais-es sing.
 God be praised, the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.
 but, as mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en-dures un-chang-ing on.
 Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion, all who dwell in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Prais - es ev - er - last - ing ring!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious is God's faith - ful - ness!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the great E - ter - nal One!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847; alt. Walter R. Bouman, 1927–2005
 Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

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 Su and Leo Bosworth in thanks for the wonderful community at St. Stephen's.

Information & Upcoming

Movie Discussion. All fall films will be held **on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 2:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall**. Light snacks will be provided. There will also be an optional discussion for anyone who stays afterward. Each month's movies will follow a theme: September - A Funny Kind of Faith. **September 13, 2:00 PM - Monty Python's Life of Brian** (1979, Rated R). Come for: Watch as the titular Brian (Graham Chapman), an ordinary Judean, is mistaken for the coming Messiah, with hilarious results! "...a hilarious satire of dogma and blind faith in which nothing is sacred." Stay for: A discussion of faith and humor. God seems to have a sense of humor, but do we have one about our faith? What do comedies and satires about Christianity have to tell us about our faith? We'll discuss it!

Save the Date. Theologian in Residence (TIR) will take place on **Saturday, September 26, and Sunday, September 27**. St. Stephen will welcome the Rev. Kimberly Knowle-Zeller. Rev. Knowle-Zeller is a writer, pastor, wife, mother of two, and the co-author of *The Beauty of Motherhood: Grace-Filled Devotions for the Early Years* (Morehouse Publishing, March 2023) and *Small Steps* (Morehouse Publishing, 2026). All are invited, including friends and neighbors.

Pet Photos Sought. We are hoping to highlight the pets of St. Stephen across our social media accounts in the lead-up to our annual "Blessing of the Pets" on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Please email photos of your pets to the office or look for the link in Pastor Jon's missives.

Dining Small Groups Are Back After a Break: Sign Up Now For The Next Round
Each dining group, consisting of about 7-9 people, will set its own "approach" for meals, such as dinner out, brunch or lunch at a group member's house, potluck after Sunday worship, take-out, picnic, etc. Do whatever works best for the group! Each group is asked to meet three times between late September and the end of January. Of course, you are free to meet more often if that works for your group. Sign up on the bulletin insert or call the church office; the **deadline to sign up is Sept. 20**. Contact Alison Carney or Diane McCurry 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 on November 6. The Saturday workshop sessions will feature spiritual themes and highlight their relevance to women's daily lives, with a schedule designed to allow for longer breaks (thanks to feedback from last fall!). Plan to come and bring a friend for the day on 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.

Dismantling Racism Workshop. In our continued effort to live as an open and welcoming community of faith, we routinely provide opportunities for growth in those areas. We are excited to be partnering with Virginia Organizing to offer a Dismantling Racism Workshop at St. Stephen on Saturday, September 19th, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Lunch will be provided.

Men's Retreat. Taking our lead from the wonderfully successful Women's Retreat, Pastor Gerry and Pastor Jon are excited to be copying er...planning a Men's Retreat at Sandbridge Beach on November 6-8. Watch this space for more information soon!

St. Stephen Calendar: August 30-September 6 , 2026

SUNDAY, Sept 13 ~ “Gods Work Our Hands”

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

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

9:45 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)

10:00 AM Ministry Conversation (Gathering Space)

10:30 AM Chancel Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)

11:00 AM Worship – Communion (*livestreamed on Facebook*)

2:00 PM Movie & Discussion (Fellowship Hall)

6:00 PM LSA Dinner (College Room)

MONDAY, Sept 14

8:30-9:30 AM Preschool Speech (Library/Conference Room)

12:30 PM Church Staff Meeting

1:30 PM Bible study (Library/Conference Room)

3:00 PM Finance Committee (Library/Conference Room)

TUESDAY, Sept 15

7:00 PM Church Council (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 PM Choral Guild (Library/Conference room)

WEDNESDAY, Sept 16

8:55 AM Yoga (Gathering Space)

7:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice (Worship Space)

7:00 PM Girl Scouts (Preschool big room)

7:00 PM AA meeting (Fellowship Hall)

THURSDAY, Sept 17

10:00 AM Care Giver Coffee (Library/Conference room)

5:30 PM St. Stephen Ringers (Worship Space)

FRIDAY, Sept 18

SATURDAY, Sept 19

9AM-3PM Dismantling Racism Workshop (Fellowship Hall)

5:30 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

5:30 PM Al-Anon (Library/Conference Room)

SUNDAY, Sept 20 ~ 17th Sunday after Pentecost

7:30 AM Handbell Warm-up

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

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

9:45 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)

9:45 AM Affirmation of Baptism (Library/Conference Room)

10:30 AM Chancel Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)

11:00 AM Worship – Communion (*livestreamed on Facebook*)

6:00 PM LSA Dinner (College Room)

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer..... (8:30)
.....(11:00) Alina Dabel
Altar Guild (8:30) Amy Bergh
..... (11:00) Nancy Egloff
Audio-Visual Team.....(8:30) Tim Judy (11:00) Charles Osborn
Bread Baker..... Amy Bergh
Cantor Brian Hesse
Communion Assistants (8:30) John & Diane McCurry
..... (11:00) Jennifer Dabel and Alina Dabel
Flower DeliveryDiane McCurry
Greeters/Hosts (8:30) Sandy Peterkin (11:00) Alison Carney
Lectors..... (8:30) Chris Punchard (11:00) Marj Gottschalk-Trone
PastorPastor Jon Nelson
Tellers..... Jane deSolms, Susan Britcher and Jim Larsen
Ushers..... (8:30) Reed & Karen Nester (11:00)

Upcoming Commemorations

John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407

Sunday, September 13, 2026

John was a priest in Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the nickname "Chrysostom" ("golden mouth"). Appointed bishop of Constantinople, seat of the empire, he criticized corruption in the court. As a result, he was exiled by the empress.

Holy Cross Day

Monday, September 14, 2026

Helena, mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and found what may be the actual site of Jesus' crucifixion. Her son built two churches there, and the dedication of one of them gave rise to this celebration of our Lord's victory on the cross.

Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died around 258

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Cyprian served as a bishop during a time of great persecution of Christians. He insisted on receiving back those who had left the faith under duress. He also provided medical care during a severe epidemic.

Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, died 1179

Thursday, September 17, 2026

A mystic who was widely influential within the church, Hildegard advised and reproved kings and popes, wrote poems and hymns, and produced treatises in medicine, theology, and natural history. She was also a musician and artist.

Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, died 1961

Friday, September 18, 2026

A Swedish diplomat, Hammarskjöld served as the second Secretary General of the United Nations until his death in a plane crash while trying to negotiate peace in present-day Zambia. His journal, published as *Markings*, revealed the depth of his Christian faith.



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

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MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.net

Office@saintstephenlutheran.net

Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net

pastorgfj@gmail.com

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death; Contributor: Tracy Craig McKibben ©2026 Augsburg Fortress

Ten Thousand Reasons; Contributor: Lloyd Larson© 2014 Hope Publishing

Jigg in C; Contributor: William Edmund©2014 Morning Star

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

September 13, 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: _____

Dining Small Groups Sign Up:

Your Name (if signing up for more than one person, include names of all participants):

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

I would like to be in a group that does **not** meet for meals out in restaurants: (check here) (☐)

I am willing to be the point of contact for my new dining small group: (circle one) Yes No

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