

MATTHEW 22:9

Invite everyone  
you find

**20th Sunday after Pentecost  
October 15, 2023  
10:00 a.m.**

Welcome to people new to this church or faith, long time Lutherans, and Christians from every tradition. Welcome to all who have no church home, want to follow Christ, have doubts, or do not believe. Welcome to new visitors and old friends. Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation and marital status, ability and challenge. Welcome to believers and questioners and questioning believers. This is a place where you are welcome to celebrate and sorrow, rejoice and recover. This is a place where lives are made new. Welcome on this day.

Please fill out the “Worship Slip” and place it in the offering plate.

( \* ) Asterisk means, “Please stand as you are able.”

Music John Pachelbel 1653~1706 Variations. 16~ 18

## ***The Gathering***

### Welcome

### Confession and Forgiveness

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

P: Blessed be God, the one who forms us,  
+ Christ Jesus who bears the cross,  
And the Holy Spirit who makes our joy complete.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us come before God in humility, confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Steadfast and faithful God,

**C: You have revealed the ways of justice,  
yet we fail to follow you.  
We are overwhelmed  
by the world's violence and suffering.  
We are afraid to risk what we have  
for the sake of others.  
For the harm we have caused,  
known and unknown, forgive us.  
For the unjust demands we place on others  
and your creation, forgive us.  
For the ways we turn away  
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.  
Lead us back to you and set us on the right path:  
In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Friend  
Amen.**

**P: Beloved in Christ,  
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.  
God's compassion is beyond compare.  
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.  
In + Christ, you are already and always forgiven.**

**C: Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn      *"As We Gather at Your Table" #522*

As we gather at your table,  
as we listen to your word,  
Help us know, O God, your presence;  
let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story  
till we claim it as our own;  
Teach us through this holy banquet  
how to make Love's vict'ry known.

Turn our worship into witness  
in the sacrament of life;  
Send us forth to love and serve you  
bringing peace where there is strife.  
Give us, Christ, your great compassion  
to forgive as you forgave;  
May we still behold your image  
in the world you died to save.

(Hymn continued)



Gracious Spirit, help us summon  
other guests to share that feast  
Where triumphant Love will welcome  
those who had been last and least.  
There no more will envy blind us  
nor will pride our peace destroy,  
As we join with saints and angels  
to repeat the sounding joy.

\*Greeting

\*P: The grace that is Christ’s gift to us, The love of God, and  
the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace be with you all.  
**C: And also with you.**

**KYRIE**

*Assistant:* In peace, in peace,

Assistant:

Congregation:

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy,  
Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have  
mer - cy.

*Assistant:* For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of  
all... (Refrain)

*Assistant:* For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to  
live your Word... (Refrain)

Assistant:

Congregation:

Help, save and de - fend us, O God.  
A - - - men.

NOW THE FEAST

Refrain

*Congregation:*

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,  
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy  
to the God of life and love and  
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -  
er - more!

Verse 1:

*Congregation or Congregation 1:*

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once  
slain, whose blood has freed and u -  
nit - ed us to be one great

*To refrain*

peo - ple of God.

Verse 2

*Congregation or Congregation 2:*

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and  
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ

*To refrain*

for ev - er.

Verse 3

*Congregation:*

3. For God has come to dwell with us,  
to make us peo - ple of God; to make

*To refrain*

all things new.

\*Prayer of the Day

Celebrate insert pg. 1

P: Let us pray:

**C: Amen**

## The Word of God

God Stories

First Reading

Isaiah 25:1-9

Celebrate pg. 1

Second Reading

Philippians 4:1-9

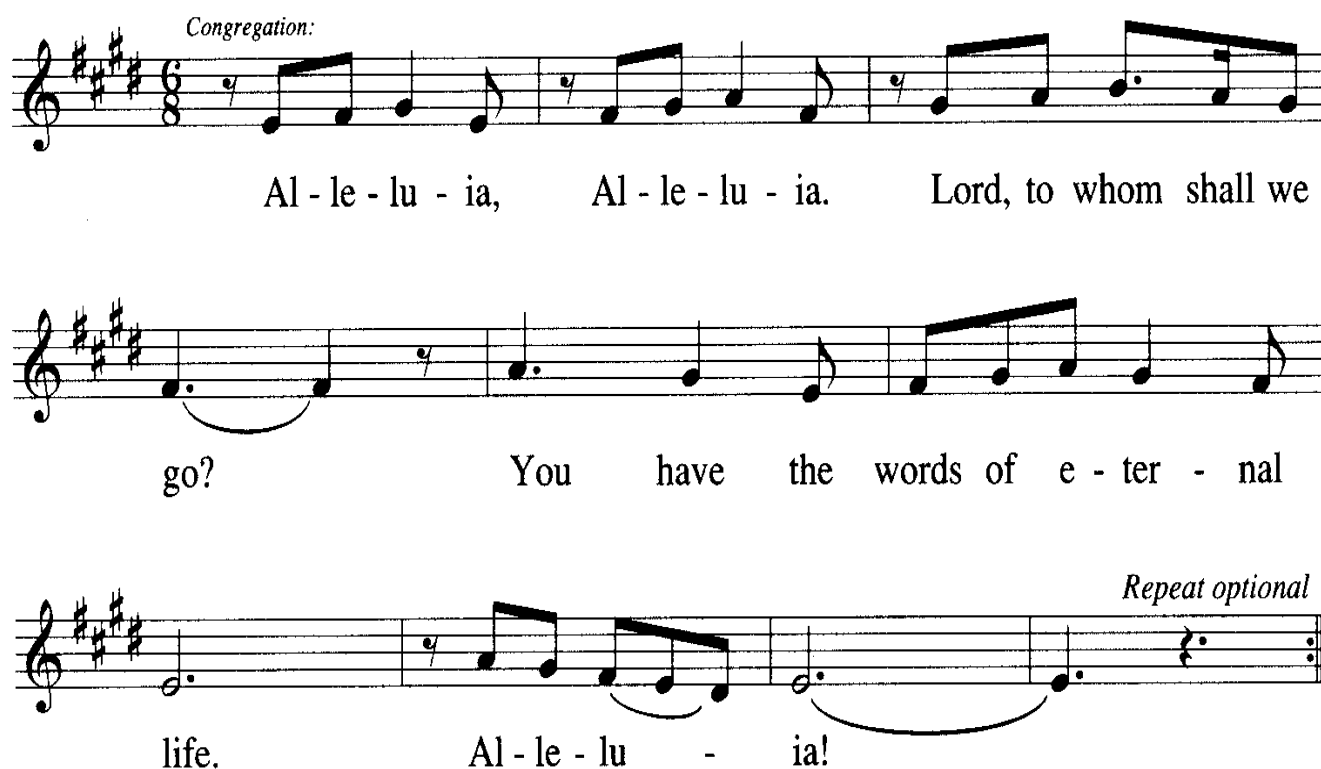
Celebrate pg. 2

\*Gospel Acclamation

ELW #175

### GOSPEL VERSE

*Congregation:*



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Repeat optional*

\*Gospel Reading

Matthew 22:1-14

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Matthew, the 22nd Chapter

**C: Glory to you. O God.**

*(The Gospel is read)*

P: The Gospel of our Lord

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

Message

Rev. James Lapp

\*Hymn of the Day

“Let Us Go Now To The Banquet”  
#523

*REFRAIN (sing Spanish only)*

*Va-mos to-dos al ban-que-te,  
(Let us go now to the banquet,)*

*A la me-sa de la crea-cion;  
(To the feast of the universe.)*

*Ca-da cual con su ta-bu-re-te  
(The table's set and a place is waiting,)*

*Tie-ne un pues-to y u-na mi-sion.  
(Come, ev'ryone, with your gifts to share.)*

I will rise in the early morning;  
The community's waiting for me.  
With a spring in my step I'm walking  
With my friends and my family. *REFRAIN*

God invites all the poor and hungry  
to the banquet of justice and good  
Where the harvest will not be hoarded  
So that no one will lack for food. *REFRAIN*

May we build such a place among us  
Where all people are equal in love.  
God has called us to work together  
And to share ev'rything we have. *REFRAIN*

\*Prayers of the Church

Celebrate insert pg. 4

\*Passing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always  
C: And also with you.

Offering — We honor and worship God by returning some  
of the gifts with which we have been blessed.



# Music Chorale Tune, Karl Johnson

## \*Offering Song

### AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT

Refrain

*Congregation:*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in-to one to be-come our bread;



so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be



gath-ered in-to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,——
2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

*To refrain*



may we share the pres-ence of your love.  
all cre-a-tion shares this feast with you.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Presider:* *Congregation:*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with

*Presider:* *Congregation:*

you. Lift up your hearts. We

*Presider:*

lift them to the Lord. Let us give

*Congregation:*

thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

P: It is our duty and delight... and join their unending hymn:

HOLY

*Congregation:*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the

One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the

high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

\*Words of Institution


\*Lord's Prayer

**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.**

LAMB OF GOD


Congregation:

Congregation or Assistant:



Lamb of God,            you    take   a - way   the   sin   of   the  
   \*    you    break the chains of ha - tred   and  
   you    are   the way   of   jus - tice   and  
   you    are   the way   of mer - cy   and

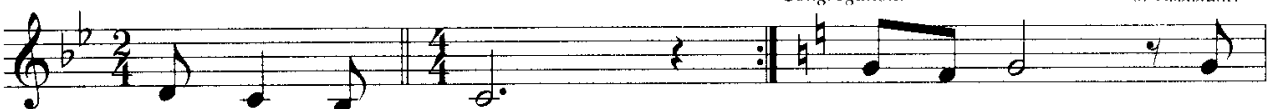
Congregation:



world:  
fear:            have mer - cy on us,            mer - cy on us,  
peace:  
love:


Congregation:

Congregation or Assistant:

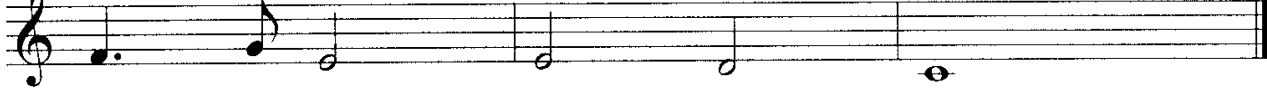


mer - cy    on    us.                            Lamb of God,            you

Congregation:



take a - way the sins of    the world:                            grant    us peace,



grant    us peace,            grant    us            peace.

The Holy Communion

Everyone is most welcome to receive this means of God’s love and grace! Communion is by intinction, which means that we dip the bread into the cup. The red is wine and the white is grape juice.

Communion Hymn

*“A Mighty Fortress is our God”      Red #503*

A mighty fortress is our God,  
A sword and shield victorious;  
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod  
And wins salvation glorious.  
The old evil foe  
Has sworn to work us woe!  
With dread craft and might  
He arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might!  
We would be lost, rejected.  
But now a champion comes to fight,  
Whom God himself elected.  
Ask who this may be:  
Lord of hosts is he!  
Christ Jesus, our Lord,  
God's only Son, adored.  
He holds the field victorious.

Though hordes of devils fill the land  
All threat'ning to devour us,  
We tremble not, unmoved we stand;  
They cannot overpower us.  
This world's prince may rage,  
In fierce war engage.  
He is doomed to fail;  
God's judgment must prevail!  
One little word subdues him.

(Hymn continued)

God's Word forever shall abide,  
No thanks to foes, who fear it;  
For God himself fights by our side  
With weapons of the Spirit.  
If they take our house,  
Goods, fame, child, or spouse,  
Wrench our life away,  
They cannot win the day.  
The Kingdom's ours forever!

\*Communion Blessing

P: May this Holy Communion of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in God's grace  
now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

P: Blessed be your name, O God  
for we have feasted on your Word,  
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.  
Strengthened by this food,  
send us to gather the world to your banquet,  
where none are left out and all are satisfied.  
In Jesus' name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

\*Blessing

P: May the God of glory,  
+ Jesus Christ, the Lover of all humanity,  
and the Spirit who lives in you,  
bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**



Sent forth by God’s blessing,  
our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended.  
Oh, now be extended  
The fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of Christ’s teaching,  
Receptive souls reaching,  
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
Your grace shall incite us, your love shall unite us  
To work for your kingdom and answer your call.

With praise and thanksgiving  
To God ever living,  
The tasks of our ev’ry day life we will face –  
Our faith ever sharing,  
In love ever caring,  
Embracing God’s children, the whole human race.  
With your feast you feed us,  
With your light now lead us;  
Unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving  
Give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

\*Dismissal

P: Go in Peace. God is at work in you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



*The Altar Flowers are given by  
Barbara Rice in celebration of granddaughters’  
Amelia & Asher birthdays*

Music           Toccata, Pachelbel

Serving Today

Reader:   Bill Schraft

Coffee Host:   Janet Slay

Office Support:   Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager

**Prayer Concerns**

**SHORT TERM:**       *Taiyo, Monte Anderson, Beth's mom, George Webber, James Boudreau, Frank, Dustin, Julie, Caitlin S., Family of Lupe Rodriguez, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Father Jack Davis, Corcoran family, Keith, Frank, Susan, Mike Homer, Charlie & Tracy, Andre, Joshua & Andrea, Irma, Family of Deane Strong & M. Hudi, Sam, Jamie Sheehan, Ralph, Aria Brown, Karin Zaun, Chelsea, John, Tim, Charmaine, Linda, Atlas, Tony, Sandi Csik, Janiea Paustian, Amy Wimmer, Gray, Hailey, Jesse, Joyce, James, John, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Rowe, George & Scott, Darlene Woodburn, Barbara Hansen, Tom Harris, Barbara Allen, Rena Brown, Carla Brown, Kathy, Joel Hurttgam, Sandy, Levi & Alexandria, Norman's Father, Gary Toops, Donna Kemper, Lisa & Beau, Craig Dahl, Genell Csik, Barbara Barte, Barbara Stiles, Paul Cunningham, Anita & Howard, Sydnei Wilbywold, Paul Paustian, Dawit & Family (Ethiopia), Gaye Cornell, Dorothy, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Nancy, Marisa & Isaac, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Anthony, Steve, Margot Wilson, Rose, Will, Aaron Johnson, Sal, Katarina, Stephanie Jager, Parents, Healthcare workers & teachers.*

**LONG TERM:**       *Biergiel—Colclough family, April McCalmont, Marty Nehring, Miller Mouw, Kyle Lapp, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Dom, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Michelle, Josh, CJ, Bobbie Erickson, Joyce, Susan Anderson, Jan Wagner, Richard C., Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Karin, Will, Chris, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, Cabel, Noah, Esdras, Immigrant families, The Homeless, People of Ukraine, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family, men and women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.*

# Music at St. Stephen's



*Many thanks to:*

The GOOD NEWS SINGERS  
and ALL THAT BRASS.

Still looking forward to strings & woodwinds in our service. Many talented young musicians are eager to participate in our church music. So, come on down!

Thanksgiving Brass — November 19

Christmas Brass — December 17

Please donate to the “Musicians Fund”  
to enhance our worship together.  
Yours in Christ , and mission, Gary

Musical Quote:

“Music is sort of my safety  
Net. It catches me when I fall. “

~ Unknown

*SAVE THE DATES*

SUNDAYS OCT. 15 & 22  
11:30AM—1PM

WEDS. OCT. 18 & 25  
6:30PM—8PM

*Holy Conversations with Pastor Jim*

SUNDAY OCTOBER 29  
10:00 AM

*Confirmation Youth Sunday -*

*Followed by Church 70th*

*Anniversary Celebration Feast*

## **Upcoming Events:**

October Benevolence Offering  
S.S. Child Development Center

Oct. 17	Boy Scouts 7:00 pm
Oct. 19	Preschool chapel 10:15 am
Oct. 19	Bible Study 11:00 am & 7:30 pm
Oct. 19	Mens beginner A.A. 7:00 pm
Oct. 20	A.A. 7:00 pm
Oct. 15-25	Sign up for House Meetings
Oct. 18	Women's Café Group 6:00 pm
Oct. 19	Knitters Guild 10 am
Oct. 21	Property Work Day 9—11 am
Oct. 24	Provide Habitat Lunches 10:30 am
Oct. 25	NL Collating 2:00 pm
Oct. 29	Reformation / Confirmation Sunday—wear red Sign up for potluck
Nov. 9	MMRR Circle 10:30 am
Nov. 14	Church Council 6:30 pm

**Pastor's Office Hours Wed & Thurs. 10:00 to 1:00**

## Our Mission Statement

St. Stephen's is a welcoming, healing community who worship God in Christ, nurture people growing in faith, serve others with acceptance and love, invite people to share the joy of the Spirit.

### Reconciling in Christ

*"We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace.  
We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race  
or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity,  
gender expression, or relationship status.  
We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or  
mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic  
circumstances, or anything that too often divides us.  
Our unity is in Christ."*

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church E.L.C.A.  
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Web Address: [www.ststephenslutheran.org](http://www.ststephenslutheran.org)  
Office Hours: Mon.—Fri. Noon—5:00 pm

Ministers: The People of St. Stephen's  
Pastor: Rev. James P. Lapp  
Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp  
Music Director: Gary Roberts  
Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens  
Sunday School: Leslie Lapp  
Custodian: John Hopping  
Powerpoint: Jay Johnston, Kent Madsen & Barbara Rice

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