

*St. Stephen Lutheran Church*  
*August 9, 2020*  
*Tenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the Eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

**Prelude**

*"Come, Let us Sing"*

by David Paxton

**Gathering**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

**Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God,

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,  
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves  
and rely on our own efforts.**

**We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.**

**We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.**

**We fear difference and do not welcome others  
as you have welcomed us.**

**We sin in thought, word, and deed.**

**By your grace, forgive us;**

**through your love, renew us;**

**and in your Spirit, lead us;**

**so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

Beloved of God,

by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through ☩ Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**



1 O - pen your ears, O faith-ful peo-ple, o - pen your ears and hear God’s word.  
2 They who have ears to hear the mes-sage, they who have ears, now let them hear;



O - pen your hearts, O roy - al priest-hood, God has come to you.  
they who would learn the way of wis - dom, let them hear God’s word.

*Refrain*



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!  
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!  
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!  
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!  
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

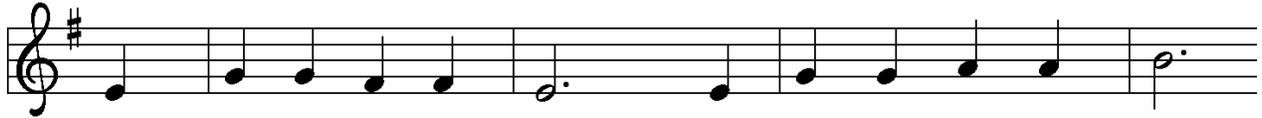
Text: Hasidic traditional; Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, English version  
Music: YISRAEL V'ORAITA, Hasidic tune  
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**\*Apostolic Greeting**

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.**

**\*Kyrie**



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

**Canticle of Praise**



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
 Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
 Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
 on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
 Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
 For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## **\*Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Word**

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

## **The First Lesson**

**1 Kings 19:9-18**

*On Mount Horeb, where God had appeared to Moses with typical signs of God's presence—earthquake, wind, and fire—Elijah now experienced God in "sheer silence." God assured Elijah that he is not the only faithful believer. Seven thousand Israelites are still loyal. God instructed Elijah to anoint two men as kings and to anoint Elisha as his own successor.*

<sup>9</sup>At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" <sup>10</sup>He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

<sup>11</sup>He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; <sup>12</sup>and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. <sup>13</sup>When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" <sup>14</sup>He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." <sup>15</sup>Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. <sup>16</sup>Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. <sup>17</sup>Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. <sup>18</sup>Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

## Psalm 85:8-13

- <sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD| God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their | hearts to you.
- <sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell | in our land.**
- <sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;  
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.
- <sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**
- <sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,  
and our land will | yield its increase.
- <sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD  
and shall prepare for | God a pathway.**

## The Second Lesson

## Romans 10:5-15

*A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable component of God's saving actions.*

- <sup>5</sup>Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” <sup>6</sup>But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) <sup>7</sup>“or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). <sup>8</sup>But what does it say?  
“The word is near you,  
on your lips and in your heart”  
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup>because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.
- <sup>11</sup>The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup>For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup>For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
- <sup>14</sup>But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? <sup>15</sup>And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

### \*Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

### \*Gospel Reading

**Matthew 14:22-33**

*Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith," who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.*

A reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourteenth chapter.

#### **Glory to You o Lord.**

<sup>22</sup>[Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], while he dismissed the crowds.<sup>23</sup>And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,<sup>24</sup>but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.<sup>25</sup>And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.<sup>26</sup>But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.<sup>27</sup>But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

<sup>28</sup>Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."<sup>29</sup>He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.<sup>30</sup>But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"<sup>31</sup>Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"<sup>32</sup>When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

<sup>33</sup>And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

### Sermon

Pastor Matthew Best

**\*Hymn of the Day**

*"Eternal Father, Strong to Save"*

Hymn #756 vs. 1-3

- 1 Eternal Father, strong to save,  
whose arm has bound the restless wave,  
who bade the mighty ocean deep  
its own appointed limits keep:  
oh, hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.
  
- 2 O Savior, whose almighty word  
the winds and waves submissive heard,  
who walked upon the foaming deep,  
and calm amid the storm didst sleep:  
oh, hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.
  
- 3 O Holy Spirit, who didst brood  
upon the chaos dark and rude,  
and bid its angry tumult cease,  
and give, for wild confusion, peace:  
oh, hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.

Text: William Whiting, 1825-1878, alt.  
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**\*Apostles Creed**

AM: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us profess our faith, using the words of the Apostles Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*Prayers of the Church**

*Congregational response after each petition:*

Lord in Your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, leaders of the world, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

God of knowledge – be with all your church leaders through out the world to guide your people through this turbulent time and continue to speak the “Word on their lips and in their hearts.”

Lord of mercy --- **Hear our prayer**

God of the earth – let us continue to learn the value of all your creation and to be better caretakers. For us to go into the world's mountains and gardens like Elijah and Jesus to pray and find You in the sheer silence of nature.

Lord of mercy --- **Hear our prayer**

God of Peace – for those in power of the many nations and to those who have authority in businesses, let them work together to spread your word that there should not be divisions amongst us, to end the cloud of political divide, to understand that there is no distinction between your peoples. For the same Lord is Lord of all. We all belong to you for there is no one else nor nothing else to worship.

Lord of mercy --- **Hear our prayer**

God of the people – continue as always to be with the sick, no matter the disease; the oppressed and captured; the lonely and afraid. That everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Lord of mercy --- **Hear our prayer**

God of faithfulness – you are our Rock for those who suffer in mind, body, and soul. May they find your faithful love in their hearts and know that your righteousness and peace will be found in Christ alone.

Lord of mercy --- **Hear our prayer**

Lord God we ask for your mercy and love be poured out on the people of Beirut, Lebanon. Let your love comfort them during this time. May many have the courage to reach out to help your children of this country during this time of pain.

Lord of mercy --- **Hear our prayer**

God who constantly listens to all our prayer --- we pray for our church family for strength, for patience, for welcoming and giving hearts to reach others in need. We pray for healing for Don, Tony, Lela, the Lengel family, for Pat Lee, and our Pastor.

Lord of mercy --- **Hear our prayer**

God of Salvation – You continue to bless your entire creation and your people with pure love, healing, joy, friendships and families. Despite our waywardness, You still give us Your love and salvation. Let us go out into this period of uncertainty & darkness and shine Your light & love in

our actions and words. Let others know that through these turbulent storms, to always take heart in Your words, "It is I, your God. Do not be afraid.  
Lord of mercy --- **Hear our prayer**

*Here, other intercessions may be offered*

Into Your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

### **\*Peace**

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us show a sign of that peace!

### **Offering**

The offering, whether in person or through digital means, is an act of worship. Worship, at its core, is a reverent love and devotion accorded to God. We give because God loves us first, and we are called to love God and neighbor as a result. The offering is one way we show our love of God.

To assist you in this act of worship, there are several ways to make your offering:

Go to [www.ststephenlc.org](http://www.ststephenlc.org) and scroll to the bottom of the page, and click donate.

- Text your offering dollar amount to 717-259-2393.
- Use the GivePlus app from your smart phone or device.
- Set up regular electronic offerings by contacting Kevin, our office manager, at 717-766-2168, Monday through Thursday from 9am – 2pm, or by email at [office@ststephenlc.org](mailto:office@ststephenlc.org) to get set up.
- Mail in your check, made payable to St. Stephen Lutheran Church. Our address is 30 W. Main St., PO Box 266, New Kingstown, PA 17072.

The offerings are used to carry out the ministry of the church, to share the Good News, to provide pastoral care, to worship as a community, and to create an environment where Jesus encounters people and their lives are transformed. All of these things continue to take place. Thank you for your generosity.

### **\*Offertory Prayer**

Let us pray. God of goodness and growth,  
all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

**Amen**

## Thanksgiving for the Word

Salvation belongs to our God  
and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.  
Great and wonderful are your deeds,  
O God of the universe;  
just and true are your ways,  
O Ruler of all the nations.  
Who can fail to honor you, Lord,  
and sing the glory of your name?  
Salvation belongs to our God  
and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
and blessed is the one  
whose name is the Word of God.  
All praise and thanks to you, holy God!  
Salvation belongs to our God  
and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.  
**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,**

as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

### Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

### \*Blessing

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

**Amen.**

### \*Sending Hymn

*"My Life Flows on in Endless Song"*

Hymn #763 vs 1,2,4

- 1 My life flows on in endless song;  
above earth's lamentation,  
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn  
that hails a new creation.

### *Refrain*

No storm can shake my inmost calm  
while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?

- 2 Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing? *Refrain*

- 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his!  
How can I keep from singing? *Refrain*

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

### \*Dismissal

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Postlude**

*“March in D”*

by George F. Handel  
arr by Rick Parks

St. Stephen Evangelical Lutheran Church is a community of faith inspired and empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim boldly the Good News of God’s loving and saving presence in the world.

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