

October 17, 2021
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost



ST. STEPHEN
Evangelical Lutheran Church

*Congregation is invited to stand as able
Please be aware that video cameras are in use during our hybrid (combined) Worship Service and that images are being shared with the online participants.

Today's gospel starts with disciples obsessing over who will be closest to Jesus, leading to Jesus teaching his followers about God's take on importance and power. Here Jesus makes it explicit that the reversal of values in God's community is a direct challenge to the values of the dominant culture, where wielding power over others is what makes you great. When we pray "your kingdom come" we are praying for an end to tyranny and oppression. We pray this gathered around the cross, a sign of great shame transformed to be the sign of great honor and service.

Our Mission

We respond to Christ's love by feeding those who hunger in body, mind, and spirit.

Prelude

"Verset for the Kyrie"

by Alexandre-Pierre-Francois Boely

Gathering

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

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **Amen**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our comforter:

like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in † Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

“ Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright ”

Hymn#745 vs. 1,3,5

- 1 Lord, teach us how to pray aright,
with rev'rence and with fear.
Though dust and ashes in your sight,
we may, we must draw near.

- 3 Give deep humility; the sense
of godly sorrow give;
a strong desire, with confidence,
to hear your voice and live;

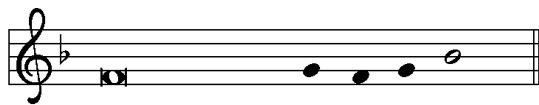
- 5 Give these, and then your will be done;
thus strengthened with all might,
we, through your Spirit and your Son,
shall pray, and pray aright.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.

***Apostolic Greeting**

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

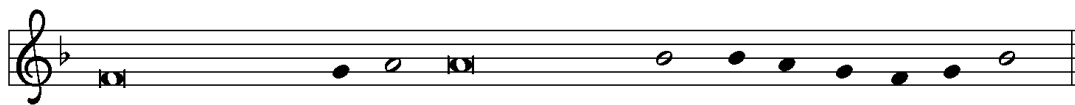
***Kyrie**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



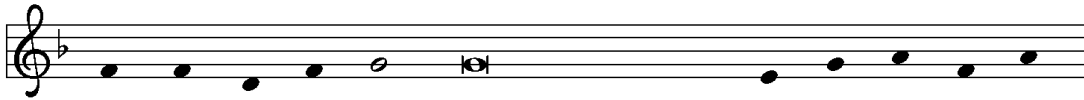
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



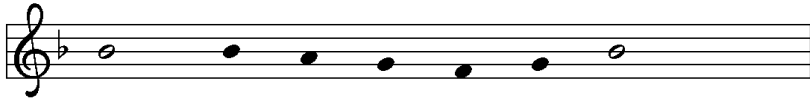
God, and for the uni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



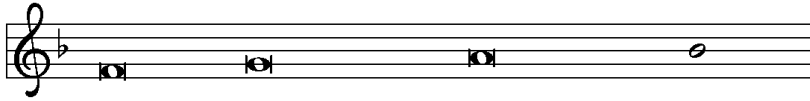
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

***Canticle of Praise**

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 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.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 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.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 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.

Final refrain
Glo - ry to God in the high - est.

A - men, a - men.

***Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Sovereign God, you turn your greatness into goodness for all the peoples on earth. Shape us into willing servants of your kingdom, and make us desire always and only your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Word

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

The First Lesson

Job 38:1-7, 34-41

At the end of the book of Job, after Job and his companions have argued about the cause of the great suffering Job endures, God finally speaks. These verses begin that speech, which is a grand vision of creation, describing God's ordering of the cosmos and inviting Job to marvel at its beauty.

A reading from the book of Job, the 38th chapter.

¹The LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:
²“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?
³Gird up your loins like a man,
I will question you, and you shall declare to me.
⁴“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
Tell me, if you have understanding.
⁵Who determined its measurements—surely you know!
Or who stretched the line upon it?
⁶On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone
⁷when the morning stars sang together
and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

³⁴“Can you lift up your voice to the clouds,
so that a flood of waters may cover you?
³⁵Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go
and say to you, ‘Here we are’?
³⁶Who has put wisdom in the inward parts,
or given understanding to the mind?
³⁷Who has the wisdom to number the clouds?
Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens,
³⁸when the dust runs into a mass
and the clods cling together?
³⁹“Can you hunt the prey for the lion,
or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,
⁴⁰when they crouch in their dens,
or lie in wait in their covert?
⁴¹Who provides for the raven its prey,
when its young ones cry to God,
and wander about for lack of food?”

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

Psalm

Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35b

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul; O LORD my God, you are ¹very great!
You are clothed with majes- ¹ty and splendor.
²**You wrap yourself with light as ¹with a cloak
and stretch out the heavens ¹like a tent.**
³You lay the beams of your chambers in the wa- ¹ters above;
you make the clouds your chariot; you ride on the wings ¹of the wind.
⁴**You make the ¹winds your messengers
and flames of ¹fire your servants.**
⁵You set the earth upon ¹its foundations,
so that from now until forever it shall nev- ¹er be moved.
⁶**You covered it with the deep as ¹with a garment;
the waters stood a- ¹bove the mountains.**
⁷At your rebuke the ¹waters fled,
scattered by your ¹voice of thunder.
⁸**They went up into the mountains and descended down ¹to the valleys,**

to the place where ¹ you assigned them.

⁹You set the limits that they ¹ should not pass;
never shall they return to cover the ¹ earth again.

²⁴**How manifold are your ¹ works, O LORD!**

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full ¹ of your creatures.

^{35b}Bless the LORD, ¹ O my soul.
Hal- ¹ lelujah!

The Second Lesson

Hebrews 5:1-10

Using imagery from scripture and from Jewish worship practices, Jesus is presented as the great high priest who was obedient to God's saving plan. Through his suffering and death he has become the source of eternal salvation.

A reading from the book of the Hebrews, the 5th chapter.

¹Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ²He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; ³and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. ⁴And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

⁵So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

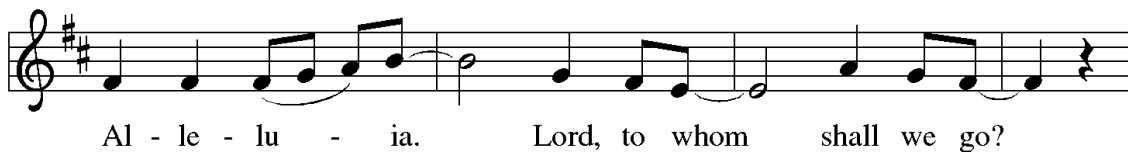
⁶as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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

*Gospel Acclamation



***Gospel Reading**

Mark 10:35-45

On the way to Jerusalem the disciples ask Jesus to grant them seats of honor. Jesus responds by announcing that he and his followers will “rule” through self-giving service.

A reading from the Gospel according to St. Mark, the 10th chapter. **Glory to You O Lord.**

³⁵James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” ³⁶And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” ³⁷And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” ³⁸But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” ³⁹They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; ⁴⁰but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” ⁴¹When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. ⁴²So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ⁴³But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

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

Sermon

The Rev Matthew Best

Hymn of the Day

“ At the Name of Jesus ”

Hymn#416 vs. 1,3,4

- 1 At the name of Jesus
ev'ry knee shall bow,
ev'ry tongue confess him
king of glory now.
It is God's good pleasure
we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word.

- 3 Humbled for a season,
to receive a name
from the lips of sinners
unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it
spotless to the last;
brought it back victorious
when from death he passed.

- 4 In your hearts enthrone him;
there let him subdue
all that is not holy,
all that is not true.

Crown him as your captain
in temptation's hour;
let his will enfold you
in its light and pow'r.

Text: Caroline M. Noel, 1817-1877

Music: © Oxford University Press. Used under One License #A735517

Liturgy for Jubilee of Apple and Harvest Festivals

P: Dear Beloved in Christ, in the book of Ecclesiastes, the Preacher writes the following:

“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to seek, and a time to lose...”

We have come to a time to mark the ending of the Apple Harvest Festival here at St. Stephen; a time to look back remember and celebrate all of the wonderful blessings that the festival brought, and a time to look forward to the next chapter in the ministry Jesus has called this congregation to. It is a time for joy, and a time for sadness. It is a time to give thanks and praise to Almighty God for what the Apple Harvest Festival has provided us in our lives together.

P: Blessed be God.

C: and blessed be his holy name.

P: The Lord makes everything beautiful in its time.

C: Whatever God does endures forever.

P: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

C: and forget not all his benefits.

P: Bless the Lord, all you hosts:

C: You ministers who do God's will.

P: Bless the Lord, all you works, in all places of his dominion.

C: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

P: For everything there is a season; a time to go, and time to come. Yet the Spirit blows where it will. And for those who are led by the Spirit, they must follow. God has blessed St. Stephen with 49 years of the Apple Harvest Festival. It has been a way in which we have grown as a community, served the community, and praised God. With joy and sadness, we mark and celebrate the ending of this ministry.

P: Let us take some time now to remember the joys of the Festival.

We will play a video with highlights of the Apple Festival from over the years. Many thanks to all who contributed photos of past Festivals.

P: In thanksgiving, let us pray.

C: We thank you Holy God, for the Apple Harvest Festival and our life together in this congregation and community. For 49 years you, O Lord, led this congregation by your Holy Spirit to serve your people through this festival in this place, to build up the community of Christ here, and to serve our neighbors.

P: We give you thanks for the people of God whom you called to serve through the Apple Harvest Festival. In thanksgiving, we praise you for raising up faithful servants among us for the ministry of your Church.

C: Amen

P: Scripture tells us that ends are only new beginnings. Therefore, let us go forth, doing God's will for the sake of the Gospel in Christ. As we venture into new territory of ministry, we ask for your blessing O Lord, as we live into the mission that you have called us to:

C: In response to Christ's love, we feed those who hunger in body, mind, and spirit.

P: May God, the Holy Spirit, equip you with everything good to do God's will.

Portions of this liturgy are based on "*The Liturgy of Thanksgiving at the End of a Ministry*" by the Rev. Thomas L. Weitzel. Used by permission. <http://www.liturgybytlw.com/OccPrs/EndofMin.html>

C: 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 and scroll to the bottom of the page, and click **DONATE**.

Text your offering dollar amount to 717-685-6947. Text "help" for options.

Use Engage from your smart phone or Internet connected device at <https://engage.suran.com/sslc/> or QR code below:



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 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. Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

Amen

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

***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. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,
heav - en 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.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

***Invitation to Communion**

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.

Come!



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948
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The Body and Blood of Christ given and shed for you

***Post Communion Prayer**

Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in
this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.
Amen.

Sending

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

***Blessing**

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now
and forever.
Amen.

Sending Hymn

“ Savior, Again to your Dear Name “

Hymn#534, vs. 1,2,4

- 1 Savior, again to your dear name we raise
with one accord our parting hymn of praise;
once more we bless you ere our worship cease,
then, lowly bending, wait your word of peace.
- 2 Grant us your peace upon our homeward way;
with you began, with you shall end the day;
guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
that in this house have called upon your name.
- 4 Grant us your peace throughout our earthly life,
our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife;
then, when your voice shall bid our conflict cease,
call us, O Lord, to your eternal peace.

Text: John Ellerton, 1826-1893, alt.

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“ Postlude in B-flat Major ”

by W. Volckmar

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