

*May 28, 2023*  
*Pentecost Sunday*



**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.

You can receive our weekly email/letter with events and information, ways to grow in faith, opportunities for service and worship, as well as ways to support the ministry of the congregation by submitting your email address to [office@ststephenlc.org](mailto:office@ststephenlc.org) or by calling the office at 717-766-2168 and providing your email and/or your mailing address.

Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.

### **Announcements**

#### **Our Mission**

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

#### **Prelude**

#### **Gathering**

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

#### **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever. **Amen.**

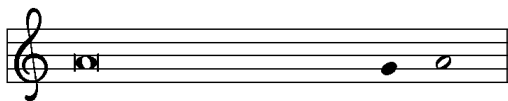
- 1 O Holy Spirit, enter in,  
and in our hearts your work begin,  
and make our hearts your dwelling.  
Sun of the soul, O Light divine,  
around and in us brightly shine,  
your strength in us upwelling.  
In your radiance  
life from heaven  
now is given  
overflowing,  
gift of gifts beyond all knowing.
  
- 2 Left to ourselves, we surely stray;  
oh, lead us on the narrow way,  
with wisest counsel guide us;  
and give us steadfastness, that we  
may follow you forever free,  
no matter who derides us.  
Gently heal those  
hearts now broken;  
give some token  
you are near us,  
whom we trust to light and cheer us.
  
- 3 O mighty Rock, O Source of life,  
let your good Word in doubt and strife  
be in us strongly burning,  
that we be faithful unto death  
and live in love and holy faith,  
from you true wisdom learning.  
Lord, your mercy  
on us shower;  
by your power  
Christ confessing,  
we will cherish all your blessing.

Text: Michael Schirmer, 1606-1673; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, adapt.  
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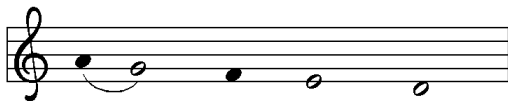
**\*Apostolic Greeting**

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** (Cantor)



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.



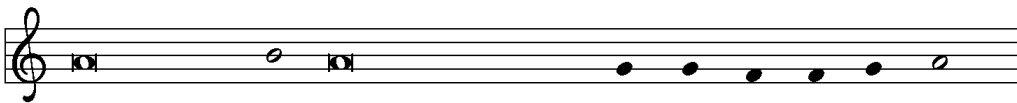
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy 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, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

**\*Canticle of Praise**



Assisting minister

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



All

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



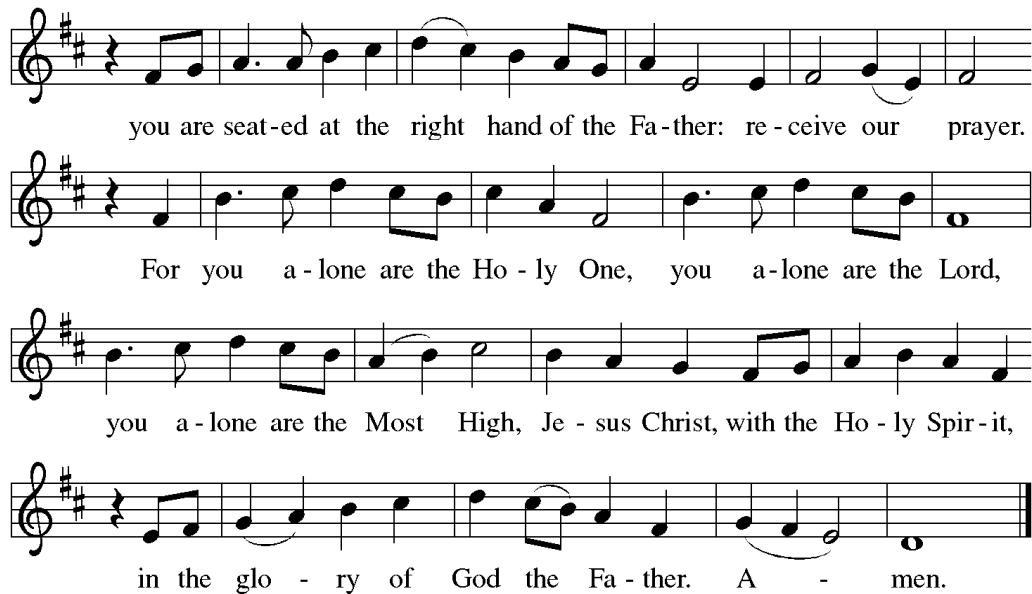
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



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**

Let us pray.

**O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**Word**

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

**The First Lesson** (Lector)

**Acts 2:1-21**

*Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival that marked the fiftieth day after Passover. Luke portrays the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the disciples before the gathered and astonished people assembled in Jerusalem for the festival. Filled with the Spirit, the disciples were able to witness to the power of Christ's resurrection.*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the 2nd chapter.

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.

<sup>7</sup>Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup>Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." <sup>12</sup>All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup>But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup>No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup>"In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup>Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

<sup>19</sup>And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below,

blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

<sup>20</sup>The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood,  
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

<sup>21</sup>Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

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

**Psalm** (Cantor)

**Psalm 104:24-34, 35b**

<sup>24</sup>How manifold are your <sup>l</sup> works, O LORD!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full <sup>l</sup> of your creatures.

<sup>25</sup>**Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too man- <sup>l</sup> y to number,  
living things both <sup>l</sup> small and great.**

<sup>26</sup>There go the ships <sup>l</sup> to and fro,  
and Leviathan, which you made for the <sup>l</sup> sport of it.

<sup>27</sup>**All of them <sup>l</sup> look to you  
to give them their food <sup>l</sup> in due season.**

<sup>28</sup>You give it to them; they <sup>l</sup> gather it;  
you open your hand, and they are filled <sup>l</sup> with good things.

<sup>29</sup>**When you hide your face, <sup>l</sup> they are terrified;  
when you take away their breath, they die and return <sup>l</sup> to their dust.**

<sup>30</sup>You send forth your Spirit, and they <sup>l</sup> are created;  
and so you renew the face <sup>l</sup> of the earth.

<sup>31</sup>**May the glory of the LORD en- <sup>l</sup> dure forever;  
O LORD, rejoice in <sup>l</sup> all your works.**

<sup>32</sup>You look at the earth <sup>l</sup> and it trembles;  
you touch the mountains <sup>l</sup> and they smoke.

<sup>33</sup>**I will sing to the LORD as long <sup>l</sup> as I live;  
I will praise my God while I <sup>l</sup> have my being.**

<sup>34</sup>May these words of <sup>l</sup> mine please God.  
I will rejoice <sup>l</sup> in the LORD.

<sup>35b</sup>**Bless the LORD, <sup>l</sup> O my soul.  
Hal- <sup>l</sup> lelujah!**

**The Second Lesson** (Lector)

**1 Corinthians 12:3b-13**

*Paul is helping the Corinthians understand the relationship between our God-given unity and Spirit-created diversity. The Spirit creates the unity of faith and gives all Christians diverse gifts for the common benefit of all. We need one another's diverse spiritual gifts because the same Spirit has given them to each person for the common good.*

A reading from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, the 12th chapter.

<sup>3b</sup>No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

<sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

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

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\*Gospel Reading**

**John 20:19-23**

*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

A reading from the Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter. **Glory to You O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."  
<sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

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

**Children's Message**

Rev. Joel Petruschke

**Sermon**

Rev. Joel Petruschke

**\*Hymn of the Day**

*"God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind"*

Hymn#400

- 1 God of tempest, God of whirlwind,  
as on Pentecost descend!  
Drive us out from sheltered comfort;  
past these walls your people send!  
Sweep us into costly service,  
there with Christ to bear the cross,  
there with Christ to bear the cross!
- 2 God of blazing, God of burning,  
all that blocks your purpose, purge!  
Through your church, Christ's living Body,  
let your flaming Spirit surge!  
Where deceit conceals injustice,  
kindle us to speak your truth,  
kindle us to speak your truth!
- 3 God of earthquake, God of thunder,  
shake us loose from lethargy!  
Break the chains of sin asunder,  
for earth's healing set us free!  
Crumble walls that still divide us;  
make us one in Christ our Lord,  
make us one in Christ our Lord!

4 God of passion, God unsleeping,  
stir in us love's restlessness!  
Where the people cry in anguish,  
may we share your heart's distress.  
Rouse us from content with evil;  
claim us for your kingdom's work,  
claim us for your kingdom's work!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

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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 Intercession**

*Congregational response after each petition:*

AM: ...Hear us O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Passionate God, you sent your Spirit through the gifts of fire, wind, and word. As you equipped the disciples for their work, equip us to bring the good news to all those who long for you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Restoring God, wind and flame bring life and destruction throughout the world. We pray for those who work with wind energy, for migratory birds, for protection for lands facing destructive fire, for forestry managers and firefighters. Renew the face of the earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ever-present God, your spirit embraces all. Send your spirit of understanding to immigrants, refugees, and any experiencing language barriers. Bless the work of translators, ESL teachers, ambassadors, and international peace organizations. Safely guide those fleeing war and danger. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, you anoint us with your spirit. Bless nurses, doctors, midwives, chaplains, counselors, and hospice workers as they care for those in need. We pray for all who seek your comfort. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Generous God, you impart a variety of gifts. Set aflame the desire to learn from one another, especially those who differ from us. Make your presence known through missionaries, peace workers, and through the outreach ministries of our synod and community. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Life-giving God, we give thanks for those who have died to new life in you. As we observe Memorial Day, we remember those who died in military service. Comfort all who mourn, and usher in a world where war is no more. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**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**

*(Please refer to the back of the bulletin for various options to give.)*

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.

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.

### **Anthem**

### **\*Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

### **\*Offertory Prayer**

Let us pray. Generous God,  
in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Meal**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.  
(Zoom participants—please prepare your elements for communion.)

### **\*The Great Thanksgiving**

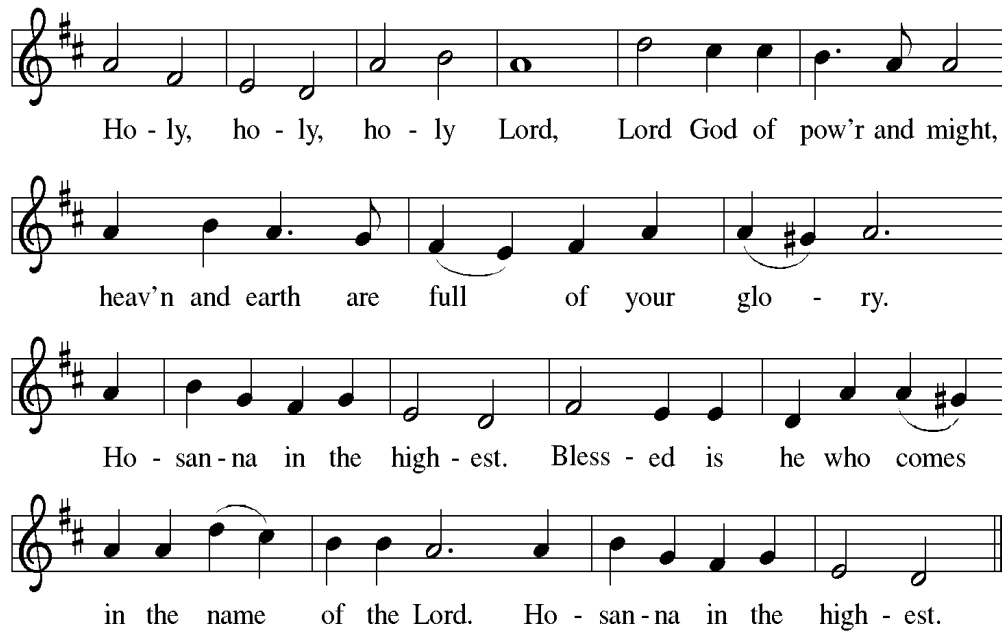
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, 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**

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

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.

**\*Communion of the Faithful**

**\*Post Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen**

**\*Post Communion Prayer**

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

**Sending**

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

**\*Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn**

*"Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling"*

Hymn #582

- 1 Holy Spirit, ever dwelling  
in the holiest realms of light;  
Holy Spirit, ever brooding  
o'er a world of gloom and night;  
Holy Spirit, ever raising  
those of earth to thrones on high;  
living, life-imparting Spirit,  
you we praise and magnify.
  
- 2 Holy Spirit, ever living  
as the church's very life;  
Holy Spirit, ever striving  
through us in a ceaseless strife;  
Holy Spirit, ever forming  
in the church the mind of Christ:  
you we praise with endless worship  
for your gifts and fruits unpriced.
  
- 3 Holy Spirit, ever working  
through the church's ministry;  
quick'ning, strength'ning, and absolving,  
setting captive sinners free;  
Holy Spirit, ever binding  
age to age and soul to soul  
in communion never ending,  
you we worship and extol.

Text: Timothy Rees, 1874-1939, alt.

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve in Love. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

We thank our choir members and worship helpers who served today.



There are several ways to make your offering:

Go to [www.StStephenLC.org](http://www.StStephenLC.org) and click on the DONATE button (or the Giving tab for more options.)

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

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).

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.

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



Select giving fund(s) and enter amount(s). Furnish any additional information in "Gift Memo" box on the submit screen.

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