

If salt has lost its saltiness,
how can you season it?

MARK 9:50



19th Sunday after Pentecost

September 29, 2024

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 “Poeme Mystique—Manna”

Richard Purvis

The Gathering

*Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
Who forgives all our sin,
Whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

Gracious God,

Have mercy on us.

We confess that we have honored you with our lips,

But have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.

The cravings at war within us

**Cause conflicts and disputes.
In our desire to be first
We make distinctions among ourselves.
We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.
In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.
Draw near to us with grace in time of need,
And turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
Our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

P: God promises to forgive our iniquity
And to remember our sin no more.
By grace you have been saved.
In the name of † Jesus Christ,
The source of eternal healing,
Your sins are forgiven.
Amen.

*Opening Hymn “Gather us In” (Here In This Place)
Red #532

**Here in this place new light is streaming
Now is the darkness vanished away
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day**

**Gather us in, the lost and forsaken
Gather us in, the blind and the lame
Call to us now, and we shall awaken
We shall arise at the sound of our name**

**We are the young; our lives are a myst'ry
We are the old who yearn for your face
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry
Called to be light to the whole human race**

**Gather us in, the rich and the haughty
Gather us in, the proud and the strong
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly
Give us the courage to enter the song (Hymn continued)**

Here we will take the wine and the water
Here we will take the bread of new birth
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters
Call us a-new to be salt for the earth

Give us to drink the wine of compassion
Give us to eat the bread that is you
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true

Not in the dark of buildings confining
Not in some heaven light years away
Here in this place the new light is shining
Now is the kingdom, and now is the day

Gather us in and hold us forever
Gather us in and make us your own
Gather us in, all peoples together
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone

*Greeting

From the one who is and who was and who is to come,
And from Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
Grace and peace be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie Refrain

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

1. For peace in the world, for the health of the church,
for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. REFRAIN
2. That we may live out your impassioned response
to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. REFRAIN
3. For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes,
For friends and family;
For life and for love, for our work and our play,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. REFRAIN
4. For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives
in the water and the Word;
That you nourish our souls with you body and blood,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. REFRAIN

This Is the Feast

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *Refrain* This is the feast of



vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Prayer of the Day

P: May God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us Pray.

God Stories

The Word of God

First Reading

Numbers 11:4-29

Celebrate pg. 1

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 19:7-14

read responsively

Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading

James 5:13-20

Celebrate pg. 3

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

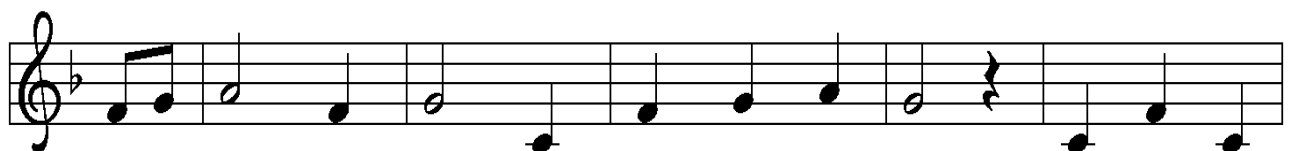
C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are able)

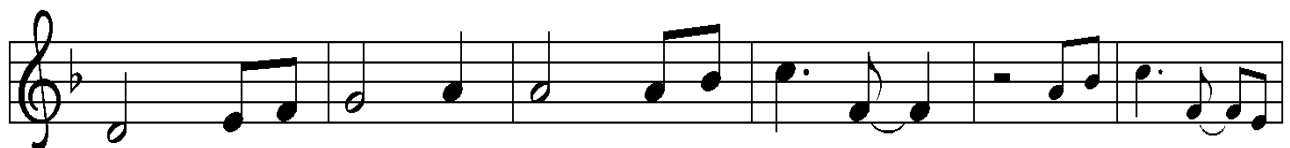
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark

C: **Glory to you, O 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.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Gospel Reading

Mark 9:38-50

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Rev. James P. Lapp

*Hymn of the Day "O God Beyond All Praising" Red #880

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send,
At blessings without number and mercies without end:
We lift our hearts before you
and wait upon your word,
We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

The flow'r of earthly splendor in time must surely die,
It's fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high;
But hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown ~
Though small in mortal stature,
to heaven's garden grown:
For Christ, your gift from heaven,
from death has set us free,
And we through him are given the final victory.

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
That we who know your favor
may serve you as our King;
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
We'll triumph through our sorrows
and rise to less you still:
To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

The Communion Meal

*Passing of the Peace

P: May the peace of God 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

“Pastorale (Forest Green)

Richard Purvis

Offering Prayer

P: Let us Pray...

**C: Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills
Were gathered together to become one bread,
So let your church be gathered together
From the ends of the earth into your kingdom,
For yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.
Amen**

*Great Thanksgiving

P: May God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P: 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 tongue and nation.

*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**

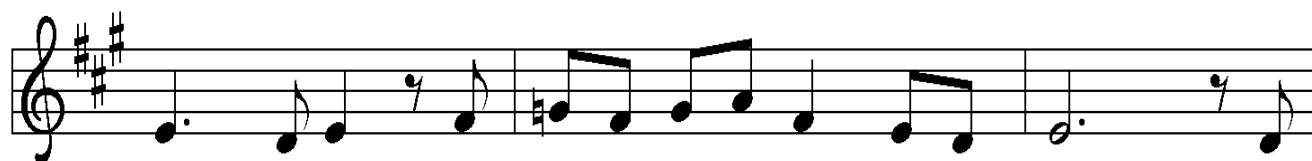
P: Goodness is stronger than evil.
Life is stronger than death.
Taste the goodness and life of God.

(You may be seated)

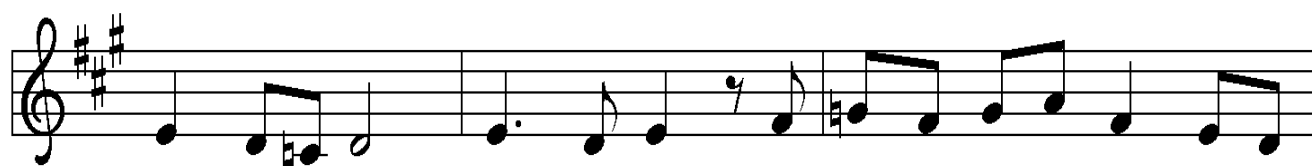
Holy Communion

Guests: You are welcome to come forward to receive Communion as part of this church family! Children are welcome to come forward and receive a special blessing if they have never communed before. Communion is by intinction, which means that we dip the bread into either the wine (red) or grape juice (white). Please follow the guidance of the ushers as to when and how you are to come forward.

Lamb of God



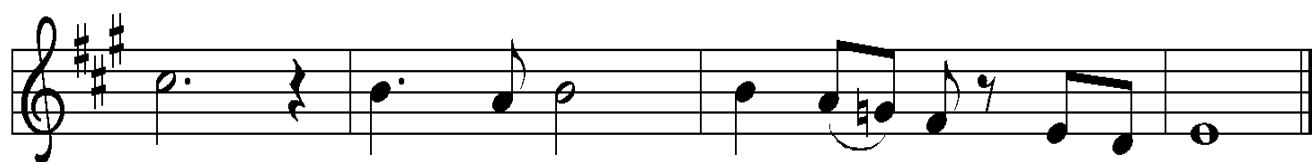
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



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, Lamb of God.

Communion Hymn

“There is a Balm in Gilead”

Red #614

REFRAIN

There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sinsick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged
and think my work’s in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again. **REFRAIN**

If you cannot preach like Peter,
If you cannot pray like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus
And say, “He died for all.” **REFRAIN**

Don’t ever be discouraged,
For Jesus is your friend;
And if you lack for knowledge,
He’ll ne’er refuse to lend. **REFRAIN**

The Sending

*Communion Blessing

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

C: **Amen.**

*Prayer after Communion

P: O God,
C: You have called your servants
To ventures of which we cannot see the ending,
By paths as yet untrodden,
Through perils unknown.
Give us faith to go out with good courage,
Not knowing where we go,
But only that your hand is leading us
And your love supporting us;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Blessing

P: The love of God who created you,
The mercy of † Jesus Christ who died for you,
And the power of the Holy Spirit who strengthens you,
Keep you at one with all the faithful, living and departed,
And remain with you now and forever. C: Amen.

*Closing Hymn *“God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”*
Red #771

God, who stretched the spangled heavens
infinite in time and place,
Flung the suns in burning radiance
through the silent fields of space:
We, your children in your likeness,
share inventive pow’rs with you;
Great Creator, still creating,
show us what we yet may do.

We have ventured worlds undreamed of
since the childhood of our race;
Known the ecstasy of winging
through untraveled realms of space;
Probed the secrets of the atom,
yielding unimagined pow’r,

(Hymn continued)

Facing us with life's destruction
or our most triumphant hour.

As each far horizon beckons,
may it challenge us anew:
Children of creative purpose,
serving others, hon'ring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise;
each endeavor well begun;
Great Creator, give us guidance
till our goals and yours are one.

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music

“Novelette III” Richard Purvis

Serving Today

Reader: Steven Hendrickson

Communion Assistant:

Coffee Host: Connie Cunninghamt

Altar Guild: Tina Gates

Office Helpers: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager

*The Altar Flowers are given by
Paul & Connie Cunningham
In honor of their 57 th Anniversary*



Upcoming Events:

September Benevolence Offering

Lutheran Campus Ministry

- Sept. 30 Women's Café Group Mondays at 6:00 pm
Devotions & dinner fellowship
- Oct 1 NEW Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm
Discretion Brewing 41st Ave.
(1 hour, 1 faith question, 1 drink) Kathy Allen 430-6359
- Oct. 1 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm
- Oct. 2 Preschool Chapel 10:15 am
- Oct. 2 Bible Study Wed. 11 am & 7:30 pm
- Oct. 3 Mens beginner A.A. Thursdays 7:00 pm
- Oct. 4 A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm
- Oct. 8 Church Council 6:30 pm
- Oct. 10 MMRR women's circle 10:30 am
- Oct. 20 No Sunday School
- Oct. 21 Embroiders Guild 7:00 pm
- Oct. 22 Habitat Lunches continue 10:30 am
- Oct. 27 Reformation Polka Mass / October feast
& tree planting fun

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."

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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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