

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Recognition and Thanksgiving for Stephen Ministry**  
**October 5, 2025**  
**10:30 a.m.**



*"Christ- Students- Community Coming Together"*  
444 Abbot Road | East Lansing, MI 48823 | (517) 332-0778  
[www.martinlutherchapel.org](http://www.martinlutherchapel.org)



*Today we recognize and give thanks to God for the 20 years of Stephen Ministry here at Martin Luther Chapel. Stephen Ministers strive to be the hands and heart of Jesus, extending care to those who need support. In giving this care, they do so as members of the family that Jesus describes in the Gospel lesson.*

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

## INVOCATION

*Stand*

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C** Amen.

## WORDS OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Kneel/ Remain Standing*

**P** Most merciful God,

**C** We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

**P** Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**GREETING OF PEACE** *Share a greeting of peace with those around you.*

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### HYMN      “Word of God, Come Down on Earth” LSB 545

1 Word of God, come down on earth, Liv - ing rain from  
 2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to  
 3 Word that caused blind eyes to see, Speak and heal our  
 4 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, One with God be -

heav'n de - scend - ing; Touch our hearts and bring to birth  
 life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,  
 mor - tal blind - ness; Deaf we are: our heal - er be;  
 yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove,

Faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,  
 Cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, Sav - ing Word, the  
 Loose our tongues to tell Your kind - ness. Be our Word in  
 God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to

we re - vere You; Word made flesh, we long to hear You.  
 world re - stor - ing, Speak to us, Your love out - pour - ing.  
 pit - y spo - ken, Heal the world, by sin now bro - ken.  
 all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: James Quinn, b. 1919  
 Tune: Johann Rudolph Ahle, 1625–73, alt.; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

Text: © James Quinn; admin. Selah  
 Music: Public domain

LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER  
 78 78 88

*John 1:1–3, 10, 14*

**KYRIE**

**[P]** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all **[C] And also with you.**

**[P]** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**[C]**  Lord, have mer - cy.

**[P]** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**[C]**  Lord, have mer - cy.

**[P]** 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.

**[C]**  Lord, have mer - cy.

**[P]** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**[C]**  Lord, have mer - cy.

**[P]** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**[C]**  A - - - men.

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

*Refrain*  (intro.) This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

 Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Go to Verses*

*Verse 1*

Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Sing the Refrain*

*Verse 2*

Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *Sing the Refrain*

*Verse 3*

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. *Sing the Refrain*

*Verse 4*

For the Lamb who was slain has be -

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - - - ia. *continue below*

*Final Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**[P]** The Lord be with you. **[C]** **And also with you.**

**[P]** Our Loving God and heavenly Father, our Lord Jesus has come among us to show your love by including us in your family. Help us by your Spirit to obey him joyfully and show the resemblance to our heavenly family, as did our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **[C]** **Amen.**

*Sit*

*Children are invited to the Fireside Lounge for the Children's Lesson.*

## FIRST LESSON Psalm 103:1-13

**[R]** Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and do not forget all his benefits—  
who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the Pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
who satisfies you with good as long as you live  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.  
The Lord works vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.  
He made known his ways to Moses,  
his acts to the people of Israel.  
The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
He will not always accuse,  
nor will he keep his anger forever.  
He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;  
as far as the east is from the west,  
so far he removes our transgressions from us.  
As a father has compassion for his children,  
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

**[R]** This is the Word of the Lord. **[C]** **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND LESSON Acts 6:1-7



**R** Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

*intro: one chord*

**C** 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.

**HOLY GOSPEL**  The Holy Gospel of Matthew, chapter 12, beginning at verse 46.  **Glory to You, O Lord.**

**P** While Jesus was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers were standing outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, “Look, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.” But to the one who had told him this, Jesus replied, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” And pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

**[P]** This is the Gospel of the Lord. **[C]** Praise to You, O Christ.



## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From thence He will come again 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.**

## **MESSAGE**

Stand

# HYMN

## "Your Hand, O Lord, In Days of Old" LSB 846

1 Your hand, O Lord, in days of old  
2 Your touch then, Lord, brought life and health,  
3 O be our great de - liv - erer still,

Was strong to heal and save; It tri - umphed o - ver  
Gave speech and strength and sight; And youth re - newed and  
The Lord of life and death; Re - store and quick - en,

ills and death, O'er dark - ness and the grave.  
fren - zy calmed Re - vealed You, Lord of light.  
soothe and bless, With Your life - giv - ing breath.

To You they came, the blind, the mute,  
And now, O Lord, be near to bless,  
To hands that work and eyes that see

The pal - sied and the lame, The lep - ers in their  
Al - might - y as be - fore, In crowd - ed street, by  
Give wis - dom's heal - ing pow'r That whole and sick and

mis - er - y, The sick with fe - vered frame.  
beds of pain, As by Gen - nes - 'ret's shore.  
weak and strong May praise You ev - er - more.

Hymn accompaniment: 444

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821–91, alt.  
Tune: English; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

KINGSFOLD  
C M D

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*Other prayers are inserted here. Each petition ends with "Lord, in your mercy," to which the congregation responds, "hear our prayer." The prayers conclude:*

**P** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

Sit

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

#### OFFERING

*You may contribute online using the QR code or place a gift in the offering plate at the door along with the interest sheet.*



#### OFFERTORY SONG AND PRAYER

*introduction*

**C** Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, ' and fill to the  
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the  
bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of  
all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer  
now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and give  
us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**P** Let us pray. God of harvest,

**C** to your table we bring wine and bread, and gifts from the labor of our hands. Receive the offering of our lives, and feed us with your living bread from heaven, that we may serve others in your name; through Christ our Lord.

## THE PREFACE

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And al - so 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 him thanks and praise.

**P** It is indeed right and salutary that we should ... and so we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*softer* Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

*louder* Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**[P]** In the night in which he was betrayed, 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.

**[P]** 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.

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Recognizing that the church, and this congregation, are comprised of people from many cultures, languages, and backgrounds, please speak this prayer in the language or version closest to your heart.*

**☐ 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**

## THE LAMB OF GOD

**C** Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. *(repeat from beginning)* Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Sit*

**THE DISTRIBUTION** *You are invited to approach the altar to receive communion elements along with an individual cup of wine or grape juice. Gluten-free available.*

HYMN "Restore in Us" WOV 662

1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your  
 2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your  
 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your  
 4 Three per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your

love; re - new your im - age in our hearts,  
 power; from fruit - less fear un - furl our lives  
 joy; bap - tize us in the ris - en life  
 grace, that we, when all our search - ing ends,

and all our sins re - move.  
 like spring-time bud and flower.  
 that death can - not de - stroy.  
 may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., b. 1944

Music: David Hurd, b. 1950

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Co.

Music © 1985 Augsburg Fortress

HYMN "Healer of Every Ill" WOV 738

Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to -

mor - row, give us peace be - yond our fear, and

hope be - yond our sor - row. sor - row.

*To stanzas* *End*

continued on next page

1 You who know our fears and sad - ness,  
 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing  
 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er,  
 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing,

grace us with your peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all  
 how your grace is still un - fold - ing; give us all your  
 ev - 'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all  
 teach us all your way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com -

*Refrain*  
 com - fort, fill our hearts.  
 vi - sion, God of love.  
 kind - ness, be our guide.  
 pas - sion, fill each heart.

**Amen**

words and music by Marty Haugen, © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc. OneLicense.net A-703166

*Stand*


## THE BLESSING

**[P]** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **[C]** Amen.



## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE AND PRAYER

*intro: one chord*



**C** Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'-ry-one what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name. He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

**P** Let us pray. We give you thanks, faithful God, for feeding us with this one heavenly food. Transform us through this meal into the likeness of your Son, and unite us in love for one another, that we may be your family in the world; in Jesus' name we pray. **C** **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **C** **Amen.**

**P** Go in peace; serve the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

# CLOSING HYMN "We All Are One in Mission" WOV 755

1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,  
 2 We all are called to ser - vice, to wit - ness in God's name.  
 3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.

our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.  
 Our min - is - tries are dif - frent; our pur - pose is the same:  
 Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.

A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove  
 to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,  
 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,

to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.  
 so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.  
 our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955  
 Music: Finnish folk tune, 19th cent.; arr. Joel Martinson  
 Text © 1986 Hope Publishing Co.  
 Arr. © 1992 Augsburg Fortress

KUORTANE  
 7 6 7 6 D  
 alt. tune: WEBB

## POSTLUDE

---

### Our Confession about Communion

1. Holy Communion is a divinely instituted act in which Jesus Christ gives His true (real) body and blood under the forms of bread and wine. We thus hold that the bread and wine are not mere symbols of Jesus' body and blood. When we receive the bread and wine, we receive in fact the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

2. We believe that Communion is a celebration of this forgiveness which comes to us through faith as we eat and drink. In communion we remember our Lord's passion and death, His resurrection and ascension, and the promise of His coming again. Communion is truly the Gospel made visible and is offered for those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness."

3. We believe that as we eat and drink this Supper we are strengthened in our faith in Jesus Christ and in our love for one another.

Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Table all who:

a. has been instructed in the meaning of Communion; have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; have received Jesus Christ as their own personal and living Savior and Lord and concur in our confession.

b. is not living in open rebellion against the Word of God, and do not hold willful and persistent form of hatred, resentment or anger against any other person.

Those who have questions about communion are welcome to talk to one of the Pastors.

---

*©2005 by Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted with permission under CCLI #1534397; One License A-703166.*