

# St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School

A member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (clclutheran.org)

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Organist: Sue Slattengren



**September 17, 2017 † Pentecost 15**

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**We Welcome Our Visitors** who are with us this morning.

We hope that you are uplifted by the Gospel at our worship service.  
We invite you to join us every Sunday. Please sign our guestbook in the entry.

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† Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 121 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

**Opening Hymn: 869 *With the Lord Begin Your Task***

LSB 869

## Invocation

*We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

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

**C** Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

*We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.*

**P** God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

**C** **If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** (1 John 1:5, 7-9)

**P** Let us pray...

**C** **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer:**

**We confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.**

**P** Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven! With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the joy and peace of forgiveness let us praise the Lord...

### 822 Alleluia! Let Praises Ring

LSB 822 v. 4

4 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais - es ring! Un - to our tri -  
une God we sing; Blest be His name for - ev - er!  
With an - gel hosts let us a - dore And sing His prais -  
es ev - er - more For all His grace and fa - vor!

Sing - ing, ring - ing: Ho - ly, ho - ly, God is ho - ly;  
 Spread the sto - ry Of our God, the Lord of glo - ry!

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## Prayer of the Day

**P** We pray:

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain through Your grace. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

## First Reading - Psalm 121 (NIV - Responsive)

**P** I lift up my eyes to the hills-- where does my help come from?

**G** My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

**P** He will not let your foot slip-- he who watches over you will not slumber;

**G** Indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

**P** The LORD watches over you-- the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

**G** the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

**P** The LORD will keep you from all harm-- he will watch over your life;

**G** the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

## Second Reading

Romans 12:1-8 (NKJV)

**P** The second reading is from Romans 12:1-8.

**C** Sanctify us by Your truth, O LORD. Your Word is truth!

*<sup>1</sup> Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will. <sup>3</sup> For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. <sup>4</sup> Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. <sup>7</sup> If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.*

**P** Here ends our Scripture readings.

## 923 Almighty Father, Bless the Word

LSB 923 v. 1

1 Al - might - y Fa - ther, bless the Word Which through Your  
grace we now have heard. Oh, may the pre - cious  
seed take root, Spring up, and bear a - bun - dant fruit!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Almighty Father, Bless the Word'. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff covers the first line of lyrics, the second staff covers the second line, and the third staff covers the third line. The music ends with a double bar line.

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**☩ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;**

**who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.**

**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Hymn of the Day: 688 *"Come, Follow Me," the Savior Spake***

LSB 688

**Sermon: The "D's" of Discipleship**

1. Desire      2. Denial      3. Death

## Text: Matthew 16:21-26

<sup>21</sup> From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. <sup>22</sup> Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" <sup>23</sup> But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." <sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. <sup>25</sup> "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

## Offertory

LSB 956



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new  
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way  
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;  
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

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**Offering** *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

**Prayer of the Church / Prayer Requests** *We bring our prayers to God.*

**Lord's Prayer**

**Sermon Hymn: "Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken"**

TLH 423 v. 1-5

- ♪ 1. *Jesus, I my cross have taken, All to leave and follow Thee;  
Destitute, despised, forsaken, Thou from hence my All shalt be.  
Perish every fond ambition, All I've sought or hoped or known;  
Yet how rich is my condition! God and heaven are still my own.*
2. *Let the world despise and leave me, They have left my Savior, too.  
Human hearts and looks deceive me; Thou art not, like them, untrue.  
And while Thou shalt smile upon me, God of wisdom, love, and might,  
Foes may hate and friends may shun me; Show Thy face, and all is bright.*
3. *Go, then, earthly fame and treasure! Come, disaster, scorn, and pain!  
In Thy service, pain is pleasure; With Thy favor, loss is gain.  
I have called Thee Abba, Father! I have stayed my heart on Thee.  
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather, All must work for good to me.*
4. *Man may trouble and distress me, 'Twill but drive me to Thy breast;  
Life with trials hard may press me, Heaven will bring me sweeter rest.  
Oh, 'tis not in grief to harm me While Thy love is left to me;  
Oh, 'twere not in joy to charm me Were that joy unmixed with Thee.*
5. *Take, my soul, thy full salvation; Rise o'er sin and fear and care;  
Joy to find in every station, Something still to do or bear.  
Think what Spirit dwells within thee, What a Father's smile is thine,  
What a Savior died to win thee; Child of heaven, shouldst thou repine?*

## Service of the Sacrament

Now we approach the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in which Jesus comes to bless us with His very body and blood.  
We move toward the Sacrament with prayers of thanksgiving and songs of adoration.

### The Words of Institution

The words spoken by Jesus the night He instituted the Lord's Supper, by which our Lord assured to His Church the real presence of His body and blood in the Sacrament.

### Prayer Before the Lord's Supper

Adapted from *The Lutheran Hymnal*, p. 4

**C** Dear Savior, upon Your gracious invitation I come to Your altar.  
Let me find favor in Your eyes that I may approach Your table in true faith  
and receive the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of my sins and the  
strengthening of my faith. Amen

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always!

**C** Amen.

### Hymn of Preparation

#### 619 Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior

LSB 619 v. 1



1 Thy bod - y, giv'n for me, O Sav - ior, Thy blood which Thou for  
me didst shed, These are my life and strength for -  
ev - er, By them my hun - gry soul is fed.

*Refrain*

Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be  
for my soul the high - est good!

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## The Distribution

*Note to our Guests:* We are so glad you are worshiping with us this morning. The Word of God treats the Lord's Supper with great care. The Word of God considers the Lord's Supper to be a wonderful Means of Grace – a way in which Christ forgives and blesses. It is also considered an opportunity for congregations to express unity and oneness (1 Corinthians 10:16-17) – that is, to say to the world "This is what we believe!" But God's Word also warns against taking the Sacrament to our judgment (1 Corinthians 11:27-30). For these reasons our congregation asks that you fully understand our teachings before partaking. We respectfully ask that those who have joined this congregation through public confession of faith, or who are members of another congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) approach the altar at the usher's direction. Speak to our pastor anytime and he will be glad to provide the information you would need – and want. We look forward to communing together, Lord willing, in the future.

## Prayer After the Lord's Supper

*Adapted from The Lutheran Hymnal, p. 4*

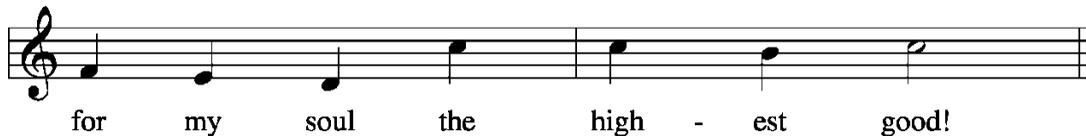
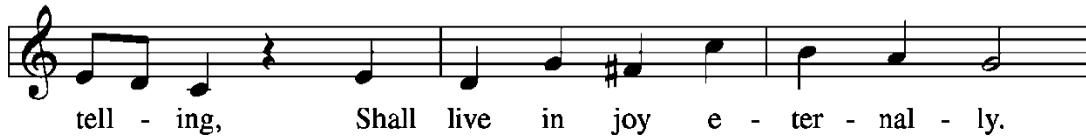
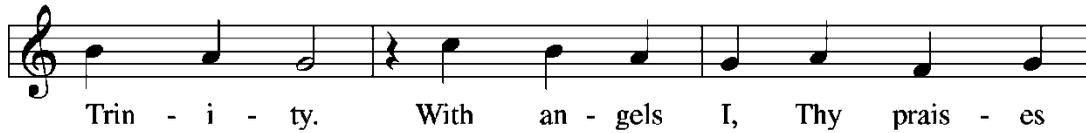
**G O blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, You have given Yourself to me in this holy Sacrament, keep me in Your faith and favor. As You live in me, let me also live in You. May Your body and blood preserve me in the true faith unto everlasting life! Amen.**

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness!

# The Thanksgiving

## 619 Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior

LSB 619 v. 5



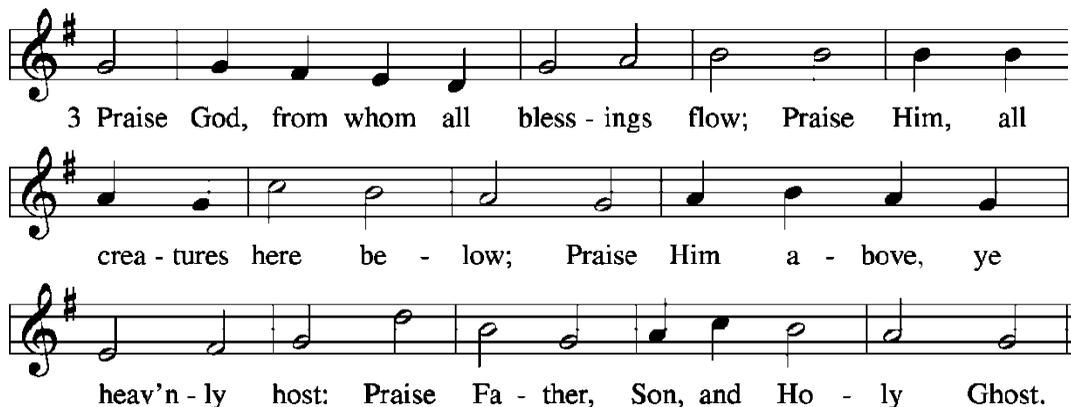
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**Benediction** *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

## The Doxology

LSB 923 v. 3



3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all  
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye  
heav'n - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

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## Closing Hymn: "Haste Then On, From Grace to Glory"

TLH 423 v. 6

***♩ 6. Haste, then, on from grace to glory, Armed by faith and winged by prayer;  
Heaven's eternal day's before thee, God's own hand shall guide thee there.  
Soon shall close the earthly mission, Swift shall pass thy pilgrim days,  
Hope soon change to glad fruition, Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.***

**Acknowledgments** - Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **Birthday Luncheon** (see note below) – **11am**

This Week: Wednesday – **Catechism Classes (via Skype)** (Fossum) – **7pm**

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Class – 9am**  
9/24/17 **Worship – 10am**

**St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): Worship – 1pm**  
**Church Council / Bible Class – 2pm**

**September Elder & Usher:** Chris Holt (Elder) & Brenton Horillo (Usher)

### **Birthday Luncheon for Our “Nonagenarians” TODAY after Worship Service –**

We are having a “September birthday” luncheon in the church fellowship hall after our worship service next Sunday in celebration & thanks to God for our members who are in their 90’s (or, “nonagenarians”): Rollin Reim, Don Drews, and Ruth Holt. Please join us!

**CLC News** – Pastor Mark Weis, pastor of Grace Lutheran, Cape Coral, FL, has accepted the call to St. Luke’s Lutheran, Lemmon, SD.

**Hurricane Irma Update** - I have not heard any updates from Pastor Weis or how he and his members fared in Cape Coral after Hurricane Irma (it is a good sign that things are OK and that they have power restored since he accepted the call to South Dakota this week). We did get an update from Pastor Rodebaugh in Winter Haven, FL.

*Praise the Lord! I've heard from a number of members, and everyone is reporting the same thing. Shingles/siding blown off houses, trees downed in the yard (including the parsonage's avocado tree, sadly), widespread power outages along with cell service for some members. BUT, there have been no reports of major property damage or loss, and no injuries. There is lots of cleanup to be done over the next weeks, but all is well. The Lord sheltered us through the storm. Praise the Lord!*

*Pastor Doug Priestap also asked me to report for Grace in Live Oak. They're in the same situation, downed trees, no power, but very grateful for the Lord's protection.*

*We are all truly appreciative of all your prayers and messages, the support of our synod has been so encouraging. Thanks again.*

*In Christ,  
Sam Rodebaugh*

We praise the Lord that Pastor Luke’s brother, Neil, and his family in Winter Haven, FL are safe and sound (lots of trees down and clean-up this week as well), as is Timothy Blank’s brother, Danny, and his family farm in Ft. Myers, FL.

***“The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.” – Psalm 28:7 (NIV)***