

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost



August 9, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God’s presence to others.

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor (P) Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

Congregation (C) Amen.

P Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Reconciling God,

C we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

P Beloved of God,
by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through ✠ Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the

taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul,
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 It is well with my soul,

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888
 Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip F. Bliss, 1838–1876

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion
 Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

REFRAIN

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free-dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

VERSE 1

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of
God. *to Refrain*

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

REFRAIN



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.



+ WORD +

PSALM: Psalm 85:8-13 *We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader ⁸I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn
their | hearts to you.

C ⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell | in our land.

L ¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

C ¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.

L ¹²The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,
and our land will | yield its increase.

C ¹³Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD
and shall prepare for | God a pathway.

Spoken after the psalm is sung:

C Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation

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

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33

Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith," who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.

P The holy gospel according to Matthew, the fourteenth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²²[Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], while he dismissed the crowds.²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

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Precious Lord, Take My Hand

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2 When my way grows . . drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws . . near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
when my life is . . . al - most . . gone,
and the day is . . . past and . . . gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.

Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993
Music: George N. Allen, 1812-1877, adapt. Thomas A. Dorsey

PRECIOUS LORD
Irregular

APOSTLES' CREED

A Let us confess our faith.

C 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

Each petition ends: Lord, in your mercy,

Congregational response: hear our prayer.

OFFERING HYMN 465 *As the Grains of Wheat (refrain only)*

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

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.**

+ SENDING +

BLESSING *We receive the blessings of the triune God.*

P Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, ✠ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

C **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN 822 *Oh, Sing to the Lord (vs. 1, 2, 4, 5)*

1 *Can - tad al Se - ñor un cãn - ti - co nue - vo.*
 1 Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
 2 For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.
 3 So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.
 4 Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.
 5 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!

Can - tad al Se - ñor un cãn - ti - co nue - vo.
 Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
 For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.
 So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.
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 So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.
 Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.
 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!

Can - tad al Se - ñor, can - tad al Se - ñor!
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

Text: Brazilian folk song; tr. Gerhard M. Cantford, b. 1923, Spanish and English
 Music: CANTAD AL SEÑOR, Brazilian folk tune

DISMISSAL

P We believe out loud that God’s mission for us is:

C to be an active community that welcomes all people to nurture and share their faith and gifts with everyone, according to God’s call.

P Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C Thanks be to God!

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**FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE
GLORY OF GOD
AND DEDICATED IN MEMORY
TO LOVED ONES.
BY JAN HARRISON**

Calendar for August 09 - 16

Aug.	09	Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Worship (online), Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
	12	Wed.	Noon	Bible study (online)
	16	Sun.	10:00 am	Worship (online), Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

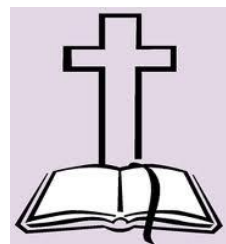
Next Sunday's Readings, Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost:

[Isaiah 56:1, 6-8](#)

[Psalm 67](#)

[Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32](#)

[Matthew 15:\[10-20\] 21-28](#)



PRAYER REQUESTS

New concerns: Randy Martin (cousin of Bob Eshleman), positive with COVID-19; Dan Graney (friend of Cheryl's) diagnosed with ALS; Jamie Ann Meyers (friend of Cheryl's) diagnosed with ALS Kate Stuart, Emma Griffin and Austin Griffin, for healing after boat accident; Zoya/Charlie, child of Pr. Katrina Foster (friend of Cheryl), for healing of inoperable cancerous brain tumor; Chris Dickman (synod councilmember/Castle Church manager), for healing and wholeness; prayers for healing for Jon Larson (from Tim Larson); Gerhard Hofer (brother-in-law of Ridy Hofer), diagnosed with inoperable brain tumor.

For the sick: Val Sullivan; Margarete Decker (mother of Caroline Collins); Don Dowd; Isabelle Taylor (granddaughter of Bill & Connie Taylor); being treated for rheumatoid arthritis and Primary Immunodeficiency; Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart).

In treatment for cancer: Stephanie Barber; Tim Bowling (brother-in-law of Judi Duffy); Peter Torlucci (brother of Margaret Bowers); Kamie Stonemetz (daughter of Jim Christianson); Cathie Nitti (niece of Sharon Simmons); Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; Maggie Soff (friend of Sandy Sampson); James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Isabell Cintron (friend of Sharon Simmons); Sarah Lucas (friend of Cassandra White); Bruce Blubaum (cousin of Sharon Simmons).

For health and protection: For all affected by coronavirus: those experiencing mental health difficulties due to isolation; those with the disease struggling to recover; those on the front lines fighting, researching and treating the disease (doctors, nurses, medical personal, EMTs, the millions of unemployed people, etc. All immigrant families split apart by US Government; for the unaccompanied children entering the US, including those “unaccounted for”.

For prisoners: Femi and Eddie; all those on death row.

Other concerns: Karen Olson; Blanche White (Melissa Barton).

Church concerns: St. Stephen’s Congregational Council; The Florida-Bahamas Synod Council all congregations searching for ways to stay connected and proclaim the Good News; Reconciling Works; Grace Lutheran Church; Bishop Pedro Suarez; Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA Advocacy offices and ministry; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pensacola .

World concerns: For all recovering in the Florida Panhandle from Hurricane Michael, including Messiah Lutheran Church; the people of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands continuing to recover from hurricanes; migrants fleeing violence in Central America; all those migrants and asylum seekers imprisoned by the US government; the people of Venezuela (birthplace of Bp. Suarez) and Hong Kong; for the Supreme Court as it considers cases involving the LGBTQ community.