



St. Stephen Lutheran Church

7800 Erie Street

Sylvania, OH 43560

www.ststephenlutheran.church

419-885-1551

July 12, 2026 10:30 A.M.

Lectionary 15

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Stand

Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Compassionate God,

C we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

P Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

C Amen.

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Opening Hymn

“Seed Scattered and Sown”

Seed, scattered and sown;
Wheat, gathered and grown;
Bread, broken and shared as one, the Living Bread of God.
Vine, fruit of the land;
Wine, work of our hands;
One cup that is shared by all;
The Living Cup, the Living Bread of God.

Is not the bread we break a sharing in our Lord?
Is not the cup we bless the blood of Christ outpoured?

The seed which falls on rock will wither and will die.
The seed within good ground will flower and have life.

As wheat upon the hills was gathered and was grown,
so may the church of God be gathered into one.

“Seed, Scattered and Sown” Words & Music: Dan Feiten © 1987 Ekklesia Music, Inc. CCLI License No. 450446

GREETING

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.

KYRIE (LORD HAVE MERCY)

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
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



Refrain
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen

A The Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

- ¹ You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;
to you shall vows be fulfilled.
- ² **To you, the one who answers prayer,
to you all flesh shall come.**
- ³ Our sins are stronger than we are,
but you blot out our transgressions.
- ⁴ **Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell
there! They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the
holiness of your temple.**
- ⁵ Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our
salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far
away.
- ⁶ **You make firm the mountains by your power;
you are girded about with might.**
- ⁷ You still the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.
- ⁸ **Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at
your marvelous signs; you make the dawn and the dusk to sing
for joy.**
- ⁹ You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous;
the river of God is full of water.
You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.
- ¹⁰ **You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**
- ¹¹ You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.
- ¹² **May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.**
- ¹³ May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak
themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

According to Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

p. 794

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

the gospel is read

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sit

SERMON

Stand



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

APOSTLE'S CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

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 ✠**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor concludes each petition with: "God of grace,"

C ***"Hear our prayer."***

Pastor concludes with:

P Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

C ***Amen.***

Sharing of the Peace

If you are in our sanctuary please wave or give a peace sign to those around you. If you are worshipping online, please type a greeting of peace to others.

Stand

If you wish to contribute to St. Stephen's ministry you can give electronically with the QR code on the blue folder in each aisle, place offerings in the offering box in the Narthex or mail your offerings to 7800 Erie St., Sylvania, OH 43560.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God,

We offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

**Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.**

Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

**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**

Sit

COMMUNION:

All people who believe in Jesus Christ are welcome to come and receive Christ's body and blood. Regardless of your church background or affiliation, you are welcome to come forward. We will begin with those seated on the pulpit side of the congregation then those seated on the keyboard side then those that are in the back section. You may come down the center aisle to receive the bread. Choose an individual cup (red is wine, white is grape juice) to receive and place your empty glass in the bowl as you return to your seat using the side aisles. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

If you do not wish to receive communion, but wish to receive a blessing, please come forward and keep your hands at your sides.

Communion Hymn

"Knowing You"

All I once held dear built my life upon
All this world reveres and wars to own
All I once thought gain I have counted loss
Spent and worthless now compared to this

Knowing You Jesus knowing You
There is no greater thing
You're my all You're the best
You're my joy my righteousness
And I love You Lord

Now my heart's desire is to know You more
To be found by You and known as Yours
To possess by faith what I could not earn
All surpassing gift of righteousness

Knowing You Jesus knowing You
There is no greater thing
You're my all You're the best
You're my joy my righteousness
And I love You Lord

Oh to know the pow'r of Your risen life
And to know You in Your sufferings
To become like You in Your death my Lord
So with You to live and never die

Knowing You Jesus knowing You
There is no greater thing
You're my all You're the best
You're my joy my righteousness
And I love You Lord

"Knowing You" Words and Music: Graham Kendrick © 1993 Make Way Music (admin by Music Services CCLI License #450446 CCLI #1045238)

Stand

Sending Forth

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Prayer

**Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
Amen.**

Benediction

P Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.
C **Amen.**

Closing Song

"Sent Forth By God's Blessing"



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,

the peo - ple of our God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—

The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,

the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.

The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now

reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.

Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing

to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

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DEPARTURE BID

A Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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