



St. Stephen Lutheran Church

7800 Erie Street

Sylvania, OH 43560

www.ststephenlutheran.church

419-885-1551

July 26, 2026 10:30 A.M.

Lectionary 17

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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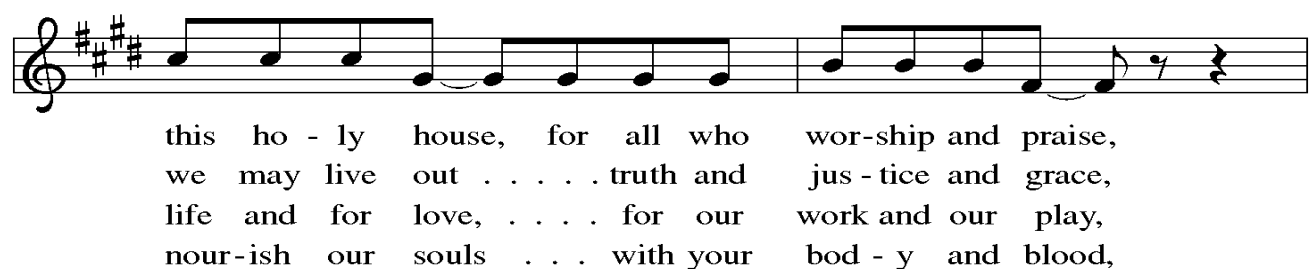
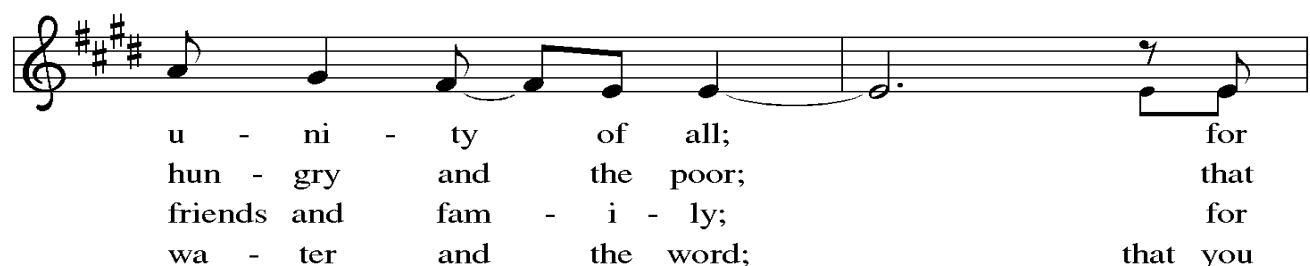
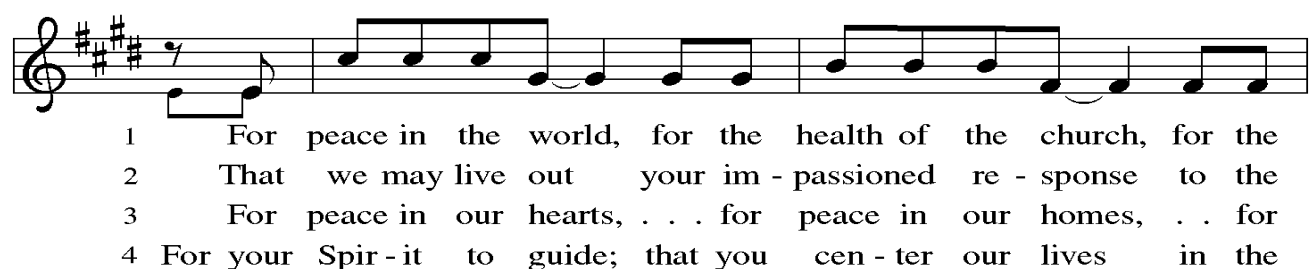
Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes, Let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore you
Hope of a life spent with you
Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that you're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me
King of all days
So highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly you came to the earth you created
All for love's sake became poor
Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that you're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me
(repeat chorus)
I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that you're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me
(repeat chorus)

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)



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

FIRST READING: Romans 8:26-39

p. 919

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

SECOND READING: Psalm 119:129-136

¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
¹³⁰ **When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**
¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant
because I long for your commandments.
¹³² **Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**
¹³³ Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**
¹³⁵ Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.
¹³⁶ **My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

According to Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

p. 795

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

the gospel is read

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sit

SERMON

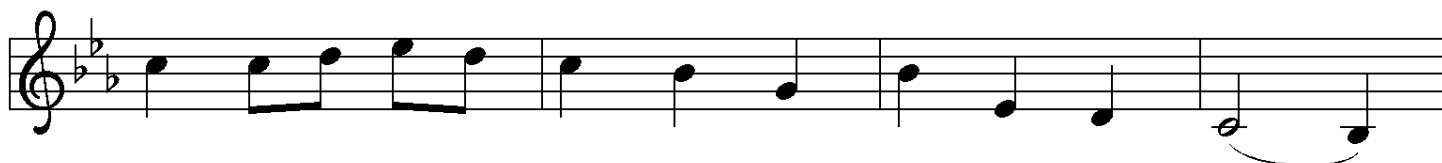
Stand



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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 ✝**

Sit

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.

Will I believe You when You say
Your hand will guide my ev'ry way
Will I receive the words You say
Ev'ry moment of ev'ry day

Well I will walk by faith
Well even when I cannot see
Because this broken road
Prepares Your will for me

Help me to rid my endless fears
You've been so faithful for all my years
With one breath You made me new
Your grace covers all I do

Well I will walk by faith
Well even when I cannot see
Because this broken road
Prepares Your will for me

Well I'm broken
But I still see Your face
Well You've spoken
Pouring Your words of grace

Well I will walk by faith
Well even when I cannot see
Because this broken road
Prepares Your will for me

Well hallelujah hallelu
Well hallelujah hallelu

"Walk By Faith" Words and Music by Jeremy Camp ©2002 Thirsty Moon River Publishing, admin EMI Christian Music
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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

“Sweeter”

Every day with You Lord
Sweeter than the day before
Every day with You Lord
Sweeter than the day before
Every morning I will worship
Every evening I'll adore
'Cause every day with You is sweeter
Sweeter than the day before

Every day with You Lord
Sweeter than the day before
Every day with You Lord
Sweeter than the day before
Every morning I will worship
Every evening I'll adore
'Cause every day with You is sweeter
Sweeter than the day before

What a privilege to know You
Like I know You
To be loved like You love me
What an honor to worship truly worship
From this heart that You have freed
From the rising of the sun
To the setting of the same

Every day with You Lord
Sweeter than the day before
Every day with You Lord
Sweeter than the day before
Every morning I will worship
Every evening I'll adore
'Cause every day with You is sweeter
Sweeter than the day before

What a wonder to live life
Really live life
Overcoming anything
What a reason to lift up
Freely lift up
Every day my everything
From the rising of the sun
To the setting of the same

Every day with You Lord
Sweeter than the day before
Every day with You Lord
Sweeter than the day before
Every morning I will worship
Every evening I'll adore
'Cause every day with You is sweeter
Sweeter than the day before

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DEPARTURE BID

A Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE