



# St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost  
July 12, 2020 • 10 am

You are welcome here! As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we believe that the gospel is God's gift to all people, shared unconditionally and without regard to race, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic or family status, age, physical or mental abilities, outward appearance, or religious affiliation. We seek to live the truth written in Ephesians that Christ breaks down the dividing walls between us and makes us one.

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

## Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### Welcome

### Prelude

### \*\* Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God,

**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.**

Beloved of God...through the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

**\*\* Gathering Song**

*On What Has Now Been Sown* (verses 1 and 2)

ELW#550



1 On what has now been sown your bless-ing Lord, be - stow; the  
2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -  
3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may



pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in  
cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es,  
meet to - geth - er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low



grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!  
Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.  
you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.

Music: DARWALL'S 148TH, John Darwall, 1731–1789

**\*\* Prayer of the Day**

*Assisting Minister leads the prayer of the day and the assembly responds: Amen.*

**\*\* Items in bold are to be spoken/sung by the assembly.**

# Word

*God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.*

**Reading**

Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

**Sermon**

The Rev. Jason Churchill

**\*\* Hymn**

*God, Whose Farm Is All Creation* (verses 1 and 2)

ELW #734



1 God, whose farm is all cre - a - tion, take the grat - i -  
2 Take our plow - ing, seed - ing, reap - ing, hopes and fears of  
3 All our la - bor, all our watch - ing, all our cal - en -



tude we give; take the fin - est of our har - vest,  
sun and rain, all our think - ing, plan - ning, wait - ing,  
dar of care in these crops of your cre - a - tion,



crops we grow that we may live.  
rip - ened in this fruit and grain.  
take, O God: they are our prayer.

Text: John Arlott, 1914–1991  
Music: HARVEST GIFTS, Larry J. Long, b. 1954  
Text © Trustees of the late John Arlott, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

**\*\* Prayers of the People**

*Each portion of the prayer ends with either:*

Responses: Bless we the Lord  
Hear us, O God.

Thanks be to God.  
Your mercy is great.

**Thanksgiving for the Word**

**Lord's Prayer**

**\*\* Items in bold are to be spoken/sung by the assembly.**

# Sending

*We are sent into the world to serve.*

**Blessing**

**Dismissal**

**Postlude**

Enjoy today's service? Visit our Facebook page and invite a friend, comment, or leave a review. May God go with you today and everyday.

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For additional reference on hymn text and music please refer to the hymn number in the cranberry prayer book and hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

## Participants in Today's Service

**Pastor:**

The Rev. Jason Churchill

**Cantor:**

Dr. Oksana Glouchko

**Assisting Minister:**

Michele Torchia

**Lector:**

Michael Farthing

**Reader:**

Henry Sullivan

**Ministers:**

The people of St. Stephen's

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