

Sunday June 1, 2025 Ascension Sunday

It is possible to hear in Jesus' high priestly prayer, a prayer he offered shortly before his death, the petitions of the ascended Christ for his own throughout history—to our day—and

beyond. Jesus prays for us. In holy baptism we become believers in God, have our robes washed in the flood of Christ's forgiveness, and receive the gift of life forever with all the saints.

**WELCOME!** We are glad to have you join us in worship today. Here are a few notes to help you feel more at home participating in our worship.

**Worshipping**. Today's service is printed in this bulletin. Parts in **bold** indicate responses by everyone in which you are invited to participate.

**Communion.** Lutheran Christians believe that the Lord Jesus Christ feeds us with his true body and blood "in, with, and under" the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper. All baptized Christians who receive Communion in their own churches are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please note that the darker wine is non-alcoholic and is available from the Lector. Communion will be distributed continuously, in procession. Please come forward as directed by the ushers.

**Coffee Hour.** We hope that you will join us for coffee and conversation in the lobby following the worship service.

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 270 South Broadway + Hicksville NY 11801 Church Office: Monday - Friday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office: 516/931-0710 Barbara Barcavage, Church Council President (email ststephenstreasurer1@gmail.com) Kate Lenzo, Parish Administrator (*email* office@ststephenshicksville.com) Church Website <u>www.ststephenshicksville.com</u> Join us on Facebook: St. Stephens Lutheran Church, Hicksville, NY

# + GATHERING +

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P In the name of the Father, and of the Holy Spirit. C Amen.

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **C** Amen.

### GATHERING SONG: City of God ~ Dan Schutte vv. 1-3



#### 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.

### **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**





#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray. O God, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### C Amen.

#### + WORD +

#### FIRST READING - Acts 16:16-34

A reading from Acts.

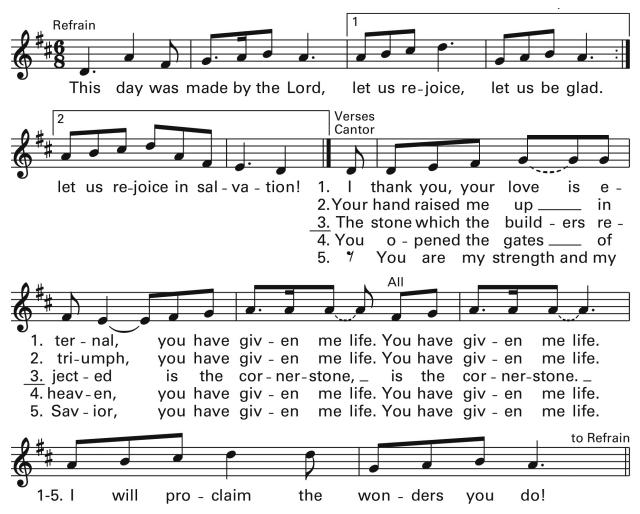
<sup>16</sup> One day as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a female slave who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." <sup>18</sup> She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

<sup>19</sup> But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. <sup>20</sup> When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men, these Jews, are disturbing our city <sup>21</sup> and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us, being Romans, to adopt or observe." <sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. <sup>24</sup> Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

<sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was an earthquake so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. <sup>27</sup> When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." <sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup> They answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." <sup>32</sup> They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup> At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. <sup>34</sup> He brought them up into the house and set food before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God. …The word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

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**PSALM - This Day Was Made by the Lord ~ Christopher Walker** 



## SECOND READING - Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

A reading from Revelation.

<sup>12</sup> "See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."

<sup>14</sup>Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

<sup>16</sup> "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

<sup>17</sup> The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."

And let everyone who hears say, "Come."

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

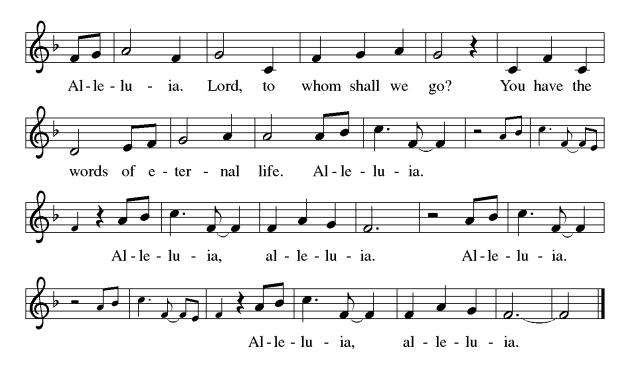
<sup>20</sup> The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

<sup>21</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

...The word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



#### **GOSPEL - John 17:20-26**

P The holy gospel according to John.

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

[Jesus prayed:] <sup>20</sup> "I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. <sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

<sup>25</sup> "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you, and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them and I in them." The gospel of the Lord. **C Praise to you, O Christ.** 

#### **SERMON**

### HYMN OF THE DAY: Lord, You Give the Great Commission (ELW 579)



## **APOSTLE'S CREED**

A With the whole Church, we 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

A God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

## A brief silence.

A Welcoming God, you invite all people to come and encounter your love. Give your church open hearts and minds to embrace all who seek your presence. Increase the capacity for cooperation between denominations and congregations. Hear us, O God.

### C Your mercy is great.

A Creating God, your might is seen in storms and in silence. Where drought threatens, bring rain. Where waters flood, ease them back. Where fire, earthquake, hurricane, or tornado destroy, shelter your people and restore your land. Hear us, O God.

## C Your mercy is great.

A Discerning God, fill the hearts of leaders with your passion for justice and mercy. Call the nations of this world to tables of peace and collaboration. Encourage governments to seek avenues of collective benefit and joy. Hear us, O God.

### C Your mercy is great.

A Abiding God, all people are held in your care. Accompany survivors of abuse, trauma, and exploitation. Strengthen our resolve to listen and advocate on behalf of all who are unnoticed. Hear our prayers for those close to our heart (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

## C Your mercy is great.

A Rejoicing God, be with this congregation as summer begins in the northern hemisphere. Keep travelers safe. Keep the vulnerable cool. Invigorate summer ministry efforts in our community, and support the well-being of children and young people. Hear us, O God.

## C Your mercy is great.

A Loving God, the beginning and the end, you are with us throughout our lives. In gratitude for the saints who have died (*especially Justin, martyr*), we look toward your coming again among us. Hear us, O God.

## C Your mercy is great.

A We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

### C Amen.

## PEACE

- P The peace of Christ be with you always. C And also with you.
- P Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

## **ADDITIONAL PRAYERS**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

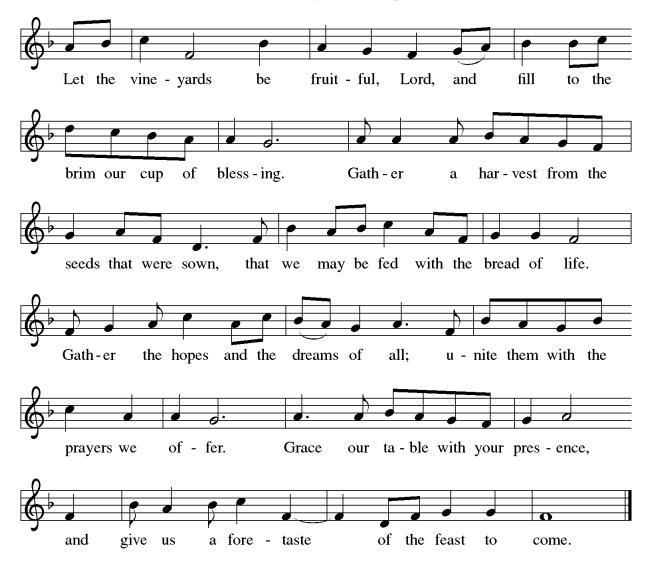
Joan Hagner (June 1st)

## **BIRTHDAY SONG**

He who began a good work in you (2x) Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x) Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x) He who started the work will be faithful to complete it in you!

### + MEAL +

### **OFFERING:** Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW p.190)



#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

P Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. C Amen.

#### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

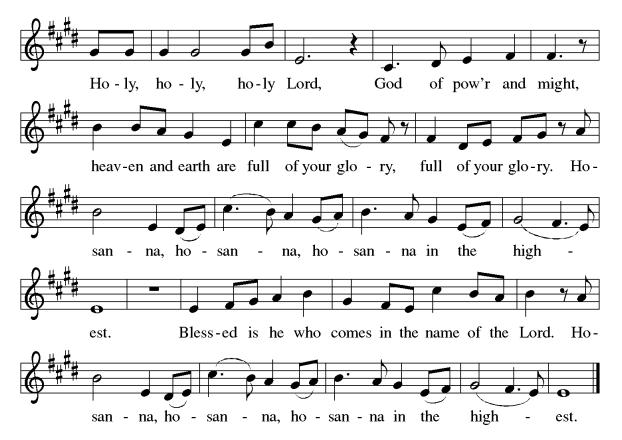
#### DIALOGUE

- P The Lord be with you. C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts. C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

## C We praise you, O God.

P Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.C We bless you, O God.

P We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now. C We bless you, O God.

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P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith: C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. C Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

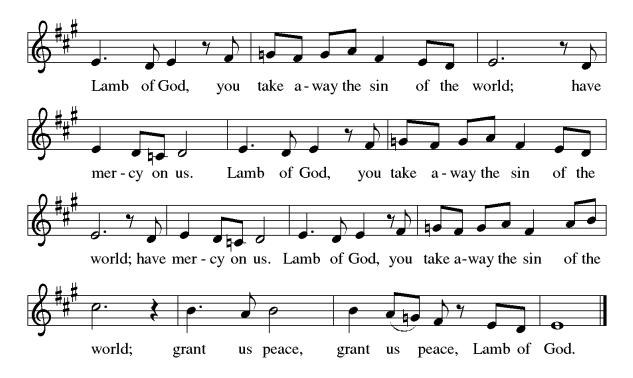
P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C 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.

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

### LAMB OF GOD



## SONG DURING COMMUNION: Blest Are They (ELW 728)



## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. C Amen.

## + SENDING +

### BLESSING

P The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. C Amen.

P The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. C Amen.

P The God of all grace + bless you now and forever. C Amen.

SENDING SONG: Let All Things Now Living (ELW 881)



#### DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

## **Upcoming Commemorations**

## Justin, martyr at Rome, died around 165 Sunday, June 1, 2025

Born of pagan parents, Justin was influenced by an elderly Christian in Ephesus. He became a teacher of philosophy and the Christian faith. Jailed for practicing an unauthorized religion, he refused to renounce his faith and was beheaded.

# The Martyrs of Uganda, died 1886 Tuesday, June 3, 2025

On June 3, 1886, thirty-two young men were burned to death for refusing to renounce Christianity. The confident manner in which these Christians went to their deaths contributed to a much stronger Christian presence in Uganda.

### John XXIII, Bishop of Rome, died 1963 Tuesday, June 3, 2025

When elected pope, the former Angelo Roncalli was expected to be a short-term caretaker. He showed great spirit, though, and convened the Second Vatican Council which helped bring great changes to Roman Catholic and other churches.

## Boniface, Bishop of Mainz, missionary to Germany, martyr, died 754 Thursday, June 5, 2025

Boniface was a native of England who became a Benedictine monk and was called to missionary work among the Vandal tribes of Germany. With fellow workers, he established churches and schools, and he also worked to reform the church.

## Seattle, chief of the Duwamish Confederacy, died 1866 Saturday, June 7, 2025

Noah Seattle led a coalition of tribes, and convinced them to live peacefully with encroaching white settlers. When he became a Roman Catholic, he held morning and evening prayer with his tribe. The city of Seattle is named for him. Sanctuary Lamp Candle for June is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jean Ebersberger by her family.

~Coffee Hour Sign-up Sheet for April - December is available in the Narthex. Please consider hosting a coffee hour by suppling refreshments and/or serving.

 $\sim$  A chart on the lobby bulletin board allows us to designate weekly <u>Sunday service</u> altar flowers or the monthly sanctuary lamp candle as special memorial/in honor of gifts. Use the envelopes provided to forward the gift (\$25.00 for flowers; \$15.00 for candle). Be sure to include information concerning who is being honored/memorialized by your gift as well as your name, address and telephone number. You may also contact the church office at 516-931-0710.

### ~ Lutheran Bible Study:

**Topic:** A six-week course on the Acts of the Apostles **Dates**: Tues, April 29 - Tues, June 10 **Time:** 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

### Zoom Link

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86449108753?pwd=R79zyFKLG12zYgCi66AGshu4eOrZa1.1 Meeting ID: 864 4910 8753 Passcode: 782457

### ~ From the Altar Guild:

Our numbers are few; and the Guild would welcome your assistance. We are a small assembly dedicated to arranging the sanctuary for the Sunday services of Holy Communion, festive worship services, and the Services of Word and Light. Don't feel overwhelmed with what you see as our worship space changes with each season or with the task to be done. The work is done as a team of two or with the entire Altar Guild when necessary, and on occasion with assistance from the Property Committee. It is a labor of love and service to the Lord, a small but important charge. If you are interested, even if you just have questions, you can speak with Lauren, Bill, Beth, or Jane.

## ~ Let's Wear Red for Pentecost!

Pentecost is coming up next Sunday (June 8th), and we'd love for everyone to wear **red** to celebrate! Red reminds us of the fire of the Holy Spirit and the energy of the Church coming to life. Whether it's a shirt, scarf, tie, or even socks—join the fun and let's fill the church with color!

DAY	EVENT	TIME
Sunday, June 1st	Ascension Sunday	Holy Communion 9:00 am
	HSS Yoga	10:00 am
Tuesday, June 3rd	Back to Basics	7:00 pm
	Zoom Bible Study	7:00 pm
Wednesday, June 4th	N.A.	7:00 pm
Sunday, June 8th	Pentecost	Holy Communion 9:00 am

### SERVING AT WORSHIP TODAY

### Sunday, 9:00 AM

ASSISTING MINISTER:	Beth Feeney
LECTOR:	Kevin Dolan
ACOLYTE:	Sara LaGuarina
<b>MUSIC DIRECTOR:</b>	Mason Griffin
USHERS:	Rick Mosebach
GREETER:	Ilse Zeeck
AUDIO/VISUAL:	Tyler LaVorgna
ALTAR GUILD:	Lauren & Bill Artus, Jane Ebersberger

## PARISH PRAYER LIST

If you would like to have your name or your friend or family member's name added to the Prayer List, please call the office. <u>Please remember to keep the office updated.</u>

## **PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATION**

Dottie Eberhardt Barbara & Roger Engert Richard Engert Pastor Ron Klose John Parrett Ilona Riggers Lenny Schiliro The family and friends of Claire Parrett

### PRAY FOR OUR FAMILIES

Vinny Aiello (husband of Laureen Aiello) Fred Barrell (brother-in-law of Paul and Susan Portz) Joe DiSalvo (cousin of Maureen O'Brien) James Ebersberger (brother of Jane Ebersberger) The family and friends of Roberta Fleming (cousin of Bob Maurer) Jim Fritz (cousin of Lauren Artus and John Langbehn) Lucky Hagner (beloved new dog of Joan Hagner) Vicki Maurer (daughter-in-law of Nan and Bob Maurer) John Peck (nephew of Christel LaVorgna) Tom Portz (brother of Paul Portz) Jean Riolo (mother of Christine Carlson) William Stanton (cousin of Kellie Barone)

# PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS

Angela Capo (friend of Laureen Aiello) Rich Carlstrom (friend of the Staton family) Maryellen Collins (friend of the Staton family) Cheryl Glasini (friend of the Ahlers-Pendas family) John Judge (friend of Jane Ebersberger) Jim Lasurdo (friend of the Maurer family) Ellen Motoi (friend of Maureen O'Brien) Betty, John & Mary Beth Ott (friends of Jane Ebersberger) Martina Schmid (former member of the congregation) John Sheridan (friend of Bob and Nan Maurer)