



Sunday, August 3, 2025
8th Sunday after Pentecost

Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with

Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.

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
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Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/StStephensHicksvilleNY

+ GATHERING +

RINGING OF THE BELL

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Pause for silent reflection.

P Gracious God, C **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. C **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *Faith Begins by Letting Go* (ACS 1004)



1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,
2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - 'ry's roots a - live
3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,
shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.
till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

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

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

P Let us pray. Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C Amen.**

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

A reading from Ecclesiastes.

² Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. ¹⁴ I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

^{2:18} I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, ¹⁹ and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity.

²⁰ So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³ For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

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

PSALM: will be read responsively

¹ Hear this, | all you peoples; give ear, all you who dwell | in the world,

² **you of high de- | gree and low, rich and | poor together.**

³ My mouth shall | speak of wisdom, and my heart shall meditate on | understanding.

⁴ **I will incline my ear | to a proverb and set forth my riddle up- | on the harp.**

⁵ Why should I be afraid in | evil days, when the wickedness of those at my | heels surrounds me,

⁶ **the wickedness of those who put their trust in | their own prowess, and boast of | their great riches?**

⁷ One can never re- | deem another, or give to God the ransom for an- | other's life;

⁸ **for the ransom of a life | is so great that there would never be e- | nough to pay it,**

⁹ in order to live forev- | er and ever and never | see the grave.

¹⁰ **For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stu- | pid they perish and leave their wealth to those who come | after them.**

¹¹ Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to | generation, though they had named lands af- | ter themselves.

¹² **Even though honored, they cannot | live forever; they are like the | beasts that perish.**

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-11

A reading from Colossians.

¹ So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹ In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!
...The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

GOSPEL: Luke 12:13-21

P The holy gospel according to Luke.

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

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” ¹⁴ But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵ And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

...The gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound Verses 1, 2, 5 (ELW 779)*



→ 1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 → 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 → 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

APOSTLES' 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 In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A Renew in your church a perspective of life beyond worldly pursuits. Build an enthusiasm to embrace life in Christ, so that Christ, the life of the world, is revealed to everyone. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

A Revitalize and protect the treasures of wild places. Teach all people to value the earth, winds, waters, trees, and animals, the gifts that make life possible on this planet. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

A Speak wisdom to any in positions of power, that they cease practices of divisiveness, insult, and oppression. Clothe all people in your image, and establish equity and peace. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

A Reveal your loving presence in the lives of people suffering hunger and need, illness and grief, pain and fear. Give strength to those who give care, and equip them with compassion as they make your love known. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

A Store up in this congregation a full measure of gratitude and generosity. Guide the work of treasurers and all who attend to financial matters. Support those whose work in our community is difficult and demanding; make us mindful of the toil that goes unnoticed. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

A Receive our thanks for the lives of your saints who now rest from their labors. Give us wisdom through their witness and encourage us in love as we continue our lives in the world. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

A Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. **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

Lois Angstadt (8/3)

John Feeney (8/8)

John Langbehn (8/8)

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 SONG: *Let The Vineyards Be Fruitful*



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the



brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the



seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the



prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,



and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, 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.
praise.

C It is right to give our thanks and

PREFACE

P 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, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY HOLY HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho-
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **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.

C Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

SONG DURING COMMUNION: *One Bread, One Body*

Refrain

One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of
 bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y
 through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.

1	Gen - tile	or Jew,	ser - vant	or free,
2	Man - y	the gifts,	man - y	the works,
3	Grain for	the fields,	scat-tered	and grown,

Refrain

wom-an or man, no more.
 one in the Lord of all.
 gath-ered to one for all.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C Amen.**

+ SENDING +

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **C Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

Upcoming Commemorations

Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), died 1221

Friday, August 8, 2025

Dominic was a Spanish priest who saw the wealth of the clergy as a stumbling block for the church, so he formed a movement, the Order of Preachers (commonly called Dominicans) devoted to itinerant preaching and living in poverty.

Announcements for the week of August 3, 2025

*Sanctuary Candle for August is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Dad by Ellen Eberhardt*



Lois Angstadt ~ August 3rd
John Feeney ~ August 8th
John Langbehn ~ August 8th
Sara LaGuarina ~ August 16th
Carmine Barone ~ August 17th

~ **What's Your Favorite Hymn?** 🎵

We're inviting members of the congregation to submit their favorite hymns. Submit your hymn choice (*and a short note about why you love it, if you'd like*) by via email to office@ststephenshicksville.com, call between 10-2 Mon-Fri at 516.931.0710 or leave us a note in the offering plate. Let's sing each other's songs of faith this summer.



~ **School Supplies Continue:** While we have already started delivering your generous school supply donations to the New Life Center in Franklin Square, *we will continue to collect for distribution to students throughout all of August*, so if you haven't already, please consider donating.

~ **A Note of Thanks:** We received a heartfelt message of gratitude from Karen Klose, wife of the late Pastor Klose, thanking the congregation for the many memorial gifts given in his honor. She was deeply touched by the outpouring of kindness and generosity, and shared that your thoughtful expressions of care brought great comfort to their family during a difficult time.

~ **Altar Guild Needs You:** Help prepare our worship space for services. No experience needed—just a willing heart and a team spirit. Talk to Lauren, Bill, Beth, or Jane to learn more.

~ **Coffee Hour Sign-Up:** The April–December sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Please consider hosting by providing refreshments for a given Sunday. Reminder, we offer a cold drink in the summer at our coffee hour!

~ **Altar Flowers & Sanctuary Candle:** Dedicate Sunday altar flowers (\$25) or the monthly sanctuary candle (\$15) in honor/memory of a loved one. Use the envelopes provided or contact the church office (516.931.0710).

~ **From The Office:** If anyone has any pictures of current Church events, Kate would love to start posting those types of things/happenings on our social media platforms (Facebook and Instagram). She will of course send the posts to you for approval before putting them out publicly! Feel free to email them to office@ststephenshicksville.com

~ **From The Office:** Please note that the Church office will be closed from August 7th - August 13th. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Parish Calendar This Week (August 3rd - August 10th)

Day	Event	Time
Sunday, August 3rd	8th Sunday after Pentecost	Holy Communion 9:00 am
	HSS Yoga	10:00 am
Tuesday, August 5th	Back to Basics	7:00 pm
Wednesday, August 6th	N.A.	7:00 pm
Sunday, August 10th	9th Sunday after Pentecost	Holy Communion 9:00 am

Serving At Worship Today - Sunday, 9:00 AM

Assisting Minister.....Barbara Engert **Usher**.....Rick Mosebach
Lector.....Brianna Feeney **Greeter**.....Ilse Zeeck
Acolyte.....Natalie Magiaracina **Audio/Visual**.....Tyler LaVorgna
Music Director.....Mason Griffin **Altar Guild**.....Beth Feeney

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. Please remember to keep the office updated.

Pray For Our Congregation

Laureen Aiello
Dottie Eberhardt
Richard Engert
John Parrett
Ilona Riggers
Lenny Schiliro
Ilse Zeeck

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)
Jim Fritz (cousin of Lauren Artus & John Langbehn)
Linda Pisano (cousin of Lauren Artus & John Langbehn)
Jean Riolo (mother of Christine Carlson)
Michael Shurman (brother of Joe Shurman)

Pray For Our Friends

Brianna Baldassano (daughter to dear friend of Maureen O'Brien)

Kendra Chandler (friend of Barbara & Kevin Barcavage)

Sue Eletti (friend of Christel LaVorgna)

Jeremy Gizze (friend of Maureen O'Brien)

Ellen Grace (high school friend of Joan Hagner)

John Judge (friend of Jane Ebersberger)

Ellen Motoi (friend of Maureen O'Brien)

Betty, John & Mary Beth Ott (friends of Jane Ebersberger)

Bill Schlatter (friend of the Hesse Family)

Martina Schmid (former member of the congregation)

The family and friends of Michael Cardozo (friend and former coworker of Kate Ahlers Pendas)