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Taped for you to view anytime

Our Mission Statement

St. Stephen's is a welcoming, healing community who worship
God in Christ, nurture people growing in faith,
serve others with acceptance and love,
invite people to share the joy of the spirit.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church E.L.C.A.

2500 Soquel Avenue

Santa Cruz, CA 95062

831/476-4700 FAX 831/476-3918

email: office@ststephenslutheran.org

Web Address: www.ststephenslutheran.org

Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs. 8:30 am—2:30 pm

Ministers: The People of St. Stephen's

Pastor: Rev. James P. Lapp

Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp

Music Director: Gary Roberts

Sunday School: Leslie Lapp

Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens

Custodian: John Hopping

Videographers: Kent Madsen & Barb Rice

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539

Fourth Sunday of Easter May 3, 2020

Welcome to people new to this church or faith, long time Lutherans, and Christians from every tradition. Welcome to all who have no church home, want to follow Christ, have doubts, or do not believe. Welcome to new visitors and old friends. Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation and marital status, ability and challenge. Welcome to believers and questioners and questioning believers. This is a place where you are welcome to celebrate and sorrow, rejoice and recover. This is a place where lives are made new. Welcome on this day.

(*) Asterisk means, "Please stand as you are able."

The Gathering

*Call to Worship

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: O radiant God, in the midst of crippled hopes and shattered dreams, you worked your brightest surprise—

C: The shining glory of the risen Christ.

P: Even now, you are birthing new hopes and prompting new dreams.

C: Our eyes are open wide—

P: Seeing your glory in the springtime blossoms,

C: Noticing that your blessing leaves a calm in our hearts,

P: And a patience in our voices,

C: Sensing your presence in the breaking of bread,

P: The embrace of a friend and the planting of a seed.

C: O radiant God, with songs of praise and hearts of gladness, we worship you as beams of joy and candles of hope!

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim and Our Church Family. **Long Term:** Lee Arvid, people of the Bahamas, The Sanders Family, Barbara & John Barte, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Susan Anderson, Rick, Bobbie Erickson, Edna Lindquist, Richard C., Eric VonSchell, Lauri Hollist, Ken Pahel, Pat M., Gary, Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Barry & Barbara, Chris & Lorie Juhl, Karin, Will, Chris, Pat Hubbard, Cathy, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, men and women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today

ELCA Sierra Pacific Synod

In this very different time for our shared ministry, with each day bringing new challenges and opportunities for our work and witness, we are being called upon to adapt the way we have been church together. Online worship, meetings by Zoom, pastoral care offered over the phone, stewardship, and baptisms, weddings and funerals that have had to be postponed are all a part of "figuring out" ministry these days. It has been compared to "building an airplane while we are flying it."

We hear stories from many places around our synod of how you are offering bold proclamations of the Gospel that are reaching people who have not been connected with the church for a while, if ever. Thank you. There will be questions of how we will gather as the church "on the other side" of this pandemic, in such a time when restrictions have been lifted. Our prayer is that the leadership of our congregations and ministries will work together to discern with the help of the Spirit the lessons that have been learned during this time, trusting there is no place we are being called where Christ is not already present. Our synod's leadership, including the staff of the Office of the Bishop and our Synod Council, will be about this same work; we ask for your prayers as well. The following prayer sums up well our journey in this time:

"Oh God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

Blessings and Peace,
Bishop Mark Holmerud & V.P. Gail Kiyomura

Though I am small, my...God, my all,
You work great...things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past
To the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
And to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,
For the world is about to turn. *REFRAIN*

From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,
Not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
Ev'ry tyrant...from his throne.
The hungry poor shall...weep no more,
For the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
For the world is about to turn. *REFRAIN*

Though the nations rage from...age to age,
We remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
From the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. *REFRAIN*

*Dismissal

P: Go in the power of the Spirit.
Proclaim the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!
C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

May Benevolence =
Mt. Cross Lutheran Outdoor Ministries

Prayer Concerns **Short Term:** Healthcare workers,
Robert Bartee & Family, Heather, Kevin, Family of Suzanne Du-
val, Vanessa, Rose, Shelly Barker & family, George Webber &
Family, Cox Family, Becky & Aaron Johnson, Marlene Simmen,
Kimberly & Danny, Lora Schraft Poulson, Doug Hahn, Michael,
Kayla, Don, Lina, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Cabel,
Kyle, Esdras, Jackson, Joe, Pat, Riley, Shelby, Frank, Kaitlyn,
Daniel, Ryder, Jenny, Abby, Immigrant families, The Homeless,

*Opening Hymn "The King of Love My Shepherd is" #502 vs 1-5

1. The King of love my shepherd is,
Whose goodness fails me never;
I nothing lack if I am his,
And he is mine forever.

2. Where streams of living water flow
With gentle care he leads me,
And where the verdant pastures grow,
With heav'nly food he feeds me.

3. Perverse and foolish I have strayed,
But yet in love he sought me,
And on his shoulder gently laid,
And home, rejoicing, brought me.

4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With you, dear Lord, beside me;
Your rod and staff my comfort still,
Your cross before to guide me.

5. You spread a table in my sight,
Your saving grace bestowing;
And O what joy and true delight
From your pure chalice flowing!

*Greeting

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen
C: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: The grace of our risen Savior,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.
C: **And also with you**

*Prayer of the Day

The Word of God

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <u>First Reading</u> | Acts 2:42-47 | Celebrate pg. 1 |
| Read Responsively | Psalm 23 | Celebrate pg. 2 |
| <u>Second Reading</u> | 1 Peter 2:19-25 | Celebrate pg. 2 |
| * <u>Gospel Reading</u> | John 10:1-10 | Celebrate pg. 3 |

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter. (*The Gospel is read*)

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Message

Rev. James Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

"*Shepherd Me, O God*" Red #780

Refrain:
**Shepherd me, O God,
Beyond my wants,
beyond my fears,
from death into life.**

God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,
Rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace.

(*Refrain*)

*Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray:

In this meal, O God, you have strengthened us by the risen life of your Son. Send us by your Spirit to live in peace with one another and to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

*Benediction

P: God, who raised Jesus from the dead,
Make you stand strong in faith.

C: **Amen. Alleluia!**

P: Jesus Christ, triumphant over the grave,
Make you bold to tell the good news.

C: **Amen. Alleluia!**

P: The Spirit of truth abide with you
And guide you into paths of service.

C: **Amen. Alleluia!**

*Closing Hymn

"*Canticle of the Turning*" Red #723

**My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
That you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
And my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?**

REFRAIN

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.**

(continued)

P: The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come for all is ready!

(You may be seated)

Holy Communion

Communion Hymns

"Children of the heavenly Father" Red #781

**Children of the heavenly Father
Safely in his bosom gather
Nestling bird or star in heaven
Such a refuge ne'er was given**

**God his own doth tend and nourish
In his holy courts they flourish
From all evil things he spares them
In his mighty arms he bears them**

**Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord his children sever
Unto them his grace he showeth
And their sorrows all he knoweth**

**Though he giveth or he taketh
God his children ne'er forsaketh
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy**

The Sending

*Communion Blessing

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

**Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
You lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
My spirit shall sing the music of your name. (Refrain)**

**Though I should wander the valley of death,
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,
Your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. (Refrain)**

**You have set me a banquet of love in the grace of hatred,
Crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold. (Refrain)**

**Surely your kindness and mercy follow me
all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. (Refrain)**

Easter Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God,

**Who lights the dawn to chase away the darkness;
Who rolls away each stone of doubt;
Who surprises us with incredible gifts of family and friends,
silence and laughter;
Who raises us from sadness and despair
to the possibilities of blessing and joy.**

We believe in Jesus,

**Friend of the poor and searcher for the lost,
Who comes to us in our grief and longing, calls us by name
and sends us on the paths of peace to speak of an awesome
love that is not overcome by death.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

**The hidden partner, the gentle messenger of God,
Who fills our every breath with blessing;
Who guides us in the dark, beckons us to do good,
speaks to us in dream and image,
and watches over us with tender compassion.**

(continued)

We believe in the church,

An instrument of God in this present moment, striving for justice, celebrating in joy, clawing at despair, living in hope, praying for healing and forever proclaiming Good News of God's persistent and redeeming love.

*The Prayers of the Church

Celebrate, Page 4

The Communion Meal

* Passing of the Peace

P: May the peace of God be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offering — We honor and worship God by returning some of the gifts with which we have been blessed.

Offertory Prayer

P: Giver of life,

**C: We bring to your table what we have, gifts from you,
the one who makes all things new.
With these signs we bring ourselves,
that we may carry to the world
the love of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*Great Thanksgiving

P: May God be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to God

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

*Prayer of Preparation

P: We prepare our hearts to receive God's grace together now.

C: Generous God, you have given us so much. Give us one more thing. Give us thankful hearts because we know our hearts can turn hard and cold. We hold on when we should let go. We are clutching when we should be sharing. We are fearful instead of trusting in your everlasting care.

Open our hands and our hearts to the bounty of your love, which cares for the flowers of the fields, the birds in the air, each child who toddles, every parent who worries, every adult who struggles.

**Loving God, you have given us so much.
Give us again the assurance of your love and care,
and fill us with grateful hearts and open hands. Amen.**

*Words of Institution

*Lord's Prayer

**C: Our Father, in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today, our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
Now and forever. Amen**