

Worship online at [www.ststephenslutheran.org](http://www.ststephenslutheran.org)

Recorded for you to view anytime.

Please participate by having your worship bulletin and Celebrate ready

Zoom Bible Studies with Pastor Jim on Thursdays 11am & 7pm.

Check your email on Wednesday for the link to the Zoom meeting.

### 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.

### Reconciling in Christ

"We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace.  
We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of  
race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity,  
gender expression, or relationship status.

We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or  
mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances,  
or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ."

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](mailto:office@ststephenslutheran.org)

Web Address: [www.ststephenslutheran.org](http://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

Church Musician: 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

## SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST July 19, 2020

### WELCOME AND A NOTE TO VISITORS

Welcome Visitor! We pray the service will be a blessing for you and that you will join us again soon. Thank you for worshiping with us — your presence is a joy to this faith community. Please fill out the “Worship Slip” and place it in the offering plate. Nursery care is available, the ushers can direct you.

( \* ) Asterisk means, “Please Stand”

### The Gathering

#### \*Prayer of Confession and Forgiveness

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
Whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
Whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

C: Amen

P: Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess the ways we have missed God’s mark.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Reconciling God,

C: 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.

### Live Worship option

If any of you would like to participate, we are open to a **few people** Reading Scripture and offering the Prayers of Intercession from the Celebrate page. Or if you would just like to come to worship – Saturdays 11:00 am. Masked & Socially distanced of course.

Call Leslie at 476-4700 to schedule your spot ☺.

**Campfire Worship  
with Mt. Cross  
Every Sunday Night in July  
at 7:30PM**



We are hosting an Omega Worship Watch Party on our Facebook page. We’ll have songs and stories and prayers around a campfire and give you a way



### Provide Lunches for the volunteers

**Tuesday, July 28 by 10:30 am**

(4th Tuesday of each month)

Sandwiches, fruit, cookies, and drink. Call the office to Sign-up for one or more items. 476-4700.

## **Prayer Concerns**

**Short Term:** Healthcare workers, Family of Cheryl Denny, Jean Patterson, Nicholas Gross & family, Sheila & Terri, Frank Giammona, Derek, Heather, Kevin, Family of Suzanne Duval, Vanessa, Rose, Shelly Barker & family, George Webber & Family, Cox Family, Becky & Aaron Johnson, Marlene Simmen & family, Lorraine Chavez, Kimberly & Danny, Lora Schraft Poulson, Doug Hahn, Michael, Kayla, Don, Lina, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Cabel, Kyle, Noah, Esdras, Jackson, Joe, Pat, Riley, Shelby, Frank, Kaitlyn, Daniel, Ryder, Jenny, Abby, Immigrant families, The Homeless, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim and Our Church Family. **Long Term:** The Sanders Family, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, John B., Michelle, Josh, CJ, 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.

**July Benevolence Offering =  
Homeless Service Center**

P: Beloved of God,  
By the overwhelming abundance of divine mercy  
We have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,  
Through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.  
Our sins are forgiven.  
Let us live now in hope.  
For hope does not disappoint  
Because God's love has been poured into our hearts  
Through the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

### **\*Opening Hymn**

*"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"* Red #858

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul praise him, for he is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,  
Joining in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things  
is wondrously reigning  
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen all that is needful has been  
Sent by his gracious ordaining?**

**Praise to the Lord, who will prosper  
your work and defend you;  
Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
If with his love he befriend you.**

**Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath,  
come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again.  
Gladly forever adore him!**

## God Give Us Life By Ray Makeever

### \*Call to Worship

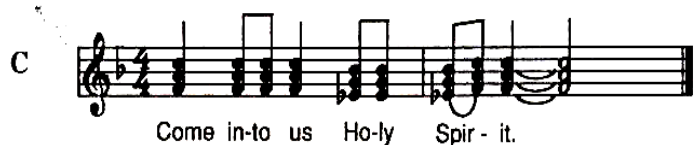
**L** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, breathing life into all creatures.



**L** In the beginning God created the people of the earth, naming humanity the embodiment of the divine presence.



**L** In the beginning God guided the darkness over the earth, leading it into light, forming a communion from the chaos.



**L** As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be...

**C** God give us life!

\*Benediction Solo voice first time; congregation second time.



### \*Closing Hymn

*"For the Fruit of All Creation"* Red #679

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.  
For these gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
Future needs in earth's safe keeping, thanks be to God

In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.  
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.  
In our world wide task of caring  
for the hungry and despairing,  
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
Most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

### \*Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
Thanks be to God.

## Communion Hymn

"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

### \*Communion Blessing

**P:** May this Holy Communion of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace now and forever

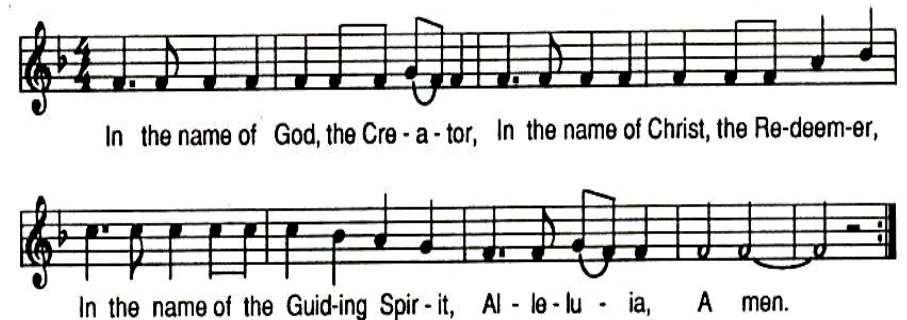
**C: Amen**

### \*Post Communion Prayer

**P:** God of the welcome table,  
In this meal we have feasted on your goodness  
And have been united by your presence among us.  
Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts  
So that we may share your neighborly love with all,  
Through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

**C: Amen**

*Leader sings first time, women only second time;  
whole congregation third time*



*Solo voice sings first line; congregation second.*

Verse

L Come let us wor-ship God. Come let us wor-ship God.

C Come let us wor-ship God. Come let us wor-ship God

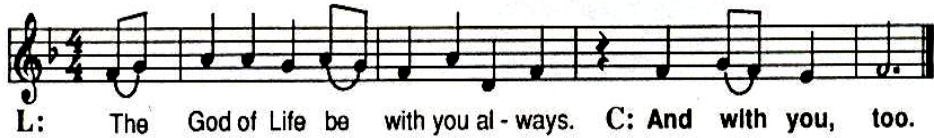
Refrain

L Wel-come ev-'ry-one to the love of God.

C Wel-come ev-'ry-one to the love of God.

Verses: 2. Rest for the weary ....  
3. Food for the hungry ....  
4. Hope for the children ....





\*Prayer of the Day

Celebrate pg. 1

P: Let us pray

C: Amen

First Reading

Isaiah 44:6-8

Celebrate pg. 1

R: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Read Responsively

Psalms 86:11-17

Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading

Romans 8:12-25

Celebrate pg. 3

R: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

\*Gospel Acclamation



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.

Lamb of God: vs. 1 and 2 only

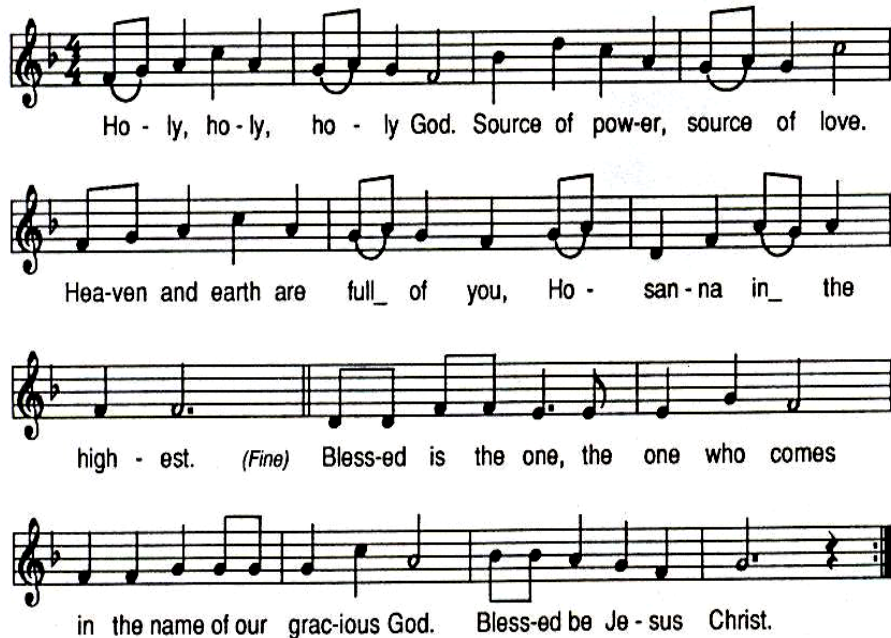


2. Lamb of God, who'd give your soul  
To see a broken world made whole,  
Have mercy upon us. mercy upon us... etc.

Holy Communion

As we continue to worship at a distance, please provide your own bread and fruit of the vine to commune with. Use the words "The Body of Christ given" and "The Blood of Christ shed" when you receive each of the elements.

## Holy Holy



## \*Words of Institution

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 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."

## \*The Lord's Prayer

**C: Our Father, in heaven**  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
**Give us today our daily bread;**  
**Forgive us our sins,**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 13th Chapter.  
C: **Glory to you, O God.**

\*The Gospel Matthew 13:24-43 Celebrate pg. 3

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon Pastor James Lapp

## \*Hymn of the Day

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" Red #693

**Come, ye thankful people, come;  
raise the song of harvest home.  
All be safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.  
God, our maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.  
Come to God's own temple, come,  
raise the song of harvest home.**

**All the world is God's own field, Fruit unto his praise to yield;  
Wheat and tares together sown, Unto joy or sorrow grown.  
First the blade, and then the ear, Then the full corn shall appear.  
Lord of harvest, grant that we  
Whole-some grain and pure may be.**

**For the Lord our God shall come  
And shall take his harvest home;  
From his field shall in that day All offenses purge away;  
Give his angels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,  
But the fruitful ears to store In his garner evermore.**

**Even so, Lord, quickly come To thy final harvest home.  
Gather then thy people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin,  
There, forever purified, In thy garner to abide.  
Come, with all thine angels, come,  
Raise the glorious harvest home!**

## \*Prayers of the Church

Celebrate Pg. 4

\*Passing of the Peace

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

C: **And also with you.**

Offering—*Please continue to give by mail, website or church mailbox*

\*Offertory Hymn      *Solo voice sings first time through;  
Congregation sings through twice as gifts are presented.*



Come bring them to the ta - ble. Bring the  
gifts of bread and wine. The hopes and dreams of all the  
1.  
peo - ple, the of - fring of our lives.  
2,3.  
of - fring of our lives, the of - fring of our lives.

\*Offering Prayer

P: God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours,  
And your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.  
Water and word, wine and bread:  
These are signs of your abundant grace.  
Nourish us through these gifts,  
That we might proclaim your steadfast love  
In our communities and in the world,  
Through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

C: **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving



L The God of Life be with you al - ways.  
C And with you, too.  
L Lift up your hearts, Lift up your minds.  
C We lift them joy - ful - ly un - to God.  
L Let us thank our grac - ious God.  
C It is right to give God thanks and praise.  
L The God of Life be with you al - ways.  
C And with you, too.