

Worship online at 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 & 7:30pm.

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

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

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

24th Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 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

*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,
The one who fashions us,
The one who heals us,
The one who reforms us again and again.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin, calling for God’s transforming power.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P: Source of all life,

**C: We confess that we have not allowed
Your grace to set us free.
We fear that we are not good enough.
We hear your word of love freely given to us,
Yet we expect others to earn it.
We turn the church inward,
Rather than moving it outward.
Forgive us. Stir us.
Reform us to be a church powered by love,
Willing to speak for what is right,
Act for what is just,
And seek the healing of your whole creation.
Amen.**



**OUTDOOR
WORSHIP**

**Consecration Sunday
November 22 @ 10:30
Church Parkinglot**

Bring your own chairs, masks & commitments

Let’s all respond generously to God’s love and grace for us. Use the materials mailed out to you (Nov. 11) to honestly reflect on how you will give thanks in the coming year. By faith, as God enables us, let’s strive to:

- Pray regularly for the ministry of our church.
- Attend worship services often to keep our faith first, and seek to interest others in sharing that with us.
- Be available to follow God’s leading by offering your gifts of time and ability through our church.
- Significantly give financially to the work of the Spirit as a reflection of your dedication, through the ministry of our church in 2021.



*The Altar Flowers are given
By Kent Madsen
In memory Christine's Birthday*

November Benevolence Offering

"Santa Cruz al Salvador" Sister Parish



Prayer Concerns

Short Term: Healthcare workers, teachers, The Wickham Family, Barbara J., Kent, Family of Eleanor Zoellner, Donna, Betsy, Tom, Anna, Krispa, Patsy, Zachary Sherilyn Jager & family, Family of Delores Price, Family of Al Mitchell, Jennifer & family, Family of Cheryl Denny, Jean Patterson, Frank Giammona, Heather, Kevin, Family of Suzanne Duval, Vanessa, Rose, Shelly Barker

& family, Sam, George Webber & Family, Cox Family, Becky & Aaron Johnson, Marlene Simmen & family, Lorraine Chavez, Kimberly & Danny, Lora Schraft Poulson, Nelleke, Hendrick, Chuck, Michael, Kayla, Don, Lina, Sal, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Cabel, Miller, Kyle, Noah, Esdras, Jackson, 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.

P: God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us
And to empower our lives in the world.
Our sins are forgiven.
† God's love is unconditional,
And we are raised up as God's people
Who will always be made new,
In the name of Jesus Christ. C: **Amen.**

*Opening Hymn

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" #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!**

God Give Us Life By Ray Makeever

*Call to Worship

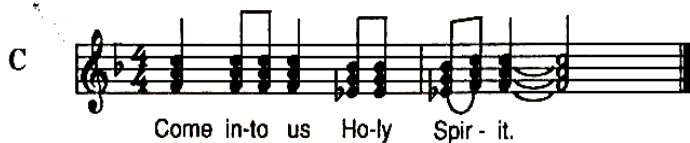
- L** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, breathing life into all creatures.



- 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

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

Red # 674

1. Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

REFRAIN (two times)

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

2. Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love and word and in deed express. REFRAIN (two times)

3. Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) ev'ry-where! REFRAIN (two times)

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Sound the good news.
Thanks be to God.

Communion Hymn

"Thine the Amen"

Red #826

Thine the amen thine the praise alleluias angels raise
Thine the everlasting head thine the breaking of the bread
Thine the glory thine the story thine the harvest then the cup
thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.

Thine the life eternally thine the promise let there be
Thine the vision thine the tree all the earth on bended knee
Gone the nailing gone the railing gone the pleading gone the cry
gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.

Thine the truly thine the yes thine the table we the guest
Thine the mercy all from thee thine the glory yet to be
Then the ringing and the singing then the end of all the war
Thine the living thine the loving evermore evermore

Thine the kingdom thine the prize thine the wonder full surprise
Thine the banquet then the praise then the justice of thy ways
Thine the glory thine the story then the welcome to the least
Then the wonder all increasing at thy feast at thy feast.

Thine the glory in the night no more dying only light
Thine the river thine the tree then the Lamb eternally
Then the holy holy holy celebration jubilee
Thine the splendor thine the brightness only thee only thee.

*Prayer after Communion

P: Holy and compassionate God,
In bread and wine you give us gifts
That form us to be humble and courageous.
May your words come to life
In our serving and in our witness,
That we might speak a living voice
Of healing and justice to all the world,
Through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

C: Amen

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



In the name of God, the Cre - a - tor, In the name of Christ, the Re-deem-er,

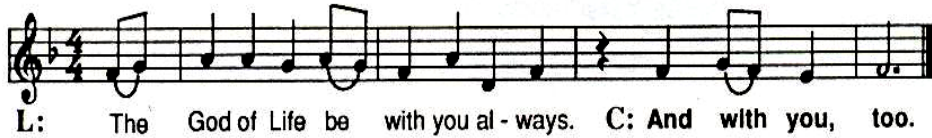


In the name of the Guid-ing Spir - it, Al - le - lu - ia, A men.

Solo voice sings first line; congregation second.



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

Zephaniah 1:7-18

Celebrate pg. 1

R: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Read Responsively

Psalms 90:1-12

Celebrate pg. 2

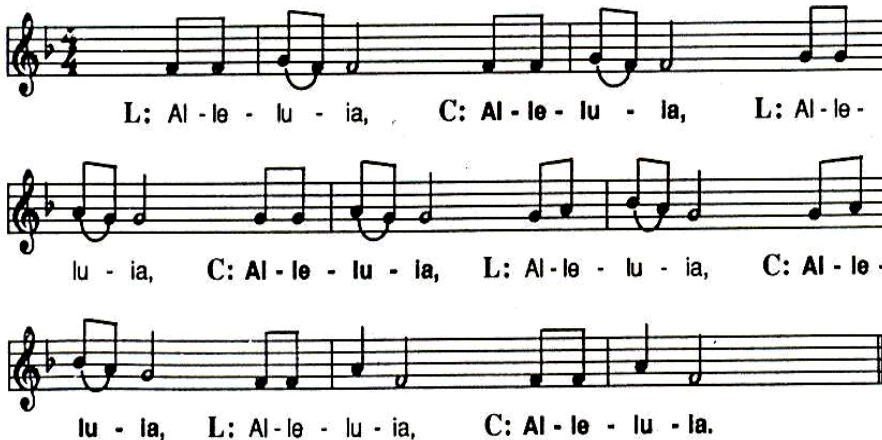
Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Celebrate pg. 3

R: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



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.

*Invitation to Communion

P: Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,
and make us one with you.

Holy Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God. Source of pow-er, source of love.



Hea-ven and earth are full_ of you, Ho - san - na in_ the



high - est. (Fine) Bless-ed is the one, the one who comes



in the name of our grac-ious God. Bless-ed be Je - sus Christ.

*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,
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.**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 25th Chapter.
C: Glory to you, O God.

*The Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

Celebrate pg. 3

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

Sermon

Pastor James Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love" #708

REFRAIN

**Jesu, Jesu,
fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.**

**Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them.**

REFRAIN

**Neighbors are wealthy and poor,
varied in color and race;
neighbors are nearby and far away.**

REFRAIN

**These are the ones we will serve,
these are the ones we will love;
all these are neighbors to us and you.**

REFRAIN

**Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet;
this is the way we will live with you.**

REFRAIN

*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 - f'ring of our lives.
2,3.
of - f'ring of our lives, the of - f'ring of our lives.

*Offering Prayer

P: God of life,
You give us these gifts of the earth,
These resources of our life and our labor.
Take them, offered in great thanksgiving,
And use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation;
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light.

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.