

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 & 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](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

23rd Sunday after Pentecost  
November 8, 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 worshipping 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.

## Prayer Concerns



**Short Term:** Healthcare workers, teachers, The Wickham Family, 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, Sheila & Terri, Frank Giammona, Heather, Kevin, Family of Su-

zanne 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.

### 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 ☺.

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

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” Red #244

**Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;  
The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.**

**The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near;  
Go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.**

**The saints, who here in patience their cross  
and suff'rings bore,  
Shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold;  
In triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.**

**Our hope and expectations, O Jesus, now appear;  
Arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see  
The day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!**

## God Give Us Life By Ray Makeever

### \*Call to Worship

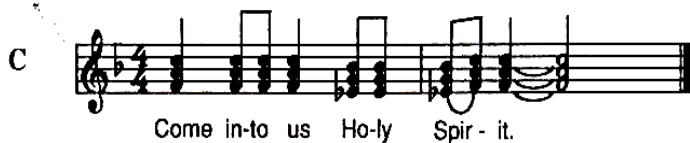
- L In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, breathing life into all creatures.



- 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!

### \*Closing Hymn

*"Blessed Assurance"* Red #638

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

#### **REFRAIN:**

*This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long:  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
Angels descending bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

**REFRAIN**

Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

**REFRAIN**

### \*Dismissal

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

## November Benevolence Offering

"Santa Cruz al Salvador"  
Sister Parish

## Communion Hymn

"Wait for the Lord" Red #262 (repeat often)

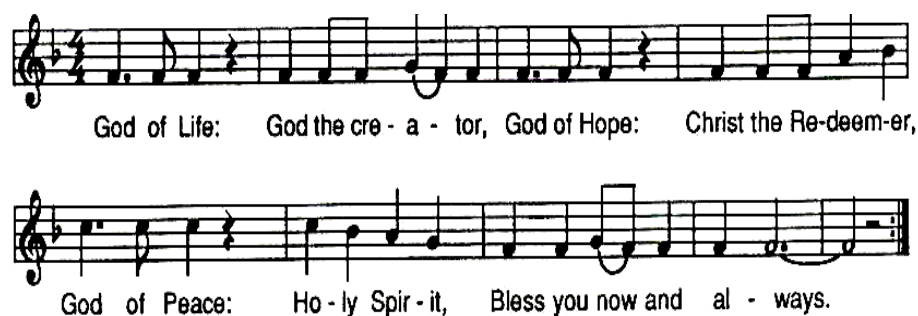
**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!**

## \*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.

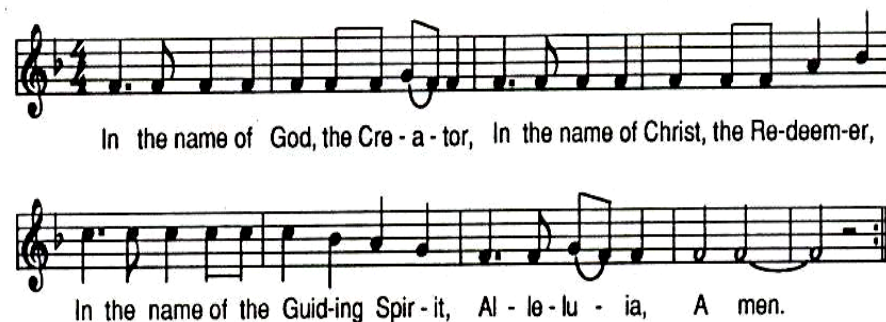
**C: Amen**

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



God of Life: God the cre - a - tor, God of Hope: Christ the Re-deem-er,  
God of Peace: Ho - ly Spir - it, Bless you now and al - ways.

*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.

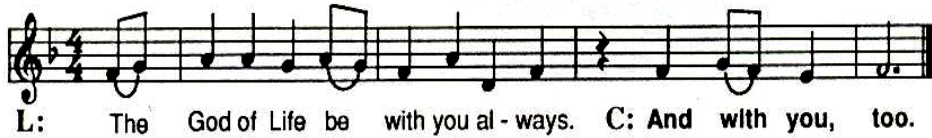
*Solo voice sings first line; congregation second.*



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

Amos 5:18-24

Celebrate pg. 1

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

Read Responsively

Psalms 70

Celebrate pg. 2

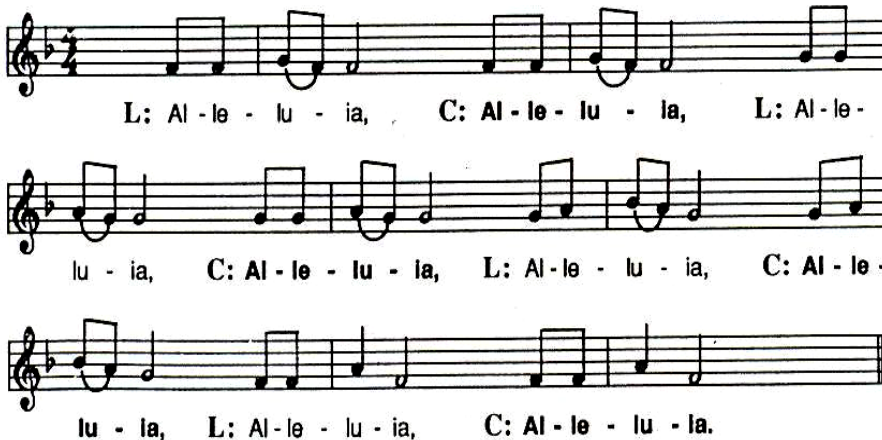
Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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.

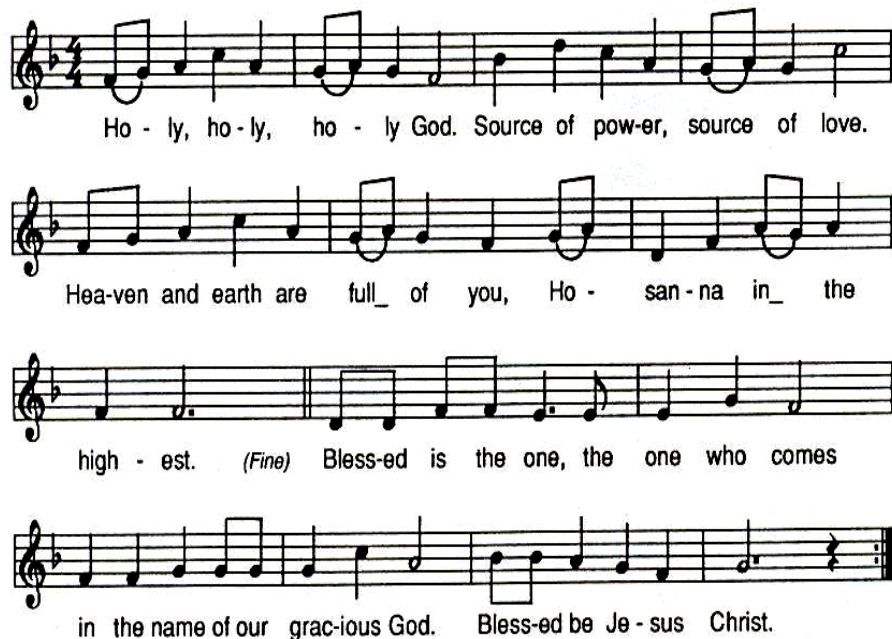
Holy Communion

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



## \*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 25:1-13

Celebrate pg. 3

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

## Sermon

Pastor James Lapp

## \*Hymn of the Day

*"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"*

Red #815

**I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life... is Jesus. REFRAIN**

## **REFRAIN**

**In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**I want to see... the brightness of God.  
I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,  
And show me the way to the Father. REFRAIN**

**I'm looking for... the coming of Christ.  
I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run.... With patience the race,  
We shall know the joy... of Jesus. 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.