

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,
And invite people to share the joy of the Spirit.

Reconciling in Christ Statement

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.
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Santa Cruz, CA 95062

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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 & Sun. School: Leslie Lapp
Music Director: Gary Roberts
Videographers: Kent Madsen & Barbara Rice
Child Development Center Director: Kathy Berens
Custodian: John Hopping

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And Liturgy Augsburg #SBL 14385

4th Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021

The Gathering

Prelude

Gary Roberts

Welcome

*Prayer of Confession and Forgiveness

P: If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: For self-centered living,
and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness;

C: Holy God, have mercy on us.

P: For longing to have what is not ours,
and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves;

C: Holy God, have mercy on us.

P: For misuse of human relationships,
and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others;

C: Holy God, have mercy on us.

P: For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God,
and for carelessness with the fruits of creation;

C: Holy God, have mercy on us.

P: For not living like a child of God,
and squandering the gifts of love and grace;

C: Holy God, have mercy on us.

Upcoming Events

Wednesdays in Lent

March 17, 24

Holden Evening Prayer

Recorded Service on our Website

www.ststephenslutheran.org

Thursday Bible Studies

Pastor Jim Zoom with
(check email on Weds. for link)
11am -12noon and 7:30 pm—8:30 pm

We will be looking at the upcoming scripture readings for Sunday, to enrich our worship experience and uncover some of the deeper truths of our faith. As we grow in our faith, we grow together in spirit and community.

Outdoor Worship Dates

(Inclement weather cancels)

Palm Sunday, March 28th at 10am.

Easter Sunday, April 4th at 10am.

Please remember to wear a mask or two, bring your own chair, or remain in your car.
Holy Communion will be offered with pre-sealed cups and wafer.

**Provide Lunches for
Volunteers
Tuesday, March 23**
(4th Tuesday of each month)



Contact the church office
if you can provide:
Sandwiches, Fruit, Chips or Cookies

We have a pew just for you

It is easy to provide a safe (masked & socially distanced) space for you here. If you would like to participate, we are open to a few people coming to worship when we record on Fridays at 11:00 am (new day). Please call in advance so we can keep our number at ten. 476-4700.

Let's Keep in Touch!

Thank you to those of you who have been sending us notes and messages of encouragement and support. They help keep us hopeful and joyful! We always love to hear how things are going. We would like to share your experiences in the Newsletter each month. So, give some thought to what's been happening in your life - we ALL miss each other, and would be thrilled to hear what's up!



P: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
Through the Holy Spirit, God gives life,
freedom from the power of sin,
and resurrection from the dead.
In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
Live in newness of life.

C: Amen.

*Opening Hymn "When Morning Gilds the Skies" Red #853

**When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awaking cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
When evening shadows fall,
This rings my curfew call:
May Jesus Christ be praised!**

**When mirth for music longs,
This is my song of songs:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
God's holy house of prayer
Has none that can compare
with "Jesus Christ be praised!"**

**No lovelier antiphon
In all high heav'n is known
Than "Jesus Christ be praised!"
There to the eternal Word
The eternal psalm is heard:
Oh, Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Let all of humankind
In this their concord find:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Let all the earth around
Ring joyous with the sound:
May Jesus Christ be praised! (Cont. next pg.)**

Sing, sun and stars of space,
Sing, all who see his face,
Sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!"
God's whole creation o'er,
Today and ever more
Shall Jesus Christ be praised!



Altar Flowers offered
by Barbara Rice
to the Glory of God.

*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—We bring our burdens and cares to God ELW #151

Kyrie



1, 3	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
2	Chris - te e - le - i - son.	Chris - te e - le - i - son.
1, 3	Lord, have mer - cy.	Lord, have mer - cy.
2	Christ, have mer - cy.	Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son.	Chris - te e - le - i - son.
Lord, have mer - cy.	Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, . . . have mer - cy.	Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

Music: Dinah Reindorf, b. c. 1927
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Prayer Concerns

Short Term: Leslie Lapp and Family, Healthcare workers, teachers, Marla Meek and family, Kathy Allen and Family, Beth Stiles, Nancy and Sam, Marisa, Margot Wilson, Corinne, The Wickham Family, Kent, Donna, Betsy, Tom, Anna, Krispa, Patsy, Zachary, Family of Al Mitchell, Jean Patterson, Frank Giammona, Heather, Kevin, Vanessa, Rose, Shelly Barker & family, Sam, George Webber & Family, Cox Family, Becky & Aaron Johnson, Lorraine Chavez, Lora Schraft Poulson, Nelleke, Hendrick, 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:** Leslie Lapp, The Sanders Family, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, John B., Michelle, Josh, CJ, Jeff Tarantino, 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.

March Special Offering

Live Oak Community Resources

*Blessing

P: Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation.
Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring,
+ Bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and peace.
C: Amen.

*Closing Hymn

“My Life Flows On in Endless Song” Red #763

**My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation**

REFRAIN

**No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth
How can I keep from singing?**

**Through all the tumult and the strife
I hear that music ringing
It finds an echo in my soul
How can I keep from singing? REFRAIN**

**What though my joys and comforts die?
The lord my Savior liveth
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth REFRAIN**

**The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
A fountain ever springing
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? REFRAIN**

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.
C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Gary Roberts

(No Hymn of Praise during Lent)

*The Salutation

P: May God be with you.
C: And also with you.

*Prayer of the Day

Celebrate insert pg. 1

P: Let us pray...
C: Amen

The Word of God

First Reading: Numbers 21: 4-9

Celebrate insert pg. 1

R: Word of God, word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Ephesians 2: 1-10

Celebrate insert pg. 3

R: Word of God, word of life
C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 3rd Chapter
C: Glory to you, O God.

*Holy Gospel

John 3: 14-21

Celebrate insert pg. 3

P: The Gospel of our Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Jim Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" #712

**Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need
Who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed
We your servants bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart
Consecrating to your purpose ev'ry gift which you impart**

**Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead
As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul
By your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole**

**As we worship, grant us vision till your love's revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight
Making known the needs and burdens, Your compassion bids us bear
Stirring us to ardent service, Your abundant life to share**

**Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go,
To the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort, counsel, aid, & peace we give,
That your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.**

*Prayers of the Church

Celebrate insert pg. 4

*Passing of the Peace

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

C: And also with you.

Offering

*"We give thanks to God for the gifts of life, for grace and forgiveness
for each day, and for everlasting life."*

*Post Communion Hymn

ELW #200

Now, Lord

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in
peace: your word has been ful - filled. My
own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of all peo - ple: a light to re -
veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther,
and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and
will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Music: *Detroit Folk Mass*, Tillis Butler, d. 2002, and James Harris
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Holy Communion

*Please have some bread & fruit of the vine (wine or grape juice)
ready to commune either yourself or a loved one with you.
Please use the words: "The Body of Christ given." for the bread,
and "The Blood of Christ shed." for the cup.*

*Communion Blessing and Prayer

P: May this Holy Communion of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen,
keep and unite us now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray...

Generous God,
You have fed us and renewed us in your holy meal.
Send us into the world you love.
Through our fasting and devotion
Draw us to you and to our neighbors,
That we may break bonds of injustice,
Feed the hungry,
And set the oppressed free.
In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

*Offertory Hymn "Give Me a Clean Heart" Margaret Douroux

Refrain

Give me a clean heart so I may serve thee. Lord, fix my heart so that I may be used by thee. For I'm not worthy of all these blessings. Give me a clean heart, Lord, and I'll follow thee.

Fine

1 I'm not asking for the
2 Some-times I am up, and

*Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray.

**C: God of all creation, all you have made is good,
and your love endures forever.
You bring forth bread from the earth
and fruit from the vine.
Nourish us with these gifts,
that we might be for the world
signs of your gracious presence
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*The 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 God our Creator

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

P: It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always
offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ,
who bids us turn to you and prepare for the Paschal feast.

*Words of Institution

*Lord's Prayer (sung)

**C: Our Fa-ther in hea-ven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

For--give 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**

Invitation to Communion

P: God's love is poured out in Christ for you.
Open yourselves to receive it.

Lamb of God

LMGM2

LAMB OF GOD

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

Music: Tillis Hilde, © Augsburg Fortress