

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

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539  
And Liturgy Augsburg #SBL 14385

## 5th Sunday in Lent

March 21, 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

Weds. March 24 -Holden Vespers

April 1—Maundy Thursday

April 2—Good Friday

Recorded Services on our Website

[www.ststephenslutheran.org](http://www.ststephenslutheran.org)

### Thursday Bible Studies

Zoom with Pastor Jim  
(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.**

**Sunday April 18th at 10am.**

Please remember to wear a mask or two, bring your own chair, or remain in your car.

**Provide Lunches for  
Volunteers  
Tuesday, April 27**  
(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 Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" #807

1. **Come Thou Fount of every blessing  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise  
While the hope of endless glory  
fills my heart with joy and love,  
Teach me ever to adore thee;  
May I still thy goodness prove.**
2. **Here I raise my Ebenezer;  
Hither by Thy help I'm come;  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wandering from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
Interposed His precious blood.**
3. **Oh to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now like a fetter,  
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
Prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above.**

### \*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.**




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

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

Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

(No Hymn of Praise during Lent)

### \*The Salutation

P: May God be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

### 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**

\*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.*

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*

\*Prayer of the Day

Celebrate insert pg. 1

P: Let us pray...

**C: Amen**

## ***The Word of God***

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Celebrate insert pg. 1

R: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10

Celebrate insert pg. 3

R: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\*Holy Gospel

John 3: 14-21

Celebrate insert pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 12th chapter.

**C: Glory to You O God.**

(The Gospel is read aloud)

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Jim Lapp

**In the cross of Christ I glory,  
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.  
All the light of sacred story  
Gathers round its head sublime.**

**When the woes of life o'er take me,  
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me;  
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.**

**When the sun of bliss is beaming  
Light and love upon my way,  
From the cross the radiance streaming  
Adds more luster to the day.**

**Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,  
By the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure,  
Joys that through all time abide.**

\*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."*

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  
Music © 1986 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

\*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.

## 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

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

**C: Amen.**

## \*Post Communion Prayer

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* Fm7(<sup>b</sup>5)/E<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup><sup>6</sup> Fm7(<sup>b</sup>5)

Give me a clean heart so I may serve

4 E<sup>b</sup><sup>6</sup> A<sup>b</sup><sup>6</sup> Gm<sup>7</sup> F<sup>9</sup>

thee. Lord, fix my heart so that I may be used by

8 B<sup>b</sup>7sus B<sup>b</sup><sup>7</sup> Fm7(<sup>b</sup>5)/E<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup><sup>6</sup> A<sup>b</sup><sup>6</sup> G<sup>7</sup>

thee. For I'm not wor - thy of all these bless -

12 Cm<sup>7</sup> A<sup>o7</sup> E<sup>b</sup><sup>6</sup>/G Cm<sup>7</sup> A<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>maj7/B<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup><sup>7</sup>

ings. Give me a clean heart, Lord, and I'll fol - low

15 E<sup>b</sup> *Fine* B<sup>b</sup><sup>9</sup>

thee.

1 I'm not ask - ing 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