

## 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.—Fri. Noon—5:00 pm

Ministers: The People of St. Stephen's

Pastor: Rev. James P. Lapp

Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp

Music Director: Gary Roberts

Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens

Sunday School: Leslie Lapp

Custodian: John Hopping

Powerpoint: Jay Johnston

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539

The Lenten liturgy is part of The Mass of Mercy

by Lori True, published by G.I.A..

**Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 27, 2022  
10:00 a.m.**

Welcome to people new to this church or faith, long time Lutherans, and Christians from every tradition. Welcome to all who have no church home, want to follow Christ, have doubts, or do not believe. Welcome to new visitors and old friends. Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation and marital status, ability and challenge. Welcome to believers and questioners and questioning believers. This is a place where you are welcome to celebrate and sorrow, rejoice and recover. This is a place where lives are made new. Welcome on this day.

“\*”Asterisk means, “Please Stand”

**The Gathering**

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

*This confession provides for some extended silence for listening, pondering, centering, surrendering and self-reflection.*

*All may make the sign of the cross on your forehead or chest - the sign marked at baptism*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: God of heaven and earth,  
You come in close and make us yours.  
Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin,  
Embrace your forgiveness,  
And seek the way you set before us in,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

P: With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

*Some silence is kept.*

**Upcoming Events:**

March Benevolence Offering  
- Live Oak Community Resource Center

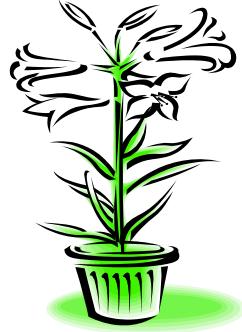
- March 29 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm
- March 30 Holden Evening Prayer 7:30 pm
- March 31 11am only Bible Study during Lent
- March 31 Mens beginner A.A. 7:00 pm
- March 31 Newsletter Collating 2:00 pm (helpers needed)
- April 4-8 Preschool & Church Office Closed
- April 6 (Last) Holden Evening Prayer 7:30 pm
- April 10 Palm Sunday
- April 14 Maundy Thursday 11:00 am & 7:30 pm
- April 15 Good Friday Worship 11:00 am & 7:30 p
- April 17 Easter Worship 8:30 am & 10:00 am
- April 18 Embroiderers 7:00 pm
- April 21 Resume Bible Study 11:00 am & 7:30 pm
- April 26 Habitat Lunches 10:30 am

**Pastor's Office Hours Weds. & Thurs. 10:00 to 1:00**

## Easter Lilies

To honor loved ones & benefit church ministries

- ~ \$15 checks to St. Stephen's
- ~ Memo line "Lily"
- ~ List your dedication on the sign up sheet



You may take home your Lily after the second service on Easter.

### **KEEP IN TOUCH:**

We all miss each other! Let us know what's been happening in your life. Your notes help keep everyone hopeful & joyful.

Email it to: "office@ststephenslutheran.org"

### **Readers needed**

**Sundays 10 am**

Please sign up in the narthex



P: Merciful God,

**C: Forgive us.**

**Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free.  
We have spoken when we should have kept quiet.**

*Silence*

P: We were silent when we should have said something.

*Silence*

P: We acted when we knew better.

*Silence*

P: We were still when we know we should have moved.

*Silence*

P: For the wrong we have done,

For the good we have failed to do,  
Have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us and lead us so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

**C: Amen**

P: People of God, look to Jesus † Christ,

Given to heal you and set you free  
Because God loved the world so much.

Take hold of life—eternal life begins now!

**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.**

(hymn continued)

Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
 Wandering from the fold of God;  
 He, to rescue me from danger,  
 Interposed His precious blood.

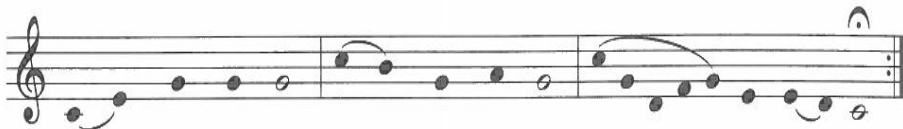
3. Oh to grace how great a debtor  
 Daily I'm constrained to be!  
 Let that grace now like a fetter,  
 Bind my wandering heart to Thee.  
 Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
 Prone to leave the God I love;  
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
 Seal it for Thy courts above.

\*Greeting

P: From the One who was, who is and who is to come:  
 Grace and peace be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

\*Kyrie



|                         |                      |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Lord, have mer-cy.   | Lord, have mer-cy.   | Lord, have mer-cy.   |
| 2. Christ, have mer-cy. | Christ, have mer-cy. | Christ, have mer-cy. |
| 3. Lord, have mer-cy.   | Lord, have mer-cy.   | Lord, have mer-cy.   |

Prayer of the Day

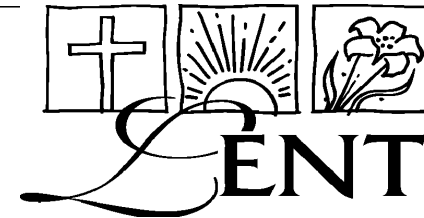
Celebrate Page 1

P: May God be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray...

**The Word of God**



Every THURSDAY thru April 7th

Bible Study

11am Only – on Zoom

Every WEDNESDAY thru April 6th -

Holden Evening Prayer Worship @ 7:30 pm

In-Person / Livestream /Recording on our website

These worship gatherings are designed to help us reflect more deeply on our walk of faith with God. The Season of Lent calls all Christians into a time of fasting, prayer and helping those in need in order to help us prepare for the miracle of the Resurrection at Easter. \* Invite your friends \*

**Serving this week**

Ushers: Bill Anderson  
Reader: Renee Rice  
Coffee Hosts: Connie & Paul Cunningham  
Power Point: Jay Johnston  
Office Helpers: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager

**Prayer Concerns**

**SHORT TERM:** The People of Ukraine, Jack Morison family (baby Nickie Elizabeth), Gracia Bell Williams & Family, Nancy Madsen (Stephen, Shannon, Matt, Scott, BeeJai & grandchildren), Family of Glenn Johnson, Kent Madsen, Family of Chris Slay (Tyler, Levi, Alexandria, Dean, Keith & Janet) Gracia Bell Williams & Family, Dawit & Family (Ethiopia), Family of Ryan Barker, Family of Rick Oldfield, Family of Ron Buswell, Family of Edna Lindquist, Amber, Gaye Cornell, Harriet Edsall, Dorothy, Laura, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Jane Davis, Kirsten Skiles, Jane, Nancy, Marisa, Margot Wilson, Rose, Sam, Aaron Johnson, Don, Lina, Sal, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Healthcare workers & teachers.

**LONG TERM:** Kyle Lapp, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Jan Wagner, Dale Negro & family, The Sanders Family, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Michelle, Josh, CJ, Bobbie Erickson, Lupe, Joyce, Susan Anderson, Jan Wagner, Richard C., Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Karin, Will, Chris, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, Cabel, Miller, Noah, Esdras, Immigrant families, The Homeless, Our Nation’s leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen’s Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family, men and women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

First Reading Joshua 5:9-12 Celebrate p.1  
R: Word of God, Word of Life,  
**C: Thanks be to God.**

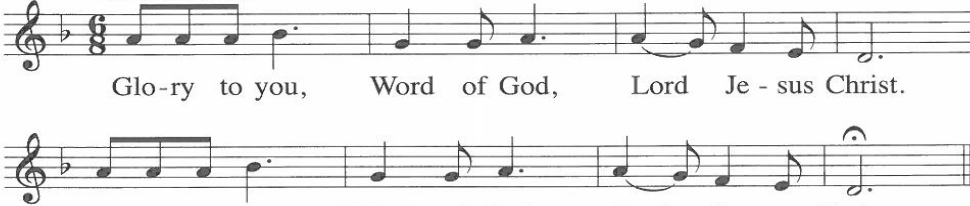
Psalm 32:11

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Celebrate p.1  
R: Word of God. Word of Life.  
**C: Thanks be to God.**

\*Gospel Acclamation Cantor verse solo  
All sing twice

**GOSPEL**

*Cantor, then All*



Glo-ry to you, Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ.

Glo-ry to you, Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ.

\*Gospel Reading  
P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Luke the 15th Chapter Cel. p. 3  
**C: Glory to you, O God.**

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

Sermon

Rev. Carol Been

\*Hymn of the Day

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling” Red #608

**Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,  
calling for you and for me.  
See, on the portals he’s waiting and watching,  
watching for you and for me.**

*REFRAIN:*

**“Come home, come home!  
You who are weary, come home.”  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, “Oh sinner, come home!”**

**Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,  
Pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,  
Mercies for you and for me? *REFRAIN***

**Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,  
Promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,  
Pardon for you and for me. *REFRAIN***

\* Prayers of the Church - sing after each petition

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**



God of love so un-sur-pass-ing, hear these prayers we of-fer to you.

The Lord’s face shine upon you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor  
And give you † peace.

**C: Amen**

\*Closing Hymn

“What Wondrous Love is This” Red #666

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul?**

**When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down beneath God’s righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.**

**To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing.**

**And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on;  
And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on;  
And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing God’s love for me,  
And through eternity I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on;  
And through eternity I’ll sing on.**

\*Dismissal

**P: Marked with the cross of Christ,  
go forth to love and serve the Lord.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come  
Tis grace has brought me safe thus far  
And grace will lead me home

The Lord has promised good to me;  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.

\*Communion Blessing

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

\*Prayer after Communion

P: Compassionate God,  
You have fed us with the bread of heaven.  
Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage;  
May our fasting be hunger for justice,  
Our alms, a making of peace,  
And our prayer, the song of grateful hearts;  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**C: Amen**

## Sending

\*Blessing

P: May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,  
And claimed us as children of the light,  
Strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.  
The Lord bless you and keep you.

## The Meal

\*Passing of the Peace

P: May the peace of God be with you always.  
**C: And also with you.**

Offering

\*Offertory Prayer

P: Merciful God,  
Receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving  
And the offering of our lives,  
That following in the way of the cross,  
We may know the joy of the resurrection;  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**C: Amen.**

\*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 the Lord our God.  
**C: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all  
times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O God...  
We praise your name and join the unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of  
hosts. Heav - en and earth are full, full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san -  
na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes, comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san -  
na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### \*Words of Institution

### \*Lord's Prayer

P: God, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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

### Invitation to Communion

Return to God with all your heart.  
Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

## AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world,  
*Repeat as needed*  
have mer - cy on us. *Last time* Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sins of the world, grant us peace.

### Communion Song

*"Amazing Grace"* **Red #779**

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found  
Was blind, but now I see**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!**

(hymn continued)