

*Because
I live,
you also
will live*

JOHN 14:19

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2023

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.

Please fill out the “Worship Slip” and place it in the offering plate.

(*) Asterisk means, “Please stand as you are able.”

Prelude in G minor Alexander Scriabin

The Gathering

*Call to Worship

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
The fountain of living water,
The rock who gave us birth,
Our light and our salvation.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us come into the light,
the revealing and healing light of God.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: God of grace and glory,

**C: We confess to you all the ways in which
we dismiss the resurrection news.
We are slow of heart to believe.
Rescue us from evil and the gloom of sin.**

**C: Renew us in grace, reawaken our trust,
strengthen our hope,
and restore us to living in your ways,
Through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

P: The Risen Christ's first words to his disciples were:
Peace be with you.
Sisters and brothers, rejoice with all creation!
The light of the risen Christ puts to flight all evil,
Casts out hate and brings peace.
Jesus + Christ loves you and has freed us all from sin.
Rejoice and welcome this freedom as a cherished gift!
Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!

*Opening Hymn

“Loving Spirit” Red #397

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
You have chosen me to be
You have drawn me to your wonder,
You have set your sign on me.

Like a mother you enfold me,
Hold my life within your own,
Feed me with your very body,
Form me of your flesh and bone.

Like a father you protect me,
Teach me the discerning eye,
Hoist me up upon your shoulder,
Let me see the world from high.

Friend and lover, in our closeness
I am known and held and blessed:
In your promise is my comfort,
In your presence I am rest.

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
You have chosen me to be
You have drawn me to your wonder,
You have set your sign on me.

*Greeting

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: The grace of our risen Savior,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

C: And also with you

*Prayer of the Day

God Stories

The Word of God

First Reading Acts 7:55-60 Celebrate pg. 1

Second Reading 1 Peter 2:2-10 Celebrate pg. 2

*Alleluia “Halle, Halle, Halelujah” Red #172

Halle, halle, halle—lu~u~jah!
Halle, halle, halle—lu~u~jah!

Halle, halle, halle—lu~u~jah!
Halleujah! Halle~lu~jah!

*Gospel Reading

John 14:1-14

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. John, the 14th Chapter

C: Glory to you. O God.

(The Gospel is read)

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

Rev. James Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

“Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth” Red #735

Mothering God, you gave me birth,
in the bright morning of this world.
Creator, source of ev’ry breath, you are my rain,
My wind, m sun.

Mothering Christ, you took my form,
Offering me your food of light,
Grain...of life, and grape of love, your very body
For my peace.

Mothering spirit, nurt’ring one,
In arms of patience hold me close,
So that in faith I root and grow until I flow’r,
Until I know.

The Communion Meal

* Passing of the Peace

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

C: And also with you.

Offering — We honor and worship God by returning some of the gifts with which we have been blessed.

Music Prelude. Maurice Ravel

Offertory Prayer

P: Giver of life,

C: We bring to your table what we have, gifts from you, the one who makes all things new.

**With these signs we bring ourselves,
that we may carry to the world
the love of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our JOY...

*Words of Institution

*Lord's Prayer

**C: Our Father, in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is 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 gifts of God for the people of God.
Come for all is ready!

(You may be seated)

Holy Communion

*Guests: EVERYONE is welcome to come forward to receive
Communion as part of this church family!*

Communion Hymn

“Now in This Banquet”

WP #104

CHORUS

Now in this banquet, Christ is our bread;
here shall all hungers be fed.
Bread that is broken, wine that is poured;
love is the sign of our Lord.

(Hymn continued)

You who have touched us and graced us with love,
make us your people of goodness and light.

Let our hearts burn with the fire of your love;
open our eyes to the glory of God.

God who makes the blind to see, God who makes the lame
to walk,
bring us dancing into day, lead your people in your way

Hope for the hopeless, light for the blind,
strong is your name, Lord, Gentle and Kind.

Call us to be your light, call us to be your love;
make us your people again.

Come, O Spirit! Renew our hearts!
We shall arise to be children of light.

The Sending

*Communion Blessing

P: May this Holy Communion of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C: Amen

*Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray:

In this meal, O God, you have strengthened us
by the risen life of your Son.

Send us by your Spirit
to live in peace with one another
and to renew your whole creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

*Benediction

P: The God of life,
Who raised Jesus from the dead,
Who sends forth the Spirit to renew the face of the earth,
Bless you + and Keep you, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Closing Hymn *“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”* #631

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav’n to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter ev’ry trembling heart.

Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev’ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav’n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

*Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Go in Peace. Share the Good News.
C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**



Postlude

Prelude in G Minor Fredric Chopin. Op.28, No.22

Serving Today

Reader: Janet Slay

Coffee Host:

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager

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Cradle Roll

Coordinator needed

From the comfort of your own home, this is a wonderful opportunity to welcome families to our church. Please let the office know if you are interested in this service.

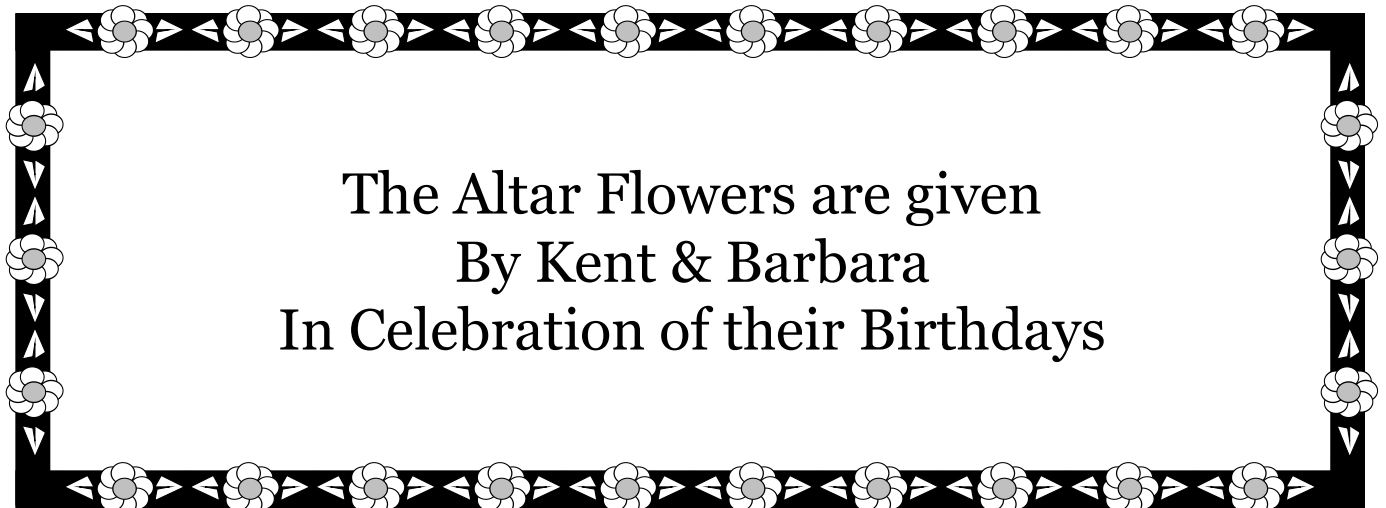


Thank you Candace Anderson for your YEARS of faithful service.

Prayer Concerns

SHORT TERM: Sandi Csik, Amy Wimmer, James, Barbara Rowe, George Trippel, Darlene Woodburn, Jacob & Family, Family of Marij Young, Barbara Hansen, Tom Harris, Barbara Allen, Marshall Bautz & Family, Carla Brown, Kathy, Family of Gwyn Larson, Joel Hurttgam, Jacob & Family, Judith Alvarado, Family of Kirsten Skiles, Carla Brown & children, Keith, Sandy, Levi & Alexandria, Norman's Father, friends in Bakersfield, Gary Toops, Donna Kemper, Lisa & Beau, Craig Dahl, Family of Kurt Bell, Genell Csik, Barbara Barte, Mike Homa, Mateo, Family of Mark Cronquist, Barbara Stiles, Family of Connor Kowalski, Paul Cunningham, Anita & Howard, Sydnei Wilbywold, Paul Paustian, Deborah Henry, Ellie, Adrian Cameron, Dawit & Family (Ethiopia), Gaye Cornell, Dorothy, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Nancy, Marisa & Isaac, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Anthony, Steve, Margot Wilson, Rose, Will, Sam, Aaron Johnson, Sal, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Parents, Healthcare workers & teachers.

LONG TERM: April McCalmont, Marty Nehring, Miller Mouw, Kyle Lapp, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Dom, 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, Noah, Esdras, Immigrant families, The Homeless, People of Ukraine, 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.





COPA Convention 20th Anniversary

Saturday, May 20 from 5:00 to 7:00
Golden Sate Theater
417 Alvarado St. — Monterey

Nearly 1,000 people will gather from across the region to celebrate COPA's 20th Anniversary, lay out organizing strategies on key issues (such as housing, Pajaro flooding, and workforce development) affecting local families, and engage with elected officials around these concerns.

The convention is an opportunity for our diverse communities to come together in pursuit of justice. Through sharing our stories and traditions, building power together and celebrating our victories we demonstrate how working together brings benefits to all.

It's time for members to renew their covenant and plan forwards for the next 20 years!



Mt. Cross Memorial Day Work Weekend May 26-28

All are invited to volunteer at camp for a weekend of service, fellowship, and fun! Service projects include but are not limited to:

- Madrone Bathroom Repairs
- Sand Volleyball Court Maintenance
- Dining Hall Bathroom Repairs
- Cabin Deck Repairs
- Trail Maintenance
- Cabin Deep Cleaning

Enjoy a campfire, s'mores, worship, and delicious food while giving back to the place we love. Together, we can keep Mt. Cross beautiful! See Mtcross.org

**Special invite:
Friday, May 26
Between 1-9pm**

Help organize the Craft Cottage
Carpool, contact Elizabeth 239-6012
lizzy@baymoon.com



On Zoom or at Church w Pastor Jim
check email on Weds. for link

**THURSDAYS from 11a -12noon
and
7:30 pm – 8:30 pm**

For the next several months,
we will be using the biblical resource:

"Manna and Mercy"

***A Brief History of God's Unfolding
Promise to Mend the Entire Universe***

by Rev. Daniel Erlander

*(the same author as
"The Tales of The Pointless People",
which we used in Lent).*

Anyone can join in at any point. Each chapter stands alone, but is also connected as part of the whole story of the Bible.

Copies are available at church for \$10 each. Or it can be mailed to you.

Upcoming Events:

May Benevolence Offering - Mt. Cross
Lutheran Outdoor Ministry

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| TBA | Confirmation Class 6:30 pm |
| May 15 | Embroiders Guild 7:00 pm |
| May 16 | Boy Scouts 7:00 pm |
| May 17 | Women's Café Group 6:00 pm |
| May 18 | Knitters Guild 10 am |
| May 18 | Preschool Chapel 10:15 am |
| May 18 | Bible Study 11:00 am & 7:30 pm |
| May 18 | Mens beginner A.A. 7:00 pm |
| May 19 | Newsletter Deadline (June / July edition) |
| May 19 | A.A. 7:00 pm |
| May 20 | COPA Convention 5 pm Monterey 509-832-3325 |
| May 23 | Provide Habitat Lunches 10:30 am |
| May 26 | Newsletter Collating 2:00 pm |
| May 27—29 | Mt. Cross Work Weekend |

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

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."

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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, Kent Madsen & Barbara Rice

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539