



The kingdom of heaven  
is like yeast

MATTHEW 13:33

# 8th Sunday after Pentecost

July 23, 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.”

Music                      Fantaisie    Cesar Franck    Op.16

## 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.*

**Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who greets us in this and every season,  
whose word never fails,  
whose promise is sure.  
Amen**

Let us confess our need for God’s grace and love in our lives.

Merciful God,

**We confess that we fall short of your hope for humanity.  
We hurt our community at times.**

**We squander your blessings.  
We neglect to share your bounty.  
In the name of Jesus,  
Forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Holy God,  
We confess that we have failed to always be honest.  
We have lacked the courage to speak.  
We have spoken too quickly and hurtfully at times.  
In the name of Jesus,  
Forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.  
God offers boundless grace when we fail.  
Claim the gift of God's mercy:  
You are freed and forgiven  
In the name of + Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn      *"Womb of Life and Source of Being"*  
ACS #928

**Womb of life and source of being,  
home of ev'ry restless heart,  
In your arms the worlds awakened;  
you have loved us from the start.  
We, your children, gather round you,  
at the table you prepare.  
Sharing stories, tears, and laughter,  
We are nurtured by your care.**

**Word in flesh, our brother Jesus,  
Born to bring us second birth,  
You have come to stand beside us,  
Knowing weakness, knowing earth.  
Priest who shares our human struggles,  
Life of life and Death of death,**

Risen Christ, come stand among us,  
Send the Spirit by your breath.

Brooding Spirit, move among us;  
Be our partner, be our friend.  
When our mem'ry fails, remind us  
whose we are, what we intend.  
Labor with us; aid the birthing  
of the new world yet to be,  
Free of servant, lord, and master,  
Free for love and unity.

Mother, Brother, holy Partner;  
Father, Spirit, Only Son:  
We would praise your name forever,  
One in Three and Three in One.  
We should share your life, your passion,  
share your word of world made new,  
Ever singing, ever praising,  
One with all, and one with you.

\*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      "Spirit, Open My Heart"      ACS #1043

**REFRAIN**

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving.  
Spirit, open my heart.

1. God, replace my stony heart  
with a heart that's kind and tender.  
All my coldness and fear  
to your grace I now surrender.

REFRAIN

2. Write your love upon my heart  
as my law, my goal, my story.  
In each thought, word, and deed,  
may my living bring you glory.

REFRAIN

3. May I weep with those who weep;  
Share the joy of friend and neighbor.  
As I live from day to day,  
love will be my finest labor.

REFRAIN

\*Prayer of the Day

God Stories

## The Word of God

First Reading

Isaiah 44:6-8

Celebrate pg. 1

Second Reading

Romans 8:12-15

Celebrate pg. 2

\*Gospel Acclamation

ELW #175

### ALLELUIA



\*Gospel Reading     Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Matthew, the 13th 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

*"Beauty for Brokenness" W&P #17*

1. Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair:  
Lord in the suffering, this is our prayer.  
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace;  
Sunrise to sunset, your kingdom increase.

*Refrain: God of the poor, friend of the weak  
Give us compassion, we pray.  
Melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.  
Come change our love from a spark to a flame.*

2. Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,  
Work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills;  
Land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,  
Voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.

*(Refrain)*

3. Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,  
Cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share;  
Peace to the killing fields, scorched earth to green  
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.

*(Refrain)*



4. Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams,  
Plundered and poisoned, our future our dreams.  
Lord end our madness, carelessness, greed;  
Make us content with the things that we need.

*(Refrain)*

5. Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame,  
Until your justice burns brightly again;  
Until the nations learn of your ways,  
Seek your salvation, and bring you their praise.

*(Refrain)*

\*The Prayers of the Church

Celebrate, Page 4

## **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 Prayer of St. Francis  
A solo. Tina Gates

Offering Prayer

P: God of field and forest, sea and sky,  
You are the giver of all good things.  
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,  
And multiply your graciousness in us,

That the world may be fed with your love,  
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 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)

Invitation to Communion

*All people are called to Christ's table.  
Come, receive what is good.*

Communion Hymn

*"The Reign of God, like Farmer's Field"*

ACS #952

The reign of god, like farmer's field,  
Bears weeds along with wheat;  
The good and bad are intertwined  
Till harvest is complete.

The reign of God is like a pearl  
On barren land concealed.  
If once you find that precious pearl,  
go out and buy that field.

Though hidden now, the reign of God  
May, yet unnoticed, grow;  
From deep within it rises up,  
Like yeast in swelling dough.

Like mustard tree, the reign of God  
From tiny seed will spread,  
Till birds of ev'ry feather come to nest,  
And there be fed

The reign of God is come in Christ;  
The reign of God is near.  
Ablaze among us, kindling hearts,  
The reign of God is here!

## The Sending

### \*Prayer after Communion

P: We thank you, generous God,  
for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table.  
Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,  
through the one who is our dearest treasure,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

### \*Blessing

P: The God who calls across the cosmos  
and speaks in the smallest seed  
+ bless, keep, and sustain you  
now and to the end of the age.

**C: Amen**

### \*Closing Hymn *“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”* Red #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: Go in Peace. Share the harvest.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Music      A Psalm      Benedetto Marcello

Serving Today

Reader: Janet Slay

Coffee Host:

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager



## Sister Parish News

### **Prayer Child Sponsorships -**

Thank you to those who have committed to support your prayer children for another year and have made the associated donations. If you haven't sent yours, there's still time. We would also like you to write a short letter to your prayer child and include a photo. Please send them to:

Marian Langdon  
220 Horizon Way  
Aptos, CA 95003

Or, you may give them to me on Sundays.

As of this writing, there are 6 children that still need a sponsor. If you want to sponsor a child, please let me know. Thank you!

### **2023 Delegation?**

Planning has begun for a delegation this year. It will probably be in November, but the dates have not yet been decided. Please let me know if you are interested in going to El Salvador. Last year's flight cost \$590 roundtrip, so you have some idea. The in-country cost is generally less than \$500. Visiting El Salvador is a life-changing experience!

On behalf of the Board of Directors for Santa Cruz al Salvador (SCaS), I wish to thank all members of St. Stephen's who have contributed towards any of our projects such as the latrines in El Pilar, scholarships in Guillermo Ungo, or University Scholarships.

***Your gifts make a difference!***

## **Prayer Concerns**

### **SHORT TERM:**

*Jim & Anne Schafer & family, Karin Zaun, Family of Mark Oeding, Conrad, Boudreau family, Keith, Chelsea, John, Mateo, Tim, Charmaine, Linda, Atlas, Tony, Sandi Csik, Janiea Paustian, Amy Wimmer, Gray, Hailey, Jesse, Joyce, James, John, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Rowe, George & Scott, Darlene Woodburn, Jacob & Family, Barbara Hansen, Tom Harris, Barbara Allen, Rena Brown, Carla Brown, Kathy, Joel Hurttgam, Jacob & Family, Family of Kirsten Skiles, Carla Brown & children, Sandy, Levi & Alexandria, Norman's Father, friends in Bakersfield, Gary Toops, Donna Kemper, Lisa & Beau, Craig Dahl, Family of Kurt Bell, Genell Csik, Barbara Bartee, Family of Mark Cronquist, Barbara Stiles, Paul Cunningham, Anita & Howard, Sydnei Wilbywold, Paul Paustian, 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, Stephanie Jager, Parents, Healthcare workers & teachers.*

### **LONG TERM:**

*Biergiel—Colclough family, 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.*



You may sign up for Altar Flowers  
In the Narthex  
Dedicate to loved ones



## The Lutheran Office of Public Policy – California (LOPP-CA)

*Mission: to advocate with and on behalf of others in the quest for economic protection of human rights, reconciliation, and responsible stewardship of God's Creation.*

The annual Lutheran Lobby Day took place on May 17th. Lutherans from across the state gathered to advocate for the following bills:

- SB 4 (Wiener)- **Affordable housing development & zoning reform.** This bill would streamline the process for religious organizations & nonprofit colleges to develop affordable housing on their property.
- AB 249 (Holden)- **Clean drinking water in schools.** This bill would increase testing & disclosure requirements of school drinking water lead levels. It would additionally allocate funding for testing filters & infrastructure improvements to reduce/eliminate lead in water.
- AB 660 (Irwin)- **Food waste, food date labeling reform.** This bill would require the use of uniform terms for food product date labels, i.e. removing 'sell by' dates and making 'best by' or 'use by' dates clearer for consumers. The goal is to help reduce food waste, which is a large problem not only for addressing hunger but also for methane emissions and climate change.
- AB 1534 (Irwin)- **Methane emissions monitoring requirements.** This bill would use remote sensing technology to better identify and then regulate methane emissions from landfills.

Currently, all of these bills are in their respective house's Appropriations Committees.

## Upcoming Events:

July Benevolence Offering  
ELCA World Hunger

TBA	Confirmation 6:30 pm
July 25	Provide Habitat Lunches 10:30 am
July 25	Boy Scouts 7:00 pm
July 27	Preschool chapel 10:15 am
July 27	Bible Study 11:00 am & 7:30 pm
July 27	NL Collating 2:00 pm
July 27	Mens beginner A.A. 7:00 pm
July 28	A.A. 7:00 pm
Aug. 2	Women's Café Group 6:00 pm
Aug. 6	Gross Family (Grandbabies) baptism
Aug. 6	Back – to—School Blessing
Aug. 8	Knitters Guild 6:15 pm
Aug. 8	Church council 6:30 pm

**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."*

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church E.L.C.A.  
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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, Kent Madsen & Barbara Rice

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539