

Woman,
great is
your faith!

MATTHEW 15:28

12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 20, 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

“Little Fugue” Johann Ernst
1749- 1810

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

"All Are Welcome" Red #641

**Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

REFRAIN

**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place. (hymn continued)**

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;

Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

REFRAIN

Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:

A banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.

Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;

As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

REFRAIN

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone

To heal and strengthen serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.

Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;

Let us bring an end to fear and danger:

REFRAIN

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard

And loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,

Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

REFRAIN

*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 56:1, 6-8

Celebrate pg. 1

Second Reading

Romans 11:1-2, 29-325

Celebrate pg. 2

*Gospel Acclamation

ELW #175

ALLELUIA



*Gospel Reading

Matthew 15:10-28

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Matthew, the 15th 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

"Build a Longer Table" ACS #1062

*Build a longer table, not a higher wall,
Feeding those who hunger, making room for all.
Feasting together, stranger turns to friend,
Christ breaks walls to pieces;
False divisions end.*

*Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail;
Where the weak find shelter, mercy will not fail.
For any place where justice is denied,
Christ will breach the jail wall, freeing all inside.*

*Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence.
Love protects all people, sparing no expense.
When we embrace compassion more than fear,
Christ tears down our fences; all are welcome here.*

*When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad,
Christ became our doorway to the reign of God.
So must our tables welcome those who roam.
None can be excluded; all must find a home.*

*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

“Minute” (from Suite for a Musical clock). Vol.2
G. f. Handel. German

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

"One Bread, One Body" Red #496

REFRAIN

One bread, one body,
one Lord of all;
one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many
throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

Gentile or Jew,
Servant or free,
Woman or man,
No more. REFRAIN

Many the gifts,
Many the works,
One in the Lord
Of all. REFRAIN

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(hymn continued)

Grain for the fields,
Scattered and grown,
Gathered to one
For all. REFRAIN

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

“Soli Deo Gloria” Red #878

O God of blessings, all praise to you!
Your love surrounds us our whole life through.
You are the freedom of those oppressed;
You are the comfort of all distressed.
Come now, O h holy and welcome guest:

REFRAIN

Soli Deo gloria! Soli Deo gloria!

All praise for prophets, through grace inspired
To preach and witness with hearts on fire.
Your Spirit chooses the weak and small
To sing the new reign where mighty fall;
With them may we live your gospel call:
REFRAIN

RE~

All praise for music, deep gift profound,
Through hands and voices in holy sound;
The psalms of David, and Mary's praise,
In wordless splendor and lyric phrase,
With all creation one song we raise;

REFRAIN

All praise for Jesus, best gift divine
Through word and witness, in bread and wine;
Incarnate love song of boundless grace,
Priest, teacher, prophet in time and space,
Your steadfast kindness with human face:

REFRAIN

A billion voices in one great song,
Now soft and gentle, now deep and strong,
In every culture and style and key,
From hill and valley, with sky and sea,
With Christ we praise you eternally:

REFRAIN

*Dismissal

P: Go in Peace. Share the harvest.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music

“Largo” ~ Antonio Vivaldi
Italian Baroque, and Cleric

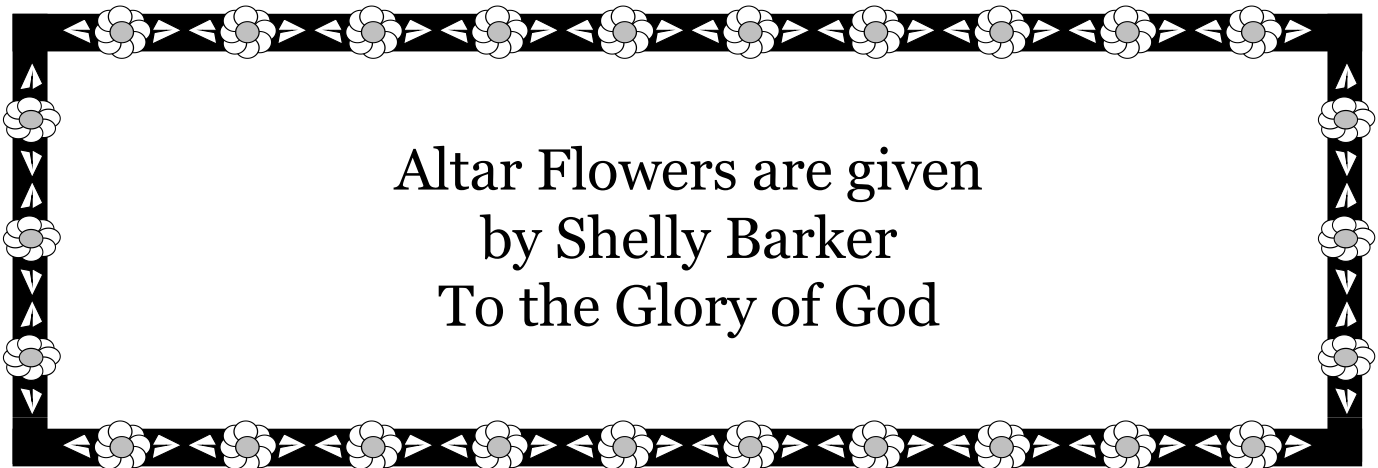


Serving Today

Reader: Barbara Johnston

Coffee Host: Shelly Barker

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager



Altar Flowers are given
by Shelly Barker
To the Glory of God

Prayer Concerns

SHORT TERM:

Keith, Andre, Joshua & Andrea, Irma, Family of Deane Strong & M. Hudi, Sam, Family of Jim Schafer, Jamie Sheehan, Family of Ron Mullen, Family of Sonya Miller, Ralph, Aria Brown, Karin Zaun, Family of Mark Oeding, Conrad, Boudreau family, 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, 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, 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, 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.

Music at St. Stephen's



September:

Introducing a new hymn

“Come Christians Join to Sing That Song”

A l l e l u i a !

With the Good News Singers & Brass Ensemble.

Still looking forward to strings & woodwinds in our service. Many talented young musicians are eager to participate in our church music. So, come on down!

Thanksgiving Brass — November 19

Christmas Brass — December 31

Please donate to the “Musicians Fund”
to enhance our worship together

Musical Quote:

“Finding old music you used to love,
is like getting back in touch with an old friend.”

~ Unknown

Upcoming Events:

August Benevolence Offering
California Lutheran University
& Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

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|-----------------|--|
| Aug. 20 | Confirmation 6:30 pm |
| Aug. 21 | Newsletter Deadline Noon |
| Aug. 21 | Embroider's Guild 7:00 pm |
| Aug. 22 | Provide Habitat Lunches 10:30 am |
| Aug. 22 | Boy Scouts 7:00 pm |
| Aug. 24 | Preschool chapel 10:15 am |
| Aug. 24 | Bible Study 11:00 am & 7:30 pm |
| Aug. 24 | Mens beginner A.A. 7:00 pm |
| Aug. 25 | A.A. 7:00 pm |
| Aug. 28—Sept. 1 | Pre School Closed |
| Aug. 29 | NL Collating 2:00 pm |
| Sept. 14 | MMRR Circle returns 10:30 am |
| Sept. 23 | Marshall Bautz Memorial
1:00 pm Christ Lutheran Aptos |
| Oct. 1 | Blessing of the Animals |

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
Web Address: 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

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