



Who
do you say that
I am?

MATTHEW 16:15

13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 27, 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

“Sicilienne” Matthias Van Den Gheyn
arr. B. Richard Purvis

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 *“The Church’s One Foundation”* #654

**The Church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is his new creation by water and the Word.
From heav’n he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her,
And for her life he died.**

**Elect from ev’ry nation, yet one o’er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth:
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses with ev’ry grace endued.**

Though with a scornful wonder
this world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up “how long?”
And soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

Through toil and tribulation and tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore,
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
O blessed heav’nly chorus!
Lord, save us by your grace,
That we, like saints before us, may see you face to face.

*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 51:1-6

Celebrate pg. 1

Second Reading

Romans 12:1-8

Celebrate pg. 2

*Gospel Acclamation

ELW #175

ALLELUIA



*Gospel Reading Matthew 16:13-20 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

“Faith of Our Fathers”

Red #813

Faith of our fathers, living still
In spite of dungeon, fire, and sword.
Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
Whene'er we hear that glorious word.
Faith of our fathers, holy faith,
We will be true to you till death.

Faith of our mothers, daring faith,
Your work for Christ is love revealed,
Spreading God's word from pole to pole,
Making love known and freedom real.
Faith of our mothers, holy faith,
We will be true to you till death.

Faith of our sisters, brothers too,
Who still must bear oppression's might,
Raising on high, in prisons dark,
The cross of Christ still burning bright.
Faith for today, O living faith,
We will be true to you till death.

Faith born of God, oh, call us yet,
Bind us with all who follow you,
Sharing the struggle of your cross
Until the world is made anew.
Faith born of God, O living faith,
We will be true to you till death.

*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

“Priere a Notre~ Dame”
Leon Boellman. Op 25

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

"Take Oh, Take Me As I Am"

Red #814
(repeat often)

Take, oh, take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

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

“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less” Red #596

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

REFRAIN

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil.

REFRAIN

His oath, his covenant, his blood
sustain me in the raging flood;
When all supports are washed away,
He then is all my hope and stay.

REFRAIN

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in him be found,
Clothed in his righteousness alone,
Redeemed to stand before the throne!

REFRAIN

*Dismissal

P: Go in Peace. Share the harvest.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music

“Introduction Gothique”
Leon Boellman Op.25

Serving Today

Reader: Janet Slay

Coffee Host: Bill & Margaret Schraft

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY OCTOBER 29
10:00 AM

Confirmation

Affirmation of Baptism

&

Church 70th Anniversary

Celebration

Stay tuned for more info...

Prayer Concerns

SHORT TERM:

Family of Lupe, Keith, Charlie & Tracy, 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.



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

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:

“Dear music, thank you for always
Clearning my head , healing my heart,
And lifting my spirits”

~ Unknown

Upcoming Events:

August Benevolence Offering
California Lutheran University
& Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

TBA Confirmation 6:30 pm

Aug. 28—Sept. 1 Pre School Closed

Aug. 29 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm

Aug. 29 NL Collating 2:00 pm

Aug. 31 Bible Study 11:00 am & 7:30 pm

Aug. 31 Mens beginner A.A. 7:00 pm

Sept. 1 A.A. 7:00 pm

Sept. 6 & 20 Women's Café Group 6:00 pm

Sept. 7 Preschool chapel 10:15 am

Sept. 9 Property Work Day 9—11 am (mostly weeding)

Sept. 14 MMRR Circle returns 10:30 am

Sept. 21 Knitters Guild 10 am

Sept. 23 Marshall Bautz Memorial
1:00 pm Christ Lutheran Aptos

Oct. 1 Blessing of the Animals 10 am

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

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