

Those
who lose
their life
for my
sake will
find it

MATTHEW 16:25

**14th Sunday after Pentecost
September 3, 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

Prelude G sharp minor & Prelude G. Flat major
Alexander Scribin, Russian Composer

The Gathering

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be God, the one who forms us,
+ Christ Jesus who bears the cross,
And the Holy Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C: Amen.

P: Let us come before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Steadfast and faithful God,

**C: You have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed
by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have
for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused,
known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.
For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.
Lead us back to you and set us on the right path:
In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Friend
Amen.**

**P: Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In + Christ, you are already and always forgiven.**

C: Amen.

*Opening Hymn *"For the Beauty of the Earth"* Red #879

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

REFRAIN

Christ, our God, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.

For the wonder of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
Sun and moon and stars of light: REFRAIN

For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight: REFRAIN

For the joy of human love,
 Brother, sister, parent, child,
 For the friends on earth and friends above;
 For all gentle thoughts and mild: REFRAIN

For each perfect gift of thine,
 Peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
 For thyself, best gift divine,
 To our world so freely giv'n: REFRAIN

*Greeting

*P: The grace that is Christ's gift to us, The love of God, and
 the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace be with you all.
C: And also with you.

KYRIE

Assistant: In peace, in peace,

Assistant: Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy,
Congregation: Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have
 mer - cy.

Assistant: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of
 all... (Refrain)

Assistant: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to
 live your Word... (Refrain)

Assistant: Help, save and de - fend us, O God.
Congregation: A - - - men.

NOW THE FEAST

Refrain

Congregation:

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1:

Congregation or Congregation 1:

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit - ed us to be one great

To refrain

peo - ple of God.

Verse 2

Congregation or Congregation 2:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and

might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ

To refrain

for ev - er.

Verse 3

Congregation:

3. For God has come to dwell with us,

to make us peo - ple of God; to make

To refrain

all things new.

*Prayer of the Day

Celebrate insert pg. 1

P: Let us pray:

C: Amen

The Word of God

God Stories

First Reading

Jeremiah 15:15-21 Celebrate pg. 1

Second Reading

Romans 12:9-21 Celebrate pg. 2

*Gospel Acclamation

ELW #175

GOSPEL VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we



go? You have the words of e - ter - nal



life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Repeat optional

*Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:21-28 Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Matthew, the 16th Chapter

C: **Glory to you, O God.**

(The Gospel is read)

P: The Gospel of our Lord

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Message

Rev. James Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

“O Master, Let Me Walk with You” *Red # 818*

O Master, let me walk with you
In lowly paths of service true;
Tell me your secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move
By some clear winning word of love;
Teach me the wayward feet to stay,
And guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me your patience; share with me
A closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,

In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broad'ning way,
in peace that only you can give;
with you, O Master, let me live.

*Prayers of the Church

Celebrate insert pg. 4

*Passing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord 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 Grand Choeur, G. F. Handel

*Offering Song

AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT

Refrain

Congregation:



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath - ered in - to one to be - come our bread;



so may all your peo - ple from all the ends of earth be



gath - ered in - to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst, _____
2. Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

To refrain



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: *Congregation:*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with

Presider: *Congregation:*

you. Lift up your hearts. We

Presider:

lift them to the Lord. Let us give

Congregation:

thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

P: It is our duty and delight... and join their unending hymn:

HOLY

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the

One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the

high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!


*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 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.**


LAMB OF GOD

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*



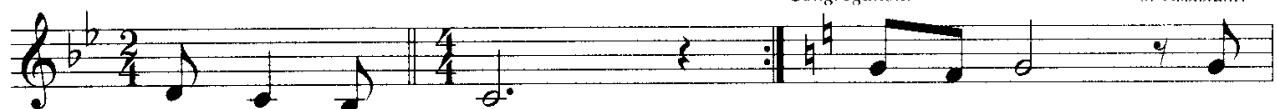
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 * you break the chains of ha - tred and
 you are the way of jus - tice and
 you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:




world:
 fear: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
 peace:
 love:

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*

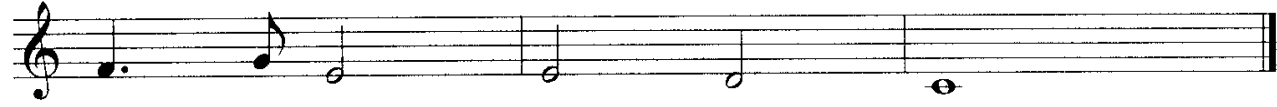


mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

The Holy Communion

Everyone is most welcome to receive this means of God's love and grace! Communion is by intinction, which means that we dip the bread into the cup. The red is wine and the white is grape juice.

Communion Hymn

“Change My Heart, O God” Red # 801

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

You are the potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

*Communion Blessing

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

C: Amen.

*Prayer after Communion

P: Blessed be your name, O God
for we have feasted on your Word,
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.
Strengthened by this food,
send us to gather the world to your banquet,
where none are left out and all are satisfied.
In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

*Blessing

P: May the God of glory,
+ Jesus Christ, the Lover of all humanity,
and the Spirit who lives in you,
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

1. In thee is gladness, amid all sadness,
Jesus, sunshine of my heart.
By thee are given the gifts of heaven,
thou the true Redeemer art.
Our souls thou wakest,
our bonds thou breakest.
Who trusts thee surely has built securely,
and stands forever: Alleluia!
Our hearts are pining to see thy shining;
dying or living, to thee are cleaving;
naught can us sever: Alleluia!
2. Jesus is ours! We fear no powers,
not of earth or sin or death.
He sees and blesses in worst distresses,
he can change them in a breath.
Wherefore the story tell of God's glory
with heart and voices; all heav'n rejoices
in him forever: Alleluia!
We shout for gladness, triumph o'er sadness,
love him and praise him
and still shall raise him
glad hymns forever: Alleluia!

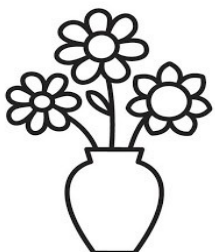
*Dismissal

P: Go in Peace. God is at work in you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music

Variation on number 1078 Quigley / Roberts



*The Altar Flowers are given by Jeanette & Tom
In honor of their 34th Anniversary*

Serving Today

Reader: Elke Spires

Coffee Host: Jeanette Dawson

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager

Prayer Concerns

SHORT TERM: *Family of Lupe Rodriguez, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Keith, Frank, Susan, Mike Homer, Charlie & Tracy, Andre, Joshua & Andrea, Irma, Family of Deane Strong & M. Hudi, Sam, Family of Jim Schafer, Jamie Sheehan, Ralph, Aria Brown, Karin Zaun, Family of Marshall Bautz, Conrad, Boudreau family, Chelsea, John, 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, Sandy, Levi & Alexandria, Norman's Father, friends in Bakersfield, Gary Toops, Donna Kemper, Lisa & Beau, Craig Dahl, 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, 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.*

Provide Lunches

Tues, Sept. 26 10:30 am

We Feed 12 to 14 volunteers every month who are serving in our community — Sandwiches, fruit, chips, cookies, and drinks. Sign-up to provide one item. More info, call our Coordinator Sheila 214-1228.

Other ways to support this org:

- volunteer at a work site
- purchase items at the “ReStore”



**Habitat
for Humanity®**

Property Work Day!

**Saturday, Sept. 9th
from 9-11am.**

Come help restore our solar panels to full strength now that the seagull family has vacated. Plenty of weeding for those not of the ladder type!



Music at St. Stephen's



On September 17th,
The *Good News Singers* will
introduce the new song:

"Come Christians Join to Sing" with *All That Brass*
Anthony Plaza , Rawley Capone, and
Adonay Gonzalez . . . all of Soquel Music

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
Clearing my head, healing my heart,
And lifting my spirits”

~ Unknown

SAVE THE DATES !!!

SUNDAYS OCT. 15 & 22
11:30AM—1PM

WEDS. OCT. 18 & 25
6:30PM—8PM

Holy Conversations with Pastor Jim

SUNDAY OCTOBER 29
10:00 AM

Confirmation Youth Sunday -

Followed by Church 70th

Anniversary Celebration Feast

Upcoming Events:

September Benevolence Offering
Lutheran Campus Ministry

- TBA Confirmation 6:30 pm
- Sept. 4 School & Office Closed
- Sept. 5 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm
- Sept. 6 & 20 Women's Café Group 6:00 pm
- Sept. 7 Preschool chapel 10:15 am
- Sept. 7 Bible Study 11:00 am & 7:30 pm
- Sept. 7 Mens beginner A.A. 7:00 pm
- Sept. 8 A.A. 7:00 pm
- Sept. 9 Property Work Day 9—11 am (mostly weeding)
- Sept. 12 Church Council 6:30 pm
- 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
- Sept. 26 Provide Habitat Lunches 10:30 am

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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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