

Are you envious  
because I am  
generous?

MATTHEW 20:15



**17th Sunday after Pentecost  
September 24, 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

“Toccatina and Pastoral” Johann Pachelbel  
1653 ~ 1706

***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 "Rise Up, O Saints of God!" Red #669

**Rise up, O saints of God! From vain ambitions turn;  
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts  
with nobler zeal might burn.**

**Speak out, O saints of God!  
Despair engulfs earth's frame;  
As heirs of God's baptismal grace,  
The word of hope proclaim.**

**Rise up, O saints of God! The kingdom's task embrace;  
Redress sin's cruel consequence;  
Give justice larger place.**

**Give heed, O saints of God! Creation cries in pain;  
Stretch forth your hand of healing now,  
With love the weak sustain.** (hymn continued)



# 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

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Celebrate pg. 1

Second Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

Celebrate pg. 2

\*Gospel Acclamation

ELW #175

### GOSPEL VERSE

*Congregation:*

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 20:1-16

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Matthew, the 20th 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 “Lord of All Hopefulness” #765

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
Whose strong hands were skilled  
at the plane and the lathe:  
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord,  
at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:  
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:  
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

\*Prayers of the Church

Celebrate insert pg. 4

Music

From Holden Vespers, Marty Haugen

\*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

“Preludo” Arcangelo Corelli 1653 ~ 1713



\*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.



\*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.**





Communion Hymn    “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”  
#587

1 There’s a wideness in God’s mercy,  
like the wideness of the sea.  
There’s a kindness in God’s justice,  
which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth’s sorrows  
are more felt than up in heav’n.  
There is no place where earth’s failings  
have such kindly judgment giv’n.

2 There is welcome for the sinner,  
and more graces for the good.  
There is mercy with the Savior,  
there is healing in his blood.  
There is grace enough for thousands  
of new worlds as great as this;  
There is room for fresh creations  
in that upper home of bliss.

3 For the love of God is broader  
than the measures of the mind,  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.  
But we make this love too narrow  
by false limits of our own;  
And we magnify its strictness  
with a zeal God will not own.

4 ‘Tis not all we owe to Jesus;  
it is something more than all;  
Greater good because of evil,  
larger mercy through the fall.  
Make our love, O God, more faithful;  
let us take you at your word,  
And our lives will be thanksgiving  
for the goodness of the Lord.

\*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.**

Closing Hymn     “*The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*”     #538  
(sing twice)

The Lord now sends us forth  
With hands to serve and give,  
To make of all the earth  
A better place to live.

The angels were not sent  
Into this world of pain  
To do what we were meant  
to do in Jesus' name;

That falls to you and me  
And all who are made free.  
Help us O Lord, we pray,  
To do your will today.

\*Dismissal

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

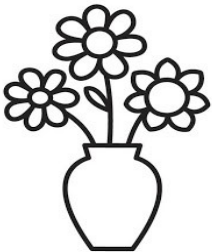
Music            “Air” G.F. Handel  
                         1685 ~ 1748

Serving Today

Reader: Beth Stiles

Coffee Host: Connie Cunningham

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager



*The Altar Flowers are given by  
Ken & Susan Gross*

## Prayer Concerns

**SHORT TERM:** Family of Lupe Rodriguez, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Father Jack Davis, 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 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.



## Property Work Day!

**Saturday, Oct. 21th 9-11am**

Weed, Paint, Clean . . .



## Music at St. Stephen's



*Many thanks to:*

The GOOD NEWS SINGERS  
and ALL THAT BRASS.

Thank you, Rebecca for wanting To learn the Tone bars, and .join the Music team.

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:

“Music is sort of my safety  
Net.it catches me when I fall. “

~ 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. 26    | Boy Scouts 7:00 pm               |
| Sept. 26    | Provide Habitat Lunches 10:30 am |
| Sept 27     | Newsletter Collating (NEW DATE)  |
| Sept. 28    | Preschool chapel 10:15 am        |
| Sept. 28    | Bible Study 11:00 am & 7:30 pm   |
| Sept. 28    | Mens beginner A.A. 7:00 pm       |
| Sept. 29    | A.A. 7:00 pm                     |
| Oct. 1      | Blessing of the Animals          |
| Oct. 4 & 18 | Women's Café Group 6:00 pm       |
| Oct. 10     | Church Council 6:30 pm           |
| Oct. 12     | MMRR Circle 10:30 am             |
| Oct. 19     | Knitters Guild 10 am             |
| Oct. 21     | Property Work Day 9—11 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