



GO ²AND WORK
IN THE VINEYARD TODAY

MATTHEW 21:28

**18th Sunday after Pentecost
October 1, 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

Maurice Ravel , French composer
1875 ~ 1937

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 *"God is Here"* Red #526 vs 1-3

**God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
Into open minds and hearts.**

**Here are symbols to remind us
Of our life long need of grace;
Here are table, font, and pulpit;
Here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
Here in silence, as in speech,
Here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.**

(hymn continued)

Here our children find a welcome
 in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
 Here as bread and wine are taken,
 Christ sustains us as of old.
 Here the servants of the Servant
 Seek in worship to explore
 What it means in daily living
 To believe and to adore.

*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

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Celebrate pg. 1

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

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 21:23-32

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Matthew, the 21st 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

“As the Wind”

ACS #943

As the wind song through the trees,
As the stirring of the breeze,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the heart made strangely warm,
As the voice within the storm,
so it is with the Spirit of God.
Never seen, ever known where this wind has blown
bringing life, bringing pow’r to the world,
as the dancing tongues of fire,
as the soul’s most deep desire,
so it is with the Spirit of God.

As the rainbow after rain,
as the hope that’s born again,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the green in the . . . spring,
as a kite on a . . . String, so it is with the Spirit of God,
making worlds that are new, making peace come true,
bringing gifts, bringing love to the world,
As the rising of the yeast, as the wine at the . . . Feast,
so it is with the Spirit of God.

*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.

Blessing of the Animals

Music

Richard Purvis, American composer

1913 ~ 1994

*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:*

The first line of musical notation is in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats. The melody consists of a series of quarter and half notes. The lyrics 'Lamb of God,' are aligned under the first three notes, while the remaining notes correspond to the lyrics of the 'Congregation or Assistant' part.

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:

The second line of musical notation continues the melody. It includes a repeat sign with first and second endings. The lyrics 'world:' are aligned under the first ending, and 'love:' under the second ending.

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

The third line of musical notation features a change in time signature from 4/4 to 2/4, then back to 4/4. It includes a repeat sign with a first ending. The lyrics 'mer - cy on us.' are under the first ending, and 'Lamb of God, you' are under the second ending.

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:

The fourth line of musical notation continues the melody in a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics 'take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,' are aligned under the notes.

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

The fifth line of musical notation is the final line of the hymn, consisting of a simple melody with a final double bar line. The lyrics 'grant us peace, grant us peace.' are aligned under the notes.

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 “Welcome Table” ACS #969

I'm agoin'a eat at the welcome table,
I'm agoin'a eat at the welcome table, some of these days.
I'm agoin'a eat at the welcome table,
I'm agoin'a eat at the welcome table, some of these days.

I'm agoin'a feast on milk . . . And honey,
I'm agoin'a feast on milk . . . And honey, some of these days.
I'm agoin'a feast on milk . . . And honey,
I'm agoin'a feast on milk . . . And honey, some of these days.

I'm agoin'a wade 'cross Jordan's river,
I'm agoin'a wade 'cross Jordan's river, some of these days.
I'm agoin'a wade 'cross Jordan's river,
I'm agoin'a wade 'cross Jordan's river, some of these days.

*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 *“All Creatures Worship God Most High”*
Red #835 (vs. 1-4, 6)

All creatures, worship God most high!
Sound ev’ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;
Sing, sister moon and stars of night:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain
you grow the gifts of fruit and grain: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear sister water, useful, clear,
make music for your Lord to hear:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong;
drive far the shadows, join the throng:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear mother earth, so rich in care,
praise God in colors bright and rare:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All who for love of God forgive,
All who in pain or sorrow grieve: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ bears your burdens and your fears;
Still make your song amid tears:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O sisters, brothers, take your part,
And worship God with humble heart: Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Dismissal

P: Go in Peace. God is at work in you.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music

George F .Handel , German composer
1685 ~ 1759

Serving Today

Reader: Mark Linder

Coffee Host: Don Smawley & Rebecca Wickham

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager



*The Altar Flowers are given by
Shelly Barker in celebration of
Liz Wingert's 15th birthday*

Prayer Concerns

SHORT TERM: George Webber, James Boudreau, Frank, Dustin, Caitlin S., 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, 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, 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

Paint, Weed, 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 17

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:

October Benevolence Offering
S.S. Child Development Center

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| TBA | Confirmation 6:30 pm |
| Oct. 2-9 | Office Closed |
| Oct. 3 | Boy Scouts 7:00 pm |
| Oct. 4 & 18 | Women's Café Group 6:00 pm |
| Oct. 5 | Mens beginner A.A. 7:00 pm |
| Oct. 6 | A.A. 7:00 pm |
| Oct. 10 | Church Council 6:30 pm |
| Oct. 12 | MMRR Circle 10:30 am |
| Oct. 12 | Preschool chapel 10:15 am |
| Oct. 12 | Bible Study 11:00 am & 7:30 pm |
| Oct. 15-25 | Sign up for House Meetings |
| Oct. 19 | Knitters Guild 10 am |
| Oct. 21 | Property Work Day 9—11 am |
| Oct. 24 | Provide Habitat Lunches 10:30 am |
| Oct. 29 | Reformation / Confirmation Sunday—wear red
Sign up for potluck |

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.
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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