

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.

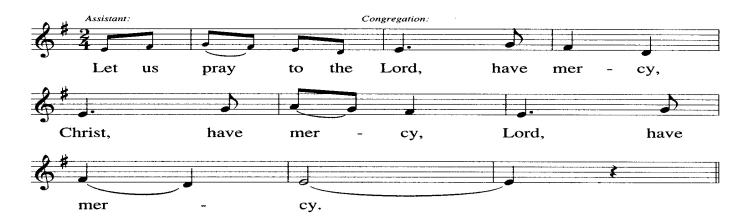
*Greeting

*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,

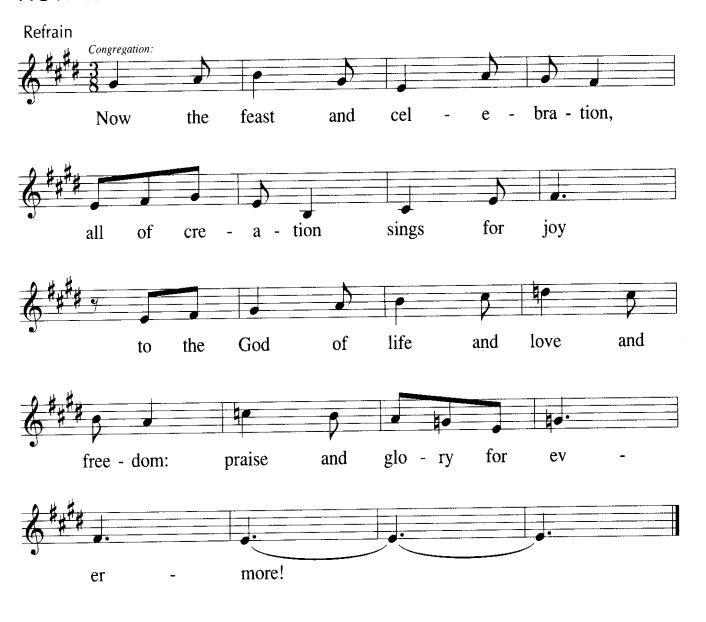


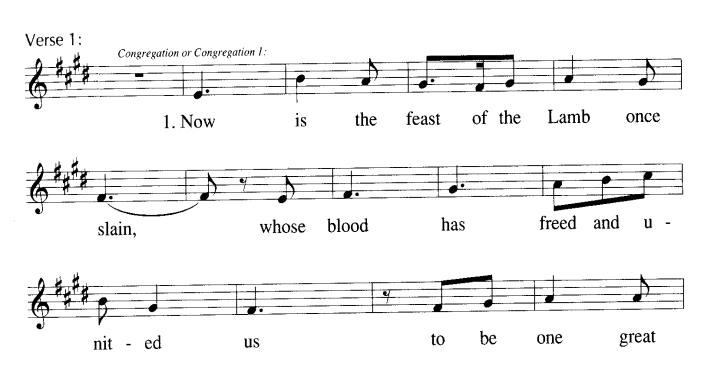
Assistant: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all... (Refrain)

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



NOW THE FEAST









*Prayer of the Day

Celebrate insert pg. 1

P: Let us pray:

C: Amen

The Word of God

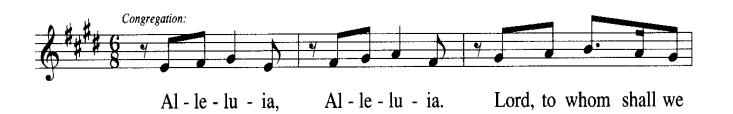
God Stories

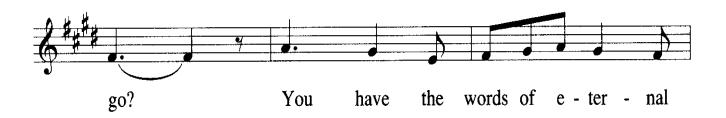
First Reading Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 Celebrate pg. 1

Second Reading Philippians 2:1-13 Celebrate pg. 2

*Gospel Acclamation ELW #175

GOSPEL VERSE







*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.

<u>Message</u>

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.

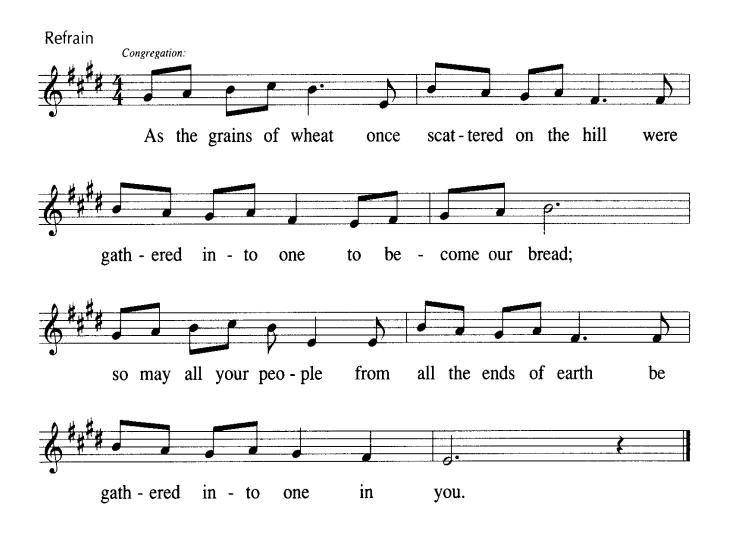
Offering — We honor and worship God by returning some of the gifts with which we have been blessed.

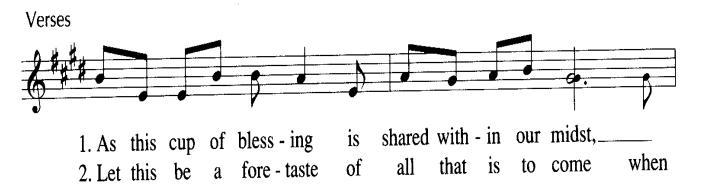
Blessing of the Animals

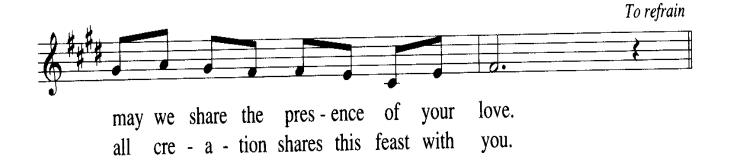
Music Richard Purvis, American composer 1913 - 1994

*Offering Song

AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT

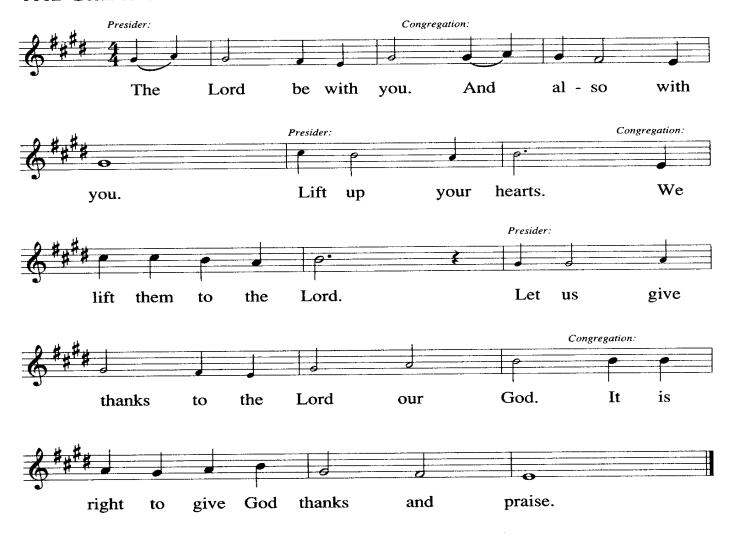




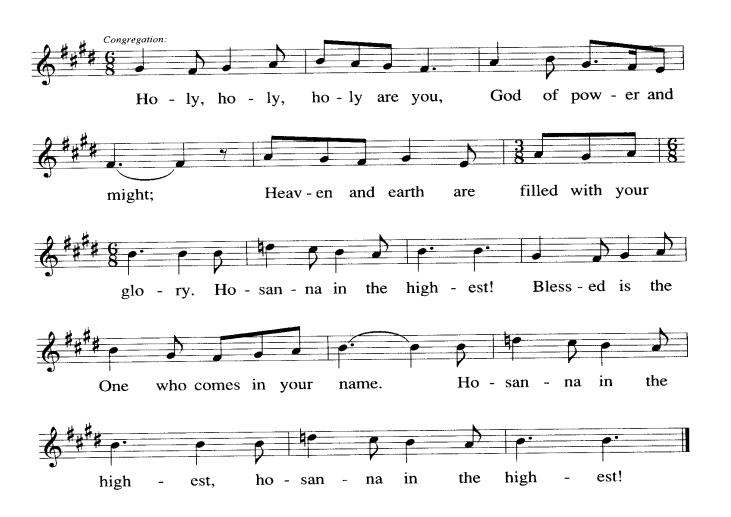


THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

HOLY



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



*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



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.

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.

*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!

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!

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! 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!

*Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.

<u>Music</u>

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

George Webber, James Boudreau, Frank, SHORT TERM: 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 & Alexandrea, 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, 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.



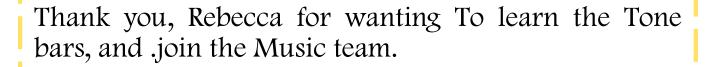
Property Work Day!Saturday, Oct. 21th 9-11am

Paint, Weed, Clean . . .



Many thanks to:

The GOOD NEWS SINGERS and ALL THAT BRASS.



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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