Zeal for your house will CONSUME Me

JOHN 2:17

3rd Sunday in Lent March 3, 2024

The Gathering

Music "A Prayer for Lent" John Henderson, Scottish composer

Welcome

*Confession and Forgiveness

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

- P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, Who writes the law on our hearts, Who draws all people together through Jesus.
- C: Amen.
- P: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin In the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

- P: Holy God,
- C: We confess that we are caught in snares of sin And cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors Are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, Forgive us, Lord. Amen.

 P: Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, Breaks every snare of sin, Washes away our wrongs, And restores the promise of life through + Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

<u>*Opening Hymn</u> "Gather us In" (Here In This Place) #532

Here in this place new light is streaming Now is the darkness vanished away See in this space our fears and our dreamings Brought here to you in the light of this day

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken Gather us in, the blind and the lame Call to us now, and we shall awaken We shall arise at the sound of our name

We are the young; our lives are a myst'ry We are the old who yearn for your face We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry Called to be light to the whole human race

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty Gather us in, the proud and the strong Give us a heart so meek and so lowly Give us the courage to enter the song

Here we will take the wine and the water Here we will take the bread of new birth Here you shall call your sons and your daughters Call us a-new to be salt for the earth

(Hymn continued)

Give us to drink the wine of compassion Give us to eat the bread that is you Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion Lives that are holy and hearts that are true

Not in the dark of buildings confining Not in some heaven light years away Here in this place the new light is shining Now is the kingdom, and now is the day

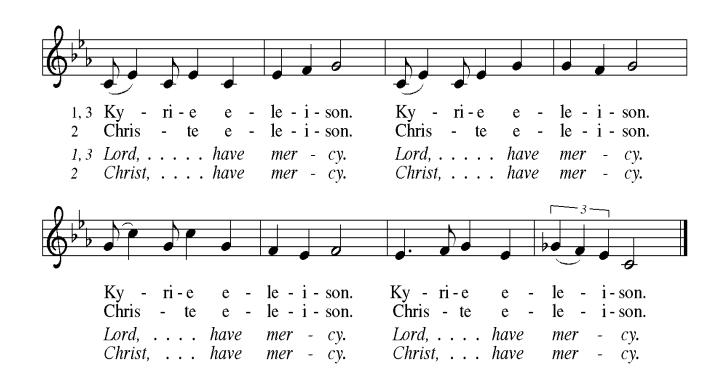
Gather us in and hold us forever Gather us in and make us your own Gather us in, all peoples together Fire of love in our flesh and our bone

*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—We bring our burdens and cares to God ELW #151

Kyrie



(No Hymn of Praise during Lent)

*The Salutation

P: May God be with you. **C: And also with you.**

*Prayer of the Day

Celebrate insert pg. 1

P: Let us pray… **C: Amen**

The Word of God

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17 Celebrate insert pg. 1

R: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: 1 Cor. 1:18-25 Celebrate insert pg. 3

R: Word of God, word of life **C: Thanks be to God.**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 2nd Chapter C: Glory to you, O God.

*<u>Holy Gospel</u> John 2:13-22 Celebrate insert pg. 3
P: The Gospel of our Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

<u>Sermon</u>

Pastor Jim Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

"Canticle of the Turning" Red #723

My soul cries out with a joyful shout That the God of my heart is great, And my spirit sings of the wondrous things That you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, And my weakness you did not spurn, So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

> REFRAIN My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my...God, my all, You work great...things in me, And your mercy will last from the depths of the past To the end of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame, And to those who would for you yearn, You will show your might, put the strong to flight, For the world is about to turn. REFRAIN

From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r, Not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears Ev'ry tyrant...from his throne. The hungry poor shall...weep no more, For the food they can never earn; There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, For the world is about to turn. RFFRAIN

Though the nations rage from...age to age, We remember who holds us fast: God's mercy must deliver us From the conqueror's crushing grasp. This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound, Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. RFFRAIN *Prayers of the Church

Celebrate insert pg. 4

*Passing of the Peace

P: May the peace of God be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

Offering

"We give thanks to God for the gifts of life, for grace and forgiveness for each day, and for everlasting life."



Music Good News Singers: "Christ is the Life" by Kenneth Maylor

*Offertory Prayer

P: Jesus, you are the bread of life And the host of this meal.
Bless these gifts that we have gathered That all people may know your goodness.
Feed us not only with this holy food But with hunger for justice and peace.
We pray this in your name.

C: Amen.

*The 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 God our Creator
- C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.
- P: It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ, who bids us turn to you and prepare for the Paschal feast.

*Words of Institution

*Lord's Prayer (sung)

C: Our Fa-ther in hea-ven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. For--give 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

Invitation to Communion

P: Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

Lamb of God

LMGM2



Music: Tills Bulls: # Augsburg Fortune:

Holy Communion

Visitors: You are welcome to come forward to receive Communion as part of this church family! Children are welcome to come and receive a special blessing if they have never communed. Communion is by intinction, we dip the bread into either the wine (red) or grape juice (white). Please follow the guidance of the ushers.

*Prayer after Communion

P: Generous God,

At this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, Now make us one loaf to feed the world; In the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C: Amen.

<u>*Post Communion Hymn</u> *"Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth"* #735

Mothering God, you gave me birth, in the bright morning of this world. Creator, source of ev'ry breath, you are my rain, My wind, my sun.

Mothering Christ, you took my form, Offering me your food of light, Grain...of life, and grape of love, your very body For my peace.

Mothering spirit, nurt'ring one, In arms of patience hold me close, So that in faith I root and grow until I flow'r, Until I know.

*Blessing

P: Beloved,

We are God's own people, God bless you and keep you, Fill you with courage, Holy, washed, renewed. Shower you with mercy, And + give you peace.

C: Amen.



Now, Lord

God of grace and God of glory, On your people pour your pow'r; Crown your ancient church's story; Bring its bud to glorious flow'r. Grant us wisdom grant us courage For the facing of this hour, For the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil round us Scorn the Christ assail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to Faith and praise. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage For the living of these days, For the living of these days.

Cure your children's warring madness; bend our pride to your control; Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage lest we miss your kingdom's goal, lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation To the evils we deplore; Let the gift of your salvation Be our glory evermore. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, Serving you whom we adore, Serving you whom we adore.

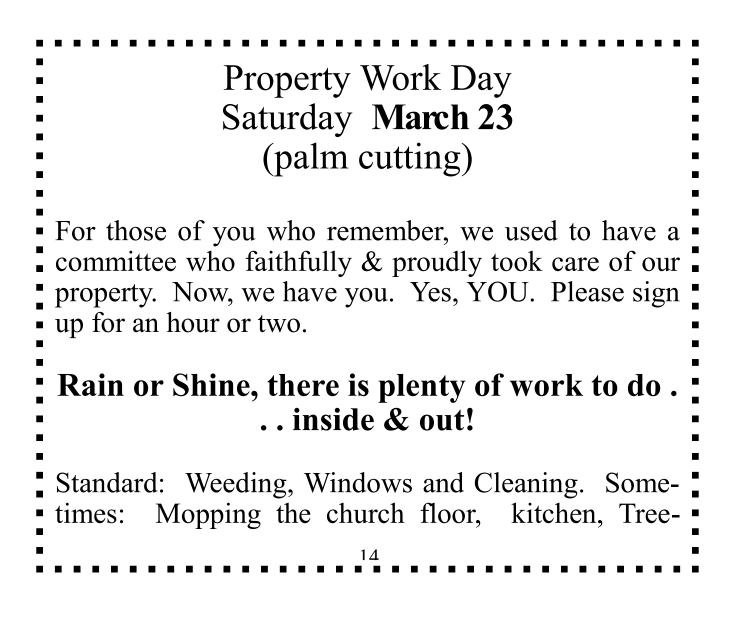
*<u>Dismissal</u>

P: Go in peace. Share your bread. C: Thanks be to God.

Music "Lord Thee I Love With All My Heart" J. S. Bach

Serving Today

Reader: Elke Spires Coffee Host: Shelly Barker Altar Guild: Connie Cunningham Office helpers: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager





Prayer Concerns

SHORT TERM: Rebecca Wickham, Maria, Ila & Reina, Steven Kamlin, Keith, Noelle, Ensley, Tom Peyser, Bob Zeigle, Jan, Jessie V., Margaret, Bill Gile, Tim Oldfield, Sierra,

Beth's mom, Julie R., Anne Rice, Cheryl Davis, Rosie, The Webber Family, Janet, Sue, Lindsay Rosenberg, Middle East Peace, Maria, Cody Turner, Jan, Jacque N. Diane Strong, Tom Dawson, James, Tina, Lurline Moore, Keith, Taiyo, Marissa, Isaac, James Boudreau, Alvarado family, Dustin, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Father Jack Davis, Sam, Atlas, Sandi Csik, Janica Paustian, Jesse, Joyce, James, John, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Allen, Kathy, Joel Hurttgam, Sandy, Levi & Alexandrea, Gary Toops, Donna Kemper, Lisa & Beau, Craig Dahl, Genell Csik, Paul Cunningham, Paul Paustian, Dawit & Family (Ethiopia), Gaye Cornell, Dorothy, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Nancy, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Anthony, Steve, Margot Wilson, Rose, Will, Aaron Johnson, Sal, Katarina, 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, 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 & women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.



Help decorate our sanctuary & honor loved ones

- Make \$15 checks payable to
 St. Stephen's, Memo line "Lily"
- ~ List your dedication on sign up sheet
- ~ Take home your flower after the service.

The Easter lily has traditional and spiritual meaning. Mentioned in the Bible, the white lily symbolizes purity, rebirth, new beginnings and hope and is most often associated with the resurrection of Jesus. In Pagan traditions, the Easter lily is associated with motherhood and is gifted to mothers as a symbol of gratitude.



Easter Sunday March 29 at 9:00 am

This is not a fundraiser. This is a celebration! This is your opportunity to share in fellowship and welcome people. So, invite folks and let them see "our light shine". Bring a guest who has never been to St. Stephen's and receive one FREE meal!

We are also extending our welcome to our senior neighbors, by providing one FREE meal ticket.

Sponsored by Thrivent Financial -

Donors: Trader Joes, Safeway & Staff of Life

Helpers needed Saturday 10 am to set up

Music at St. Stephen's



Good morning everyone—Thank you Barbara, and Kent for joining the singers for Easter Sunday Celebration. More talent, and voices are very welcome to sing "Songs of Priase", for our risen Christ.

Please let me know if you are interested in joining the procession, banners, hand-held instruments are welcome.

"All That Brass " ~ **New Music for Easter** Easter Carrillon—Robert J. Powell, Composer Easter Fantasy on Ancient Hymns — Sondra K. Tucker, Composer

"The Hallelujah Chorus", returns — George F. Handell, composer. And more!

Lenten Services continue every Wednesday Evening 6:00 pm Soup

&

7:15 pm Holden Vespers with Pastor

Yours in Christ, and Mission ~ Gary

Upcoming Events:

March Benevolence: St. Stephen's Scholarship Fund

March 5	Boy Scouts 7:00 pm
March 6	Preschool chapel 10:15 am
March 6	Lenten Wednesday 6:00 pm Souper Hosts: Janet Slay & Doug Hahn 7:15 pm Holden Evening Prayer
March 7	Mens beginner A.A. 7:00 pm
March 8	A.A. 7:00 pm
March 8 &9	Scouts game night 5 :00 pm
March 10	Spring Forward Clocks
March 12	Knitters Guild 6:15 pm
March 12	Council 6:30 pm
March 14	MMRR Circle 10:30 am
March 20	Soup Host needed to help Don 6 pm
March 24	Property Work Day 9:00—11:00 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, And invite people to share the joy of the Spirit.

Reconciling in Christ Statement

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: <u>www.ststephenslutheran.org</u> Office Hours: Mon.—Fri. Noon—5:00 pm

Ministers: The People of St. Stephen's

Pastor: Rev. James P. Lapp Church Administrator & Sun. School: Leslie Lapp Music Director: Gary Roberts Videographers: Jay Johnston, Kent Madsen & Barbara Rice Child Development Center Director: Kathy Berens Custodian: John Hopping

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