

Peace

I LEAVE WITH YOU

JOHN 14:27



6th Sunday of EASTER

everything between grief & hope

May 25, 2025 at 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 during the offering.**

(*) Asterisk means, “Please stand as you are able.”

Prelude *“Christians to the Paschal Victium”*
Plainsong mode 1929

Gathering

*Call to Worship

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.

*Call to Confession

Faithful friends, Easter is a joyful season!

This time of year, all creation sings

of new life and resurrection and hope.

But the prayer of confession
that we often begin our worship service with
has a reputation for being somber and serious.
Instead, let's make this prayer of confession
feel like a fresh and new start!
Let's allow the prayer of confession
to help us see things in a new and hopeful way.
When we move closer to God,
we are always met with grace, mercy, and abundant love.
And my friends, *that* is joyful.
That feels like Easter, doesn't it?
So join me in the prayer of confession. It's a joyful day!

***Prayer of Confession**

The Gospel of Luke says: "It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women who told the disciples of the resurrection.

But these words seemed to the disciples an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

But Peter got up and ran to the tomb."¹

**Forgive us, God,
when good news lands in our lap
and we refuse to believe it.**

**Forgive us, God,
when grief and fear crowd out
any room in our hearts for hope.**

**Forgive us, God,
when we dismiss the stories of others
and minimize the voices of our neighbors.**

When our world teeters between grief and hope,
show us how to be like Peter.

Show us how to hold onto hope.

Show us how to run toward you. Amen.

*Words of Forgiveness

Family of Faith,

At first, the disciples didn't believe that Jesus had risen.

They stayed locked in an upper room, shaking and afraid.

Peter was the only exception.

But Jesus loves us on our best days and our worst days.

God's grace exists for us when we are hopeful

and when we're grieving,

when we're shouting and when we're silent,

when we're full of faith and when we're full of fear.

God's grace exists for us on the best days,

the worst days, and every day in between.

Thanks be to God for this good news!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.

*Opening Hymn "Lift High the Cross" Red #660

REFRAIN:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim

Till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,

Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. REFRAIN

All newborn servants of the Crucified

Bear on their brows the seal of him who died. REFRAIN

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,

As thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. REFRAIN

So shall our song of triumph ever be:

Praise to the Crucified for victory! REFRAIN

*Greeting

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: The grace of our risen Savior, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you

*Prayer of the Day

Celebrate pg. 1

God's Word

God Stories

Congregation

First Reading

Acts 16:9-15

Celebrate pg. 1

Psalms 67

Celebrate pg. 3

Second Reading

Revelation 21:10,22

Celebrate pg. 2

*Gospel Reading

John 14:23-29

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. John 14th Chapter

C: Glory to you, O God.

(The Gospel is read)

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

*Hymn of the Day

“There is a Longing in Our Hearts” ACS #1078 blue

REFRAIN

There is a longing in our hearts, O lord,
for you to reveal yourself to us.

There is a longing in our hearts for
love we only find in you, our God.

For justice, for freedom, for mercy:

Hear our prayer.

In sorrow, in grief:

Be near; hear our prayer, O God. REFRAIN

For wisdom, for courage, for comfort:

Hear our prayer.

In weakness, in fear:

Be near; hear our prayer, O God. REFRAIN

For healing, for wholeness, for new life:

Hear our prayer. In sickness, in death;

Be near; hear our prayer, O God. REFRAIN

Lord, save us, take pity, light in our deepest night.

We call you; we wait:

Be near; hear our prayer, O God. REFRAIN

*Affirmation of Faith

In the dark before dawn,
we believe that God is alive.

In the midst of our grief,
we believe the Spirit is at work.
In the chaos of our broken world,
we believe that love is on the loose.
For no stone could keep God at bay,
and no violence could keep God's love from us.
So today we sing,
Alleluia!
For somewhere in between our belief and doubt,
hope lives.
Christ has died,
and Christ has also risen. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*The Prayers of the Church

Celebrate, Page 4

Passing of the Peace

P: May the peace of God be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

The Communion Meal

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

Music Good News Singers
 “Earth, Earth Awake!”
 Music Sally Ann Morris 1952

*Offertory Prayer

P: Risen One,

**You have gathered us around your table of grace
Along with these gifts we bring.**

Come among us again,

Breathe your life into us,

And enliven us with this meal,

That we may live as your risen body in the world.

Amen

*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 the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*Eucharistic Prayer

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....

*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.

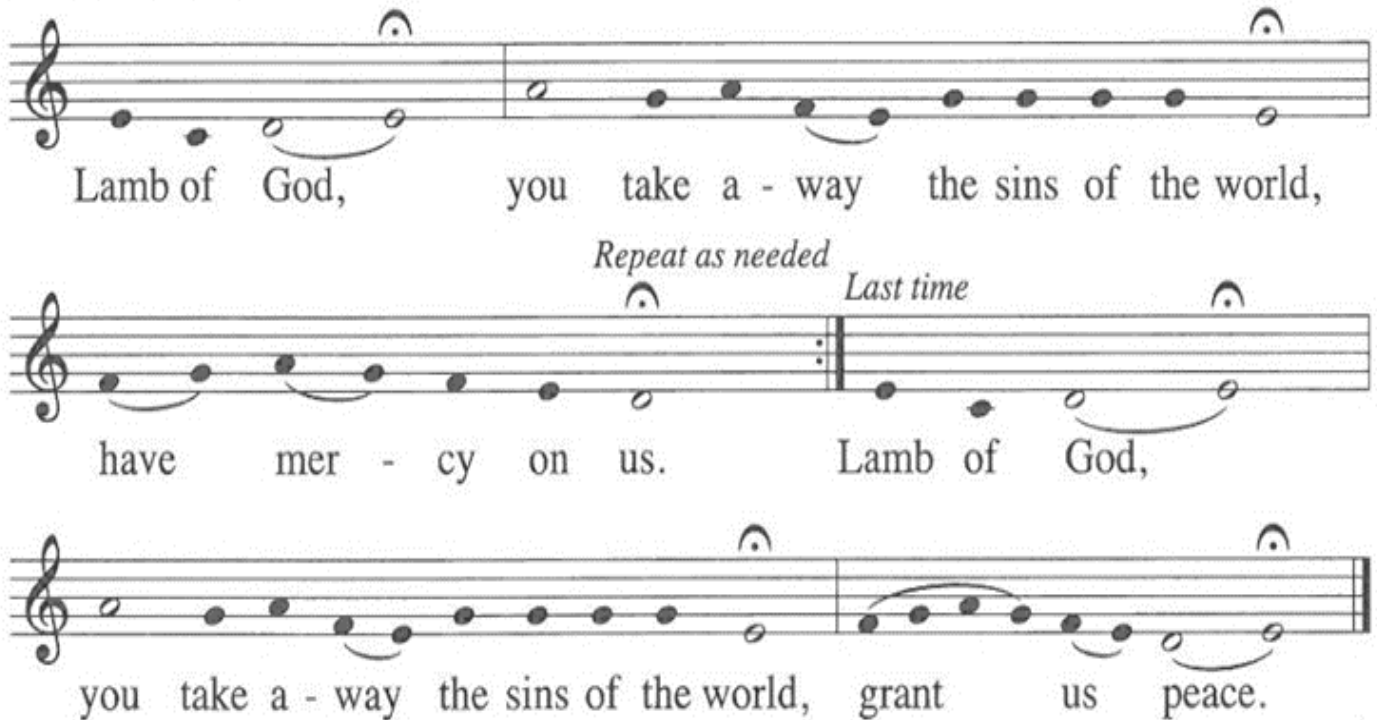
Invitation to Communion

P: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

Holy Communion — ALL, Yes — EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Communion is by intinction, we dip the bread into either the wine (red) or grape juice (white).

AGNUS DEI



Communion Hymn “Children of the heavenly Father”
Red #781

Children of the heavenly Father
Safely in his bosom gather
Nestling bird or star in heaven
Such a refuge ne’er was given

God his own doth tend and nourish
In his holy courts they flourish
From all evil things he spares them
In his mighty arms he bears them

Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord his children sever
Unto them his grace he showeth
And their sorrows all he knoweth

Though he giveth or he taketh
God his children ne’er forsaketh
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy

*Communion Blessing

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

C: Amen.

*Prayer After Communion

P: Living One,
In this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders,
Sing of your glory,
And proclaim your risen life
To a wounded and weary world.

C: Amen.

The Sending

*A Blessing

The triune God,
Who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit,
Light your way with resurrection dawn,
Now and always.

Amen.

*Closing Hymn

“God of Grace and God of Glory” #705

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.

*Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

P: Go in peace.

In Christ you are made new.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia Alleluia!

Postlude

“With High Delight Let us Unite”

Music Medieval European tune

Serving Today

Reader: **Please sign up**

Coffee Host: Rebecca Wickham

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager



Sign up for Altar Flowers

Dedicate to loved ones

Full & Part Time openings

Ages 2-4

Contact Kathy 462-4453





PRAYERS SHORT TERM: Family of Ed Valencia, Tex & family, Carla Brown, Kevin & Cindy, Dawn, Gerry Daves, Tim Oldfield, Laura, Joana, James S. Chad Fields, Chelsea & Logan Preston, Cassidy, family of George Webber, Sam, Isabelle Hackman, Eric, Ellie, Paula & family, Julia, Jim Aller's family, Bill Giles family, Dr. Bruce Dunn's family, Grey, Ruth Stiles, Susan Birkelo Family, Riley, Mary Saccullo, Ana Cardenas, Rose, Levi, Lisa J., John B., Linda, Unemployed, Isaac & Marissa, Gloria, Marta's parents, Gary & Louse Matz, Nick, James, Mary D., Tom, Galahad, Debbie, Sam, Nate Barker, Robbin, Francisco, Michael, Keith, Noelle, Ensley, Sierra, Middle East Peace, Tom Dawson, Taiyo, Marissa, Isaac, Alvarado family, Dustin, Father Jack Davis, Sandi Csik, Sam, Adolfo, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Nancy, Jane, Barbara Allen, Gary & Marjie Toops, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Sal, Katarina, Stephanie Jager.

LONG TERM: Those suffering with Mental Illness, James Sheehan, Biergiel—Colclough family, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Joel Hurtgamm, Dawit and family (Ethiopia), April McCalmont, Miller Mouw, Kyle Lapp, Will, Aaron Johnson, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Dom, Lisa & Beau, Linda Johnson, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Bobbie Erickson, Mike, 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, People of Palestine/Israel, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, S.S. Senior Housing, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family, men & women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

Please notify when to remove

Upcoming Events:

May Benevolence Offering - Mt. Cross Camp

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| May 26 | Memorial Day—Office & School Closed |
| May 27 | Newsletter Collate 2:00 pm helpers needed |
| May 27 | Scouts 6:30 pm |
| May 28 | Preschool Graduation Chapel 10:15 am |
| May 28 | Bible Study Weds. 7:30 pm |
| May 29 | Mens beginner A.A. Thursdays 7:00 pm Fireside rm |
| May 30 | A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall |
| June 3 | Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm
Pub Theology Discretion Brew 41st Ave. |
| June 5 & 19 | Women's Café Group 6:00 pm Thursdays
Dinner and devotions |
| June 29 | Summer Kick off BBQ — 11:30 am
Come for some fun in the sun
Bring a favorite side or dessert |

SAVE THE DATE July 26 at noon Paul Cunningham Memorial
Scotts Valley Community Center

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

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539

prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.