

AT HIS GATE LAY A POOR MAN NAMED LAZARUS

LUKE 16:20

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 28, 2025

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 “Simple Gifts” (Shaker song)
Elder Joseph Brackett 1848

The Gathering

*Confession and Forgiveness

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Seeking reconciliation with God and neighbor,
let us remember the gift of baptism and confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of mercy

**C: We confess that we have sinned against you,
Against one another,
And against the earth entrusted to our care.
We are worried and distracted by many things,
And we fail to love you above all else.
We store up treasures for ourselves
And turn away from our neighbors in need.
Forgive us,
that we may live in the freedom of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: When we were laid low by sin and the world's evil,
God made us alive together with Christ,
Forgiving us + all our trespasses
By taking the sin of the world to the cross.
For freedom Christ has set us free:
Rejoice in this good news!

C: Amen.

*Opening Hymn "Gather us In" (Here In This Place)
Red #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

(hymn continued)

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

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



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.



Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.

yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.

yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.



Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;

Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;

Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.



Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;



yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

*Prayer of the Day

The Word of God

First Reading Amos 6:1,4-7 Celebrate pg. 1

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm Psalm 146 Choir with congregation response
Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Celebrate pg. 3

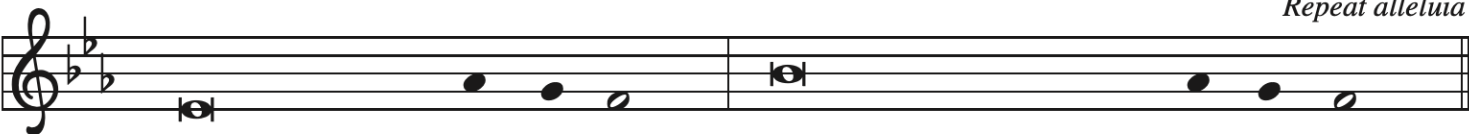
R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation Blue #33



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

*Gospel Reading

Luke 16:19-31

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Luke, the 16th Chapter

C: Glory to you, O God.

(The Gospel is read)

P: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

God Stories

Message

Rev. James P. Lapp

*Hymn of the Day : “

“What is the World Like” ACS #1047

What is this world like when God’s will is done?
Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive:
Roots thread the soil;
Branches reach for the sun.
This is how God moves us each to believe.

What is the world like when God’s will is done?
Witness the wandering children coming home;
Watch as the parent breaks into a run.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.

What is the world like when God’s will is done?
No more is neighbor just ally or friend;
Peace thrives in places where once there was none.
This is how God works when rivalries end.

(hymn continued)

What is the world like when God's will is done?
Ready for feasting, we watch through the night,
tending our lamps till the new days' begun.
This is how God readies us for the light.

These are the stories that Jesus imparts,
Filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.
Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,
This is a new world where God's will is done.

Welcome New Members

Diane & Eva
Johnathan & April
Kathybelle
Neil

The Prayers of the Church

Celebrate, Page 4

The Communion Meal

* Passing of the Peace

P: May the peace of God 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 “Let Justice Roll Like a River” Choir

Offering Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God,
For the greening earth given for all,
For the talents we are given to share,
And for this bread and fruit of the vine.
Transform us to be the body of Christ,
That, feasting on this food and drink,
Our lives may reflect your generosity;
Through Christ our Lord,

C: 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 God thanks and praise.

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

*Words of Institution

*Lord's Prayer

**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**

P: God invites you to this table of bounty.
Come, the banquet is ready.

(Please be seated)

Communion Gathering Song



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

"We Come to the Hungry Feast"

Red #479

We come to the hungry feast
Hungry for a word of peace.
To hungry hearts unsatisfied
The love of God is not denied.
We come, we come to the hungry feast

We come to the hungry feast
Hungry for a world released
From hungry folk of ev'ry kind,
The poor in body, Poor in mind
We come, we come to the hungry feast.

We come to the hungry feast
Hungry that the hunger cease,
And knowing, though we eat our fill,
the hunger will stay with us; still
We come, we come to the hungry feast.

The Sending

*Prayer after Communion

P: O God, in this Holy Communion
You have welcomed us into your presence,
Nourished us with words of mercy,
And fed us at your table.
Amid the cares of this life,
Strengthen us to love you with all our heart,
Serve our neighbors with a willing spirit,
And honor the earth you have made;
Through Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

*Blessing

P: Live your lives in Christ,
rooted and built up in God's Spirit.
May you abound in thanksgiving;
And may the blessing of the holy Trinity, + one God,
Be upon you and remain with you forever.

C: Amen

*Closing Hymn "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. *REFRAIN*

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. *REFRAIN*

*Dismissal

P: Go in Peace, Christ is sending you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music "Postlude in D Major" John Andersen



The Altar Flowers are given
By Connie Cunningham
In memory of Paul

Serving Today

Reader: Mark Linder

Coffee Host: Connie Cunningham

Altar Guild: Tina Gates

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager



SHORT TERM: Charlotte & family, Tim Oldfield, Kathy M., Georgina Beyer's family, Nancy, Jennifer Linkeon, Corrine & Daniel, Connie Garcia & Family, Laura, Family of Elizabeth Schilling, Tina & family, Family of Patrick McCalmont, Atlas, Ana, Kathybelle Barlow, Family & friends of Rev.

Jim Carr, Family of Ed Valencia, Family of Tex Ronning, Grey, Levi, Lisa J., Unemployed, Nick, James, Mary D., Galahad, Debbie, Sam, Nate Barker, Robbin, Francisco, Keith, Noelle, Ensley, Middle East Peace, Tom Dawson, Taiyo, Marissa, Isaac, Dustin, Father Jack Davis, Sandi Csik, Sam, Adolfo, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Allen, Gary & Marjie Toops, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Isaac & Marissa, 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), Miller, April, Aaron Johnson, Shelby, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Dom, Lisa & Beau, Linda Johnson, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Bobbie Erickson, Mike, Susan Anderson, Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Karin, Will, Chris & John B. 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 *



Habitat Update

It has been about a year since we last provided lunches to the volunteers, but that does not mean the organization is at a standstill. Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay's administrative office, currently located in Santa Cruz, will consolidate the staff office space with the Watsonville Restore location. Habitat's dedicated construction volunteers have taken on this rehab project, which is scheduled for completion in early September. A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is tentatively scheduled for **October 1, time TBD**. The next home builds will likely break ground in September 2025— a 14-unit home development in Watsonville, at Evan Circle, and another 9-unit home development in Marina, at Marina Station. Applications for homeownership, for both locations will open October 20, 2025.

New Ways of Giving

Our *Virtual Offering Plate* has been enhanced. Donations can be made by: credit card, debit card, PayPal, Venmo and Zelle.

- 1) **Vanco**, our regular electronic giving provider;
- 2) **PayPal / Venmo / Zelle** for single one-time gifts;
- 3) **PayPal** with the possibility of recurring donations and an option to cover the fees.

All are available at
<https://ststephenslutheran.org>
Or by scanning this QR code.





On ZOOM
with Pr. Jim

Check email on
Tues. for link

WEDNESDAYS
7:30 – 8:30 pm

As we grow in our faith, we grow in community.

Our Preschool is enrolling NOW.
Ages 2-4
Full & Part Time openings.
Tell your friends!
Contact Kathy 462-4453



Trinity Tuesday

One Hour ~ One Question ~ One Beverage

Tuesday, October 7 at 6:30pm @ Discretion Brew

Informal faith conversations in a welcoming, relaxed setting. Explore one thoughtful question together - from deep theological mysteries to everyday questions about how faith intersects with life.

Kathy Allen 430-6359



Sister Parish news

El Pilar Projects

After our November 2024 visit, local leaders held public meetings and community members voted on current priorities. Las Orquídeas and Bendicion de Dios (often referred to together as “**El Pilar**”) identified their top needs:

- **Las Orquídeas:** piped water to all 75 homes so families would not have to use the hand pump wells multiple times a day for their water needs.
- **Bendicion de Dios:** a community building where they could host meetings, events and have a room that could be used for medical exams.

We thought the Las Orquideas water project would be a multi-year effort, but now we have an incredible opportunity to partner with another organization and complete the work this year. However, we need an additional \$10,000 for both projects. Join us to benefit these projects:

Watsonville Public House Fundraiser

“Prime the Pump”

October 11 at 2:00 pm

Tickets are \$35; more details and tickets at santacruzalsalvador.org. Tickets may also be purchased from Jeanne Boudreau or Kent Madsen.

2025 DELEGATION

Monday, November 24 to Wednesday, December 3

Deposits are due October 1

Contact us if you would like to join this year’s delegation. The agenda is being developed.



MUSIC AT ST. STEPHENS

Choir Fest Thanks choir for the great food and fellowship we will do it again.

Invitation to join Good News Singers is always open in the choir. Bring an instrument and share your talents with us., your voice, spirit, and praising God through music.

Christmas choir Please consider joining and be a member of a Christmas ensemble. It would be so great to see 20 strong celebrating Jesus in a choir.

Taize worship I'm still working on printing songs for this special time. Together we will have a booklet with introduction, and music available for everyone.

“Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God,
believe also in me. I will not leave you.
Peace I leave with you always.”

Upcoming Events:

September Benevolence Offering -
St. Stephen's Child Development Center

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Sept. 30 | Scouts 6:00 pm |
| Oct. 1 | Preschool Chapel 10:15 |
| Oct. 1 | Bible Study Weds. 7:30 pm |
| Oct. 2 & 16 | Women's Café Group 6:00 pm Thursdays
Dinner and devotions |
| Oct. 2 | Mens beginner A.A. Thursdays 7:00 pm Fireside |
| Oct. 3 | A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall |
| Oct. 4 | Property work day |
| Oct. 5 | Blessing of the Animals |
| Oct. 7 | Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm - Discretion Brew 41st |
| Oct. 9 | MMRR Circle 10:30 am |
| Oct. 11 | Sister Parish fundraiser "Prime the Pump"
Watsonville Public House 2:00 pm |
| Oct. 26 | * Reformation Polka Mass & Oktoberfeast * |
| Nov. 24—Dec. 3 | El Salvador Delegation |

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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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