

Increase
our faith!

LUKE 17:5

17th Sunday after Pentecost

October 5, 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 “For the Troubles and the Sufferings”

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 "Earth is Full of Wit and Wisdom" Blue #1064

Earth is full of wit and wisdom,
sounding God's delighted laugh,
from the tiny roly~poly
To the treetop tall giraffe.
All creation sings in wonder;
Even rocks and trees rejoice
as they join the ringing chorus;
Echoes of our Maker's voice.

Earth is full of wit and wisdom,
Woven into harmony,
Every creature has a purpose,
every flow'r and bumblebee,
Spider, human, redwood, gecko,
monkey, chicken, mouse, and snake
Live within a single fabric;
Cloth that only God could make.

(hymn continued)

Earth is full of wit and wisdom,
penguin, platypus, and snail,
Cactus, sea slug, oak, and algae,
from the microbe to the whale.
In this great strange creation,
with a breath God gives us birth:
Born of soil to live as stewards,
called to love and serve the earth.

*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 & Hymn of Praise

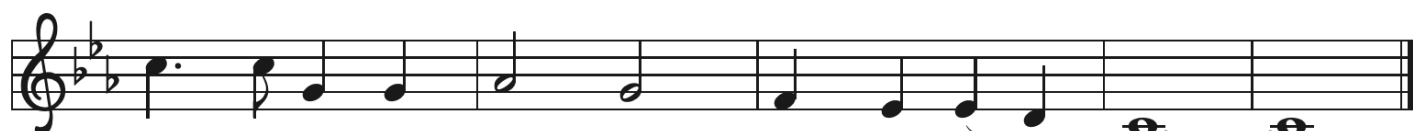
Blue #31



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 Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Celebrate pg. 1
R: Word of God, Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

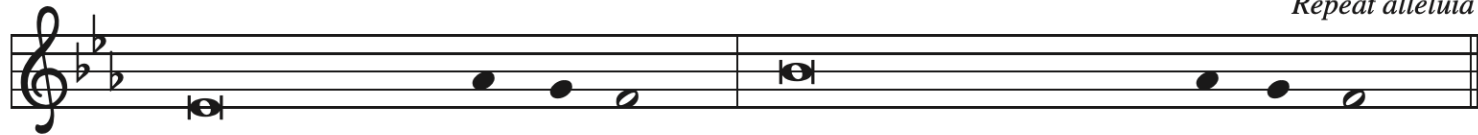
Psalm Psalm 37:1-9 Choir with congregation response
 Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading 2 Timothy 1:1-14 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.



Repeat alleluia

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

*Gospel Reading

Luke 17:5-10

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Luke, the 17th 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

"God Bestows on Every Sense"

blue #1069

God bestows on ev'ry sense
beauty as hope's evidence:
Signs of what the earth will be
just beyond what we can see.

Catch a fleeting glimpse of grace
In an unexpected place;
Just a taste, the smallest crumb
Of the banquet yet to come.

Vibrant pictures in our dreams,
Brushed with crystal color schemes,
Vanish from a waking mind,
Leaving just a trace behind.

(hymn continued)

In a burnt and blackened field
Broken ground begins to yield
Tiny, fragile sprouts of green;
Hints of forests yet unseen.

God makes all creation new,
Turning back what people do,
Building up what we destroy,
Singing sorrow into joy.

Blessing of the Animals

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 “Founded on Faith” Paul D. Weber

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

“For the Beauty of the Earth” Red #879

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

REFRAIN

Christ, our God, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.

For the wonder of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flow’r,
Sun and moon and stars of light:

REFRAIN

For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind’s delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight:

REFRAIN

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
For the friends on earth and friends above;
For all gentle thoughts and mild:

REFRAIN

For each perfect gift of thine,
Peace on earth and joy in heav’n;
For thyself, best gift divine,
To our world so freely giv’n:

REFRAIN

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 *"God of the Fertile Fields"* #1063

God of the fertile fields,
shaper of earth that yields
our daily bread:
Forth from your bounteous hand
come gifts your love has planned,
That all in ev'ry land
be clothed and fed.

We would be stewards true,
Holding in trust from you

All that you give;
Help us in love to share,
Teach us like you to care
For people ev'rywhere,
that all may live.

As grows the hidden seed
To fruit that serves our need,
So your reign grows.
Let all our toil be used,
No gift of yours abused,
No humble task refused
Your love be stows.

God of the countryside,
Dear to the Christ who died
To make us one:
We pledge our lives a new
In faithful love to you.
Guide all we say and do.
Your will be done.

*Dismissal

P: Go in Peace, Christ is sending you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music "For the Beauty of God's Grace"

Serving Today

Reader: Elke Spires

Coffee Host: Janet Slay

Altar Guild:

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager



SHORT TERM: Tom Williams, 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 *



The Altar Flowers are given
By Shelly Barker
Celebrating Liz birthday

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.”

Yours in Christ & Mission,
Gary



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.



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, 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**. 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.



Upcoming Events:

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

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Oct. 7 | Scouts 6:00 pm |
| Oct. 8 | Preschool Chapel 10:15 |
| Oct. 8 | Bible Study Weds. 7:30 pm |
| Oct. 16 | Women's Café Group 6:00 pm Thursdays
Dinner and devotions |
| Oct. 9 | Mens beginner A.A. Thursdays 7:00 pm Fireside |
| Oct. 10 | A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall |
| 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. 14 | Knitter's Guild 6:15 pm |
| Oct. 16 | Knitter's Guild 10 am |
| 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."*

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