

WOMAN,
GREAT
IS YOUR
FAITH!

MATTHEW 15:28

12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Music

“Andantino”

Cesar Franck ~ Composer, organist, teacher

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.”

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

“Great is Thy Faithfulness” #733

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not
As Thou has been Thou forever wilt be.

REFRAIN

Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

(hymn continued)

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. REFRAIN

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! REFRAIN

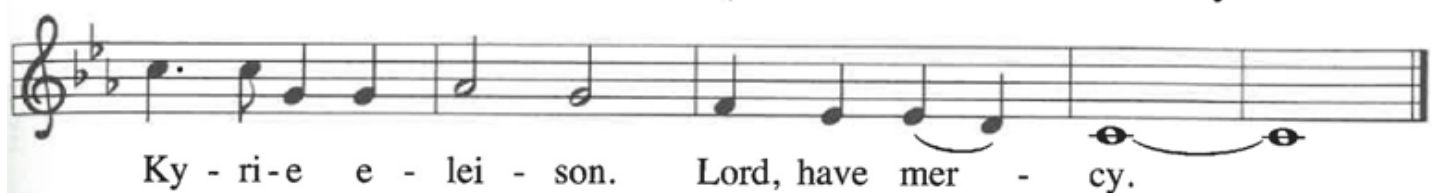
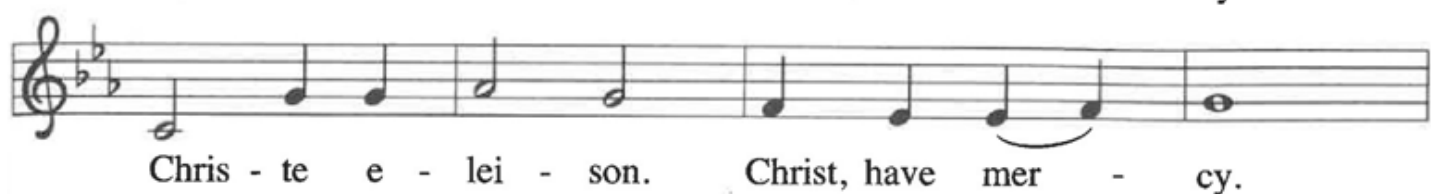
*Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

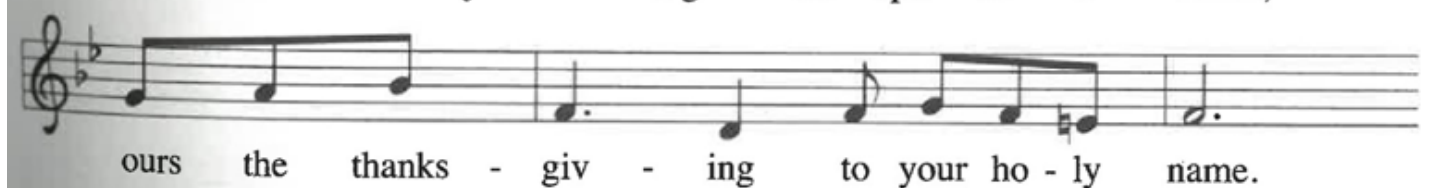
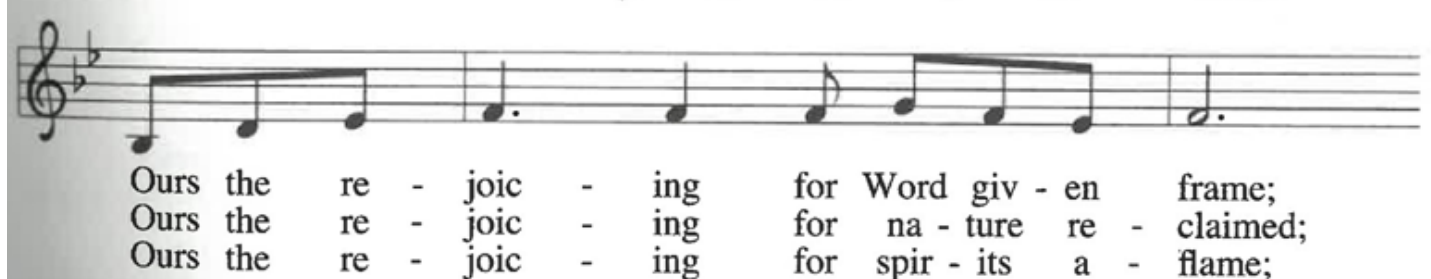
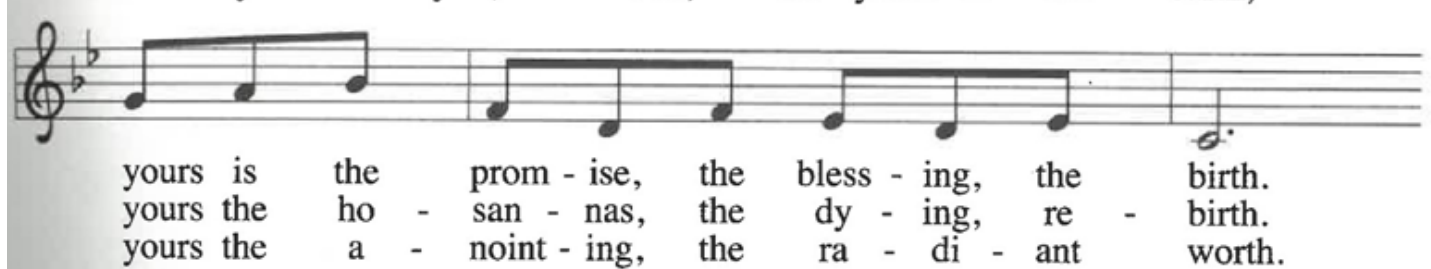
C: And also with you

*Kyrie & Hymn of Praise

Blue #31



One of the following or another song of praise may be sung.



*Prayer of the Day

The Word of God

God Stories - How has God's Word come alive in your life?

First Reading

Isaiah 56:1, 6-6

Celebrate pg. 1

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 67

(read responsively)

Cel. pg. 2

Second Reading

Romans 11:1-2, 29-32

Celebrate pg. 3

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

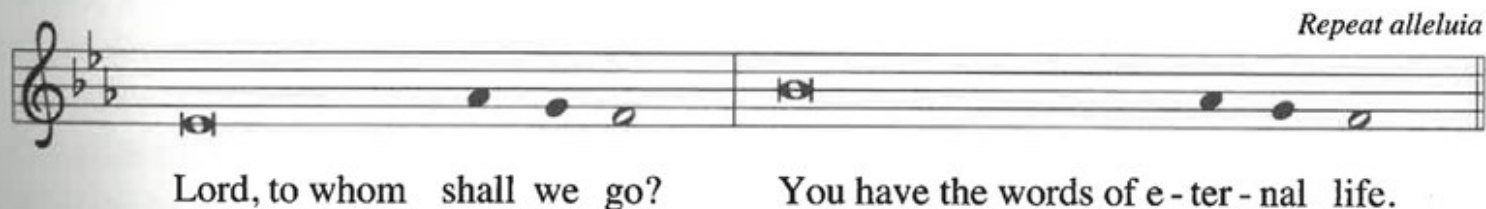
C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation

Blue #33



The proper verse may be sung, or all may sing one of these verses.



*Gospel Reading

Mathew 15:10-20, 21-28 Cel. pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Matthew, the 15th 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)

Message

Pr. Larry Vilardo

*Hymn of the Day

"All People That on Earth do Dwell" Blue #883

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;
Come ye before him and rejoice,

Know that the Lord is God in deed;
Without our aid he did us make.
We are his folk, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.

Oh, enter then his gates with praise;
Approach with joy his courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

For why: The Lord our God is good;
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

(hymn continued)

*To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heav'n and earth adore,
From us and from the angel host
be praise and glory ever more.*

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 “Seed Scattered & Sown” Barbara Johnston
by American Pastoral musician, Dan Felten 1994

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.

*Eucharistic Prayer

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our JOY,
that we should at all times and in all places,
offer thanks and praise to you,
almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection,
You pour out your Holy Spirit,
Uniting in one body,
people of every tongue and nation.

*Words of Institution

In the night, in which he was betrayed,
Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it,
And gave it to his disciples saying:

“Take and eat. This is my body given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

And gave it for all to drink, saying:

“this cup is the new covenant in by blood, shed for you

And for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.”

*Lord's Prayer

P: God, remember us in your love and teach us to pray:

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

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

(Please be seated)

Communion Gathering Song

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "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." The score includes a final double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

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

"Eat This Bread" Red #472

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to me and never be hungry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst.

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 *"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"* #656

1. Blest be the tie that binds
 our hearts in Christian love;
 the unity of heart and mind
 is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne
 we pour our ardent prayers;
 our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
 our comforts and our cares.

3. We share our mutual woes,
our mutual burdens bear;
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.
4. From sorrow, toil, and pain,
and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign
through all eternity.

*Dismissal

P: Go in Peace, Christ is sending you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music “Psalm XVIII”— Benedetto Marcello



Serving Today

Reader:

Coffee Host:

Altar Guild: Candace Anderson

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager

Hope and Love in South Stockton - Mt. Cross Day Camp at Iglesia Luterana Santa María Peregrina

Grace and peace be upon you all. At the new home of Iglesia Luterana Santa María Peregrina, St. Mark's United Methodist Church in South Stockton, the staff of Mt. Cross, led by Seminarian Christa Wyneken García, brought hope and love to the children who attended the summer camp. Among these young campers, there were migrant children whose parents were taken into custody by ICE agents in a traffic stop.

The title of Camp was "Wear Love." Christa, Jess, Tyler and Sofía, the Mt Cross staff, showed the participants the meaning of God's love through games, Bible Studies, songs, prayers, arts and crafts and their kindness. We did not have many kids given the fact that many families are afraid of going out, because of the increase of ICE activity in the area, but also because many are working hours that do not allow them to send their kids and be able to pick them up. Other families leave to other states looking for work and return in late August. Nevertheless, the collaboration between the Sierra Pacific Synod, Iglesia Luterana Santa María Peregrina, Mt. Cross Outdoors Ministries and St. Mark's United Methodist Church planted a seed of hope and love in one of the poorest ZIP codes in the state of California: 95206.

It is there in the margins that God awaits us all. Just like Christ was crucified outside the city of Jerusalem as a marginalized peasant Jew by the Roman Empire, we are called to meet Christ at the foot of the crosses experienced by other marginalized communities. We find Christ in the means of grace, but we also find him among his little ones, in the margins. The Love and Hope of God were experienced in one of the marginalized communities of the wealthiest state in the nation. The seed has been planted. Next year, I know more children will attend because the Word has been planted. Amen.

-The Rev. Nelson H. Rabell-González,
M. Div., STM, and BSME

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.

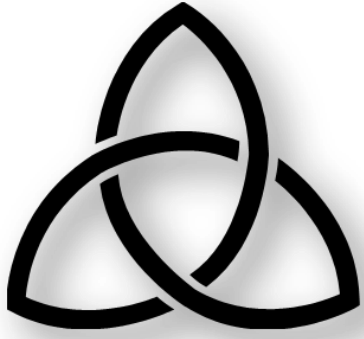
All are available at
<https://ststephenslutheran.org>
Or by scanning this QR code.



Prayer Concerns

SHORT TERM *Mark Linder, Ross Johnston, Zaun family, Doug Lentz, Celeste, Sharon, Kelly Sago, Ryan, June Raleigh Tony, Bunny, Richard Walton, Lisa Wyat, Kayla Ratliff, Frannes Hyddie, Thomas Viucera, Peggy Reed, Deontae Ratliff, Barbara Allen & Family, Jordan Perez, Fred, Rev. Will & Dorothy Sieburg, Pam Huypner, Bob Zigler, Kathybelle, Taiyo, Sam, Nancy's Family, Kat, Penny, Colin, Camryn, Dorothy Ronning, Bob Holzwarth, Mary Robe & Family, Sina & Bella, Chad Fields, James, Don, Pr. Gary & Corinne Stevenson, Kevin, Liz, Sam, Kathy M., Nancy, Grey, Levi, James, Galahad, Debbie, Sam, Nate Barker, Robbin, Middle East Peace, Tom Dawson, Dustin, Father Jack Davis, Adolfo, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Gary & Marjie Toops, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Isaac & Marissa, Mateo & Lina, Atlas, Katarina. Lorraine & Pr. Larry*

LONG TERM *James, Biergiel—Colclough family, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Beth UG, Brian Utto, Kathy Brooks, Joel Hurtgamm, Dawit & family (Ethiopia), Miller, April, Aaron Johnson, Shelby, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Lisa & Beau, Linda Johnson, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Mike, Susan Anderson, Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Karin, Will, Chris & John B., Those suffering with Mental Illness, Immigrant families, The Unhoused, People of Ukraine, People of Palestine/Israel, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, S.S. Senior Housing,*



Trinity Tuesday

(Pub Theology / Discussion)

One Beverage ~ One Hour ~ One Question

Tuesday September 1 at 6:30pm

First Tuesday of the month at Discretion Brewery

*BRING YOUR DEEPEST QUESTIONS,
AN OPEN HEART,
& A CURIOUS MIND*

Gather with us for an evening of meaningful conversation and real community. Bring your questions about faith, life, and everything in between. No judgment, no limits—just authentic dialogue over a cold one.

Whether you've been with us from the start or you're stepping through the door for the first time, there's a seat waiting for you.

Past conversations: How do we see God? How are we called? Why do bad things happen to good people? Recognizing our God-given talents. How do we forgive?

Kathy Allen 430-6359 for more info.

Music at St. Stephen's



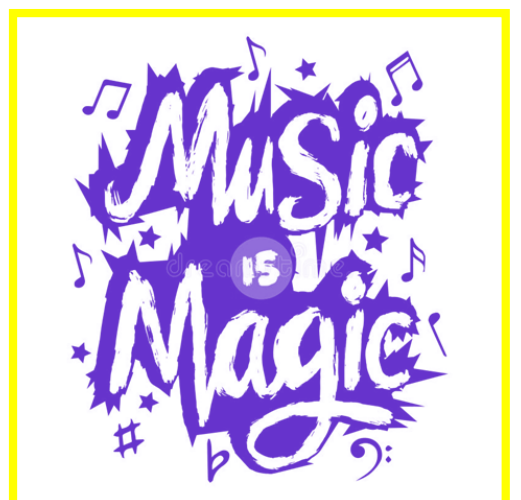
Happy Sunday Morning to everyone! The fall music program is almost here. I'm very glad and motivated to begin rehearsals, and have choir participating in worship once again in support of intoning the Psalms, readings, and the Gospel of our Lord.

Welcome Zelma Fennell as our new choir member, a fine voice and a spirited singer. Hurray! All are welcome!

By the way, last Sunday—Ladies you sounded fantastic! Wonderful singing together, and making music. Thanks guys also it was a real pleasure for me to accompany our congregational choir.

Thanks to the following: Rebecca Wickham & Mary Kelly for your leadership in forming our outreach letter to local schools and musicians—starting soon. Robert Alvarado for stepping forward and assisting in our new Web addition. Bill Schraft for choir communications, and doing such a great job of keeping us informed. Thank you Pastor Larry

Yours in Christ and Mission,
Gary



Upcoming Events:

August Benevolence Offering =
California Lutheran University &
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Aug. 18 Scouts 6:00 pm

Aug. 19 Bible Study Zoom 7:30 pm

Aug. 20 Men's A.A. Group 7:00 pm

Aug. 21 A. A. Group 7:00 pm

Aug. 20 Women's Bold Café 6:00pm
devotions and potluck

Aug. 23 Farewell Potluck for Pastor Larry
Sign up now

Aug. 30 — September Coffee Hosts & readers needed !

Aug. 30 "Holy Closure" worship honoring our preschool
& Boy Scouts host coffee hour!!!

Sept. 1 Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm
Discretion Brewery 41st Ave.
Faith Questions genuine community

Sept 11-13 Women of ELCA Retreat

Sept 12 Embroider's Guild 10—4

Oct. 31 Host AFC Shelter Dinner St. John's, Aptos 6 p

Pr. Larry will have brief office hours Tues. & Weds. Afternoons
Now through August 24 Pastor Jim on sabbatical

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.
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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

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