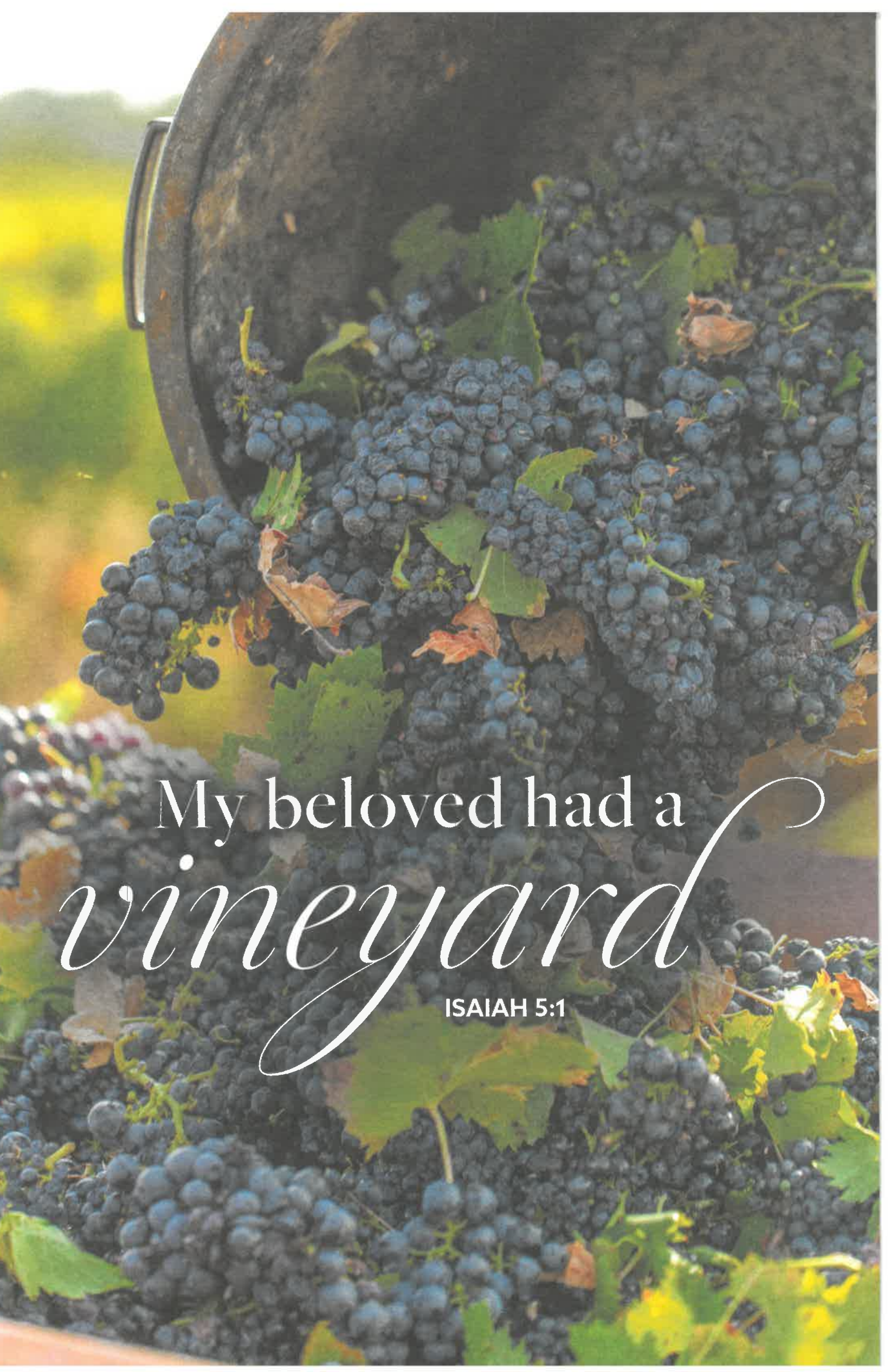




My beloved had a
vineyard

ISAIAH 5:1

19th Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Music “Chartres & Variation II” by Richard Purvis

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

*Litany of Praise for Creation

P: Glory to you, O God: you speak a word of power,
And so you create the world. We praise you, O God:

C: We praise you, O God.

P: For the Spirit hovering to bring forth life,
For the earth ordered from chaos, and for light and dark,
We bless you, O God:

C: We bless you, O God.

P: For the cosmos beyond our earth,
for the sky above our heads,
And for the cycle of evening and morning,
We exalt you, O God:

C: We exalt you, O God.

P: For the seas the lakes and the rivers,
For the land with its mountains and plains,
And for the trees, the plants, and their fruits,
We magnify you, O God:

C: We magnify you, O God.

P: For the sun to rule the day,
For the moon to brighten the night,
And for the shining stars, We extol you, O God:

C: We extol you, O God.

P: For the fish in the sea, and for the birds of the air,
And for the creatures in the deep,
We glorify you, O God:

C: We glorify you, O God.

P: For wild animals and creatures of all kinds,
For cattle and all livestock,
And for everything that creeps on earth,
We adore you, O God:

C: We adore you, O God.

P: For humankind made in your image,
For setting us on your good earth,
And for providing us food to eat, We praise you, O God:

C: We praise you, O God.

P: Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving
And honor and power and might
Be to you, our God, forever and ever.

C: Amen.

*Opening Hymn

"All Creatures Worship God Most High"
Red #835 (vs. 1-4, 6)

All creatures, worship God most high!
Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;
Sing, sister moon and stars of night:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain
you grow the gifts of fruit and grain:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear sister water, useful, clear,
make music for your Lord to hear:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong;
drive far the shadows, join the throng:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear mother earth, so rich in care,
praise God in colors bright and rare:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

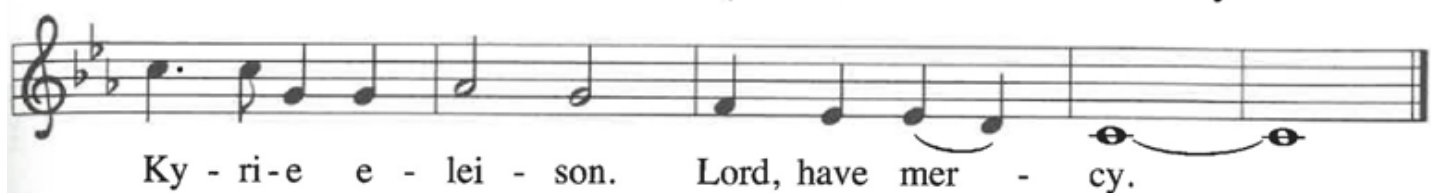
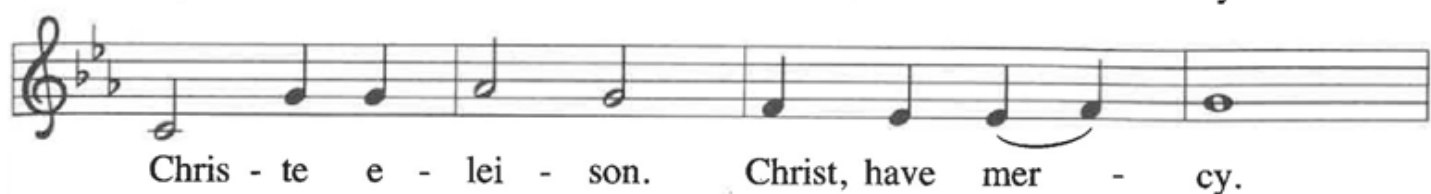
All who for love of God forgive,
All who in pain or sorrow grieve: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ bears your burdens and your fears;
Still make your song amid tears:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O sisters, brothers, take your part,
And worship God with humble heart:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

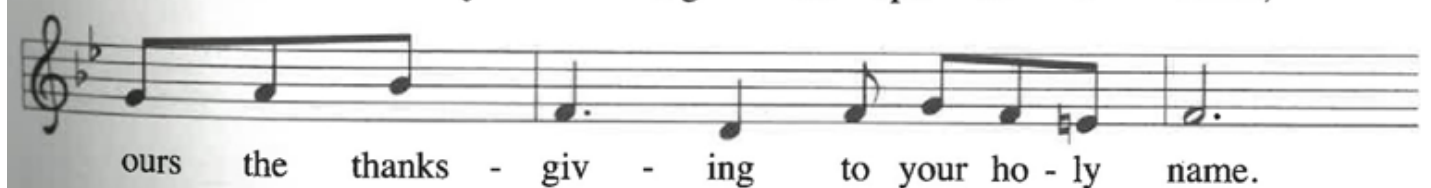
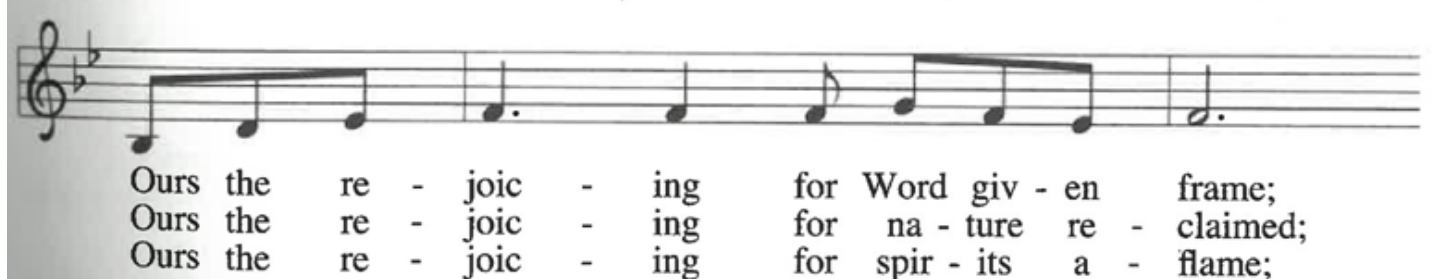
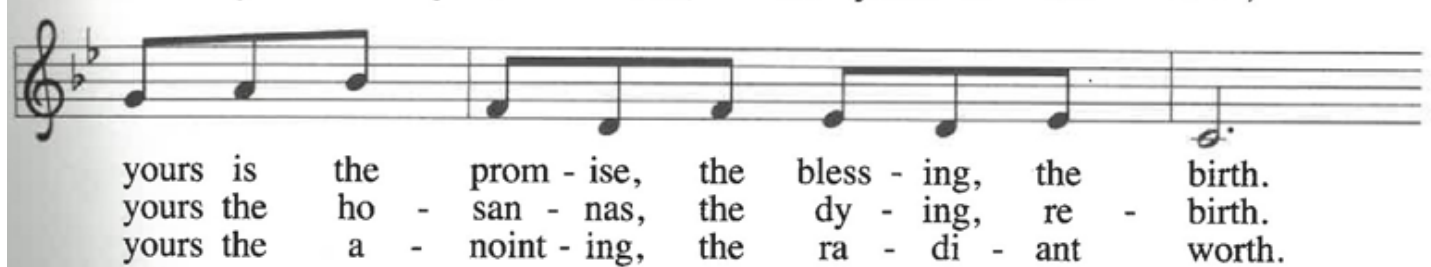
*Greeting

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



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



*Prayer of the Day

Blessing of the Animals

Please come forward with your animal/ picture of your animal.

P: Let us pray.

Holy God, we thank you for the gift of life. Recalling Francis who celebrated your love for all creation, today we embrace our connectedness to all: to wind, sea, and sky; to earthworm, giraffe, and chicken; to fish and puppy, to cats of the jungle and in our homes. Deepen our care for all that lives;
In the name of Jesus, our teacher, savior, and friend.

C: Amen.

Time of informal welcome of the animals.

P: Holy God, we thank you for the gift of (*say your animal's name*) in the life of (*say your name*). Through this animal you have brought many blessings. Today we pause to name our gratitude, and to pray a blessing on (*say your animal's name*). For the companionship of our pets, we say thanks. Bless our animal's life in our care; may they know love through all their days. **C: Amen.**

Please return to your seat.

P: Let us pray.

Gracious and loving God, you place all living things into the care of humankind. We pray that companionship with household pets will deepen our care for animals everywhere. Help us to balance our needs with theirs, and lead us in ways of life together that will be sustainable for all. **C: Amen.**

Hymn

"Earth Is Full"

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.

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.

The Word of God

First Reading Isaiah 5:1-7 Celebrate pg. 1

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

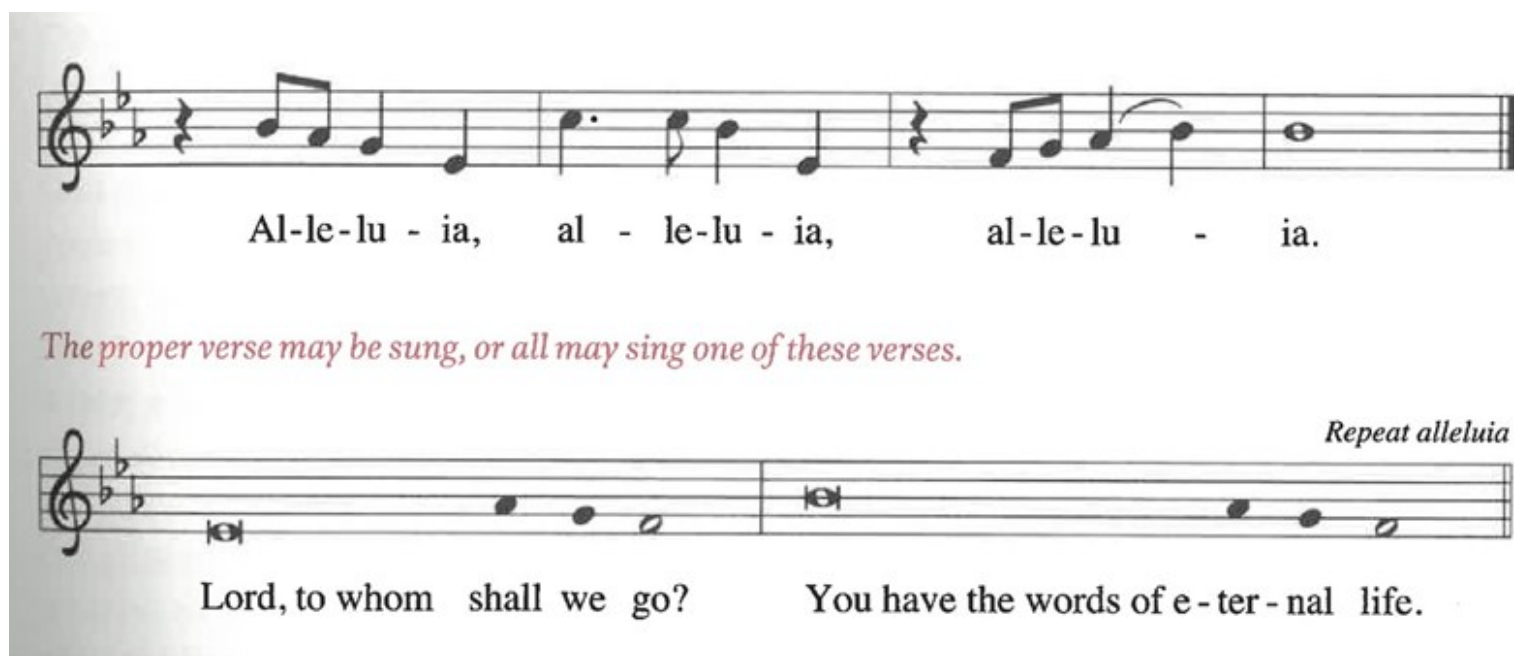
Psalm Psalm 80:7-15 (choir & congregation) Cel. pg. 2

Second Reading Philippians 3:4-14 Celebrate pg. 3

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation Blue #33



*Gospel Reading Mathew 21:33-46 Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Matthew, the 33rd 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. James P. Lapp

Hymn Sing (use pew books)

- 937 ~ Earth, Earth Awake vs. 1 & 3
- 879 — For the Beauty vs. 1~3
- 943 — As the Wind Song
- 556 — Morning Has Broken
- 1018 — Deep Peace (sing 3 times)
- 1069 — God Bestows on Every Sense vs. 1,4 & 5
- 739 — Touch the Earth Lightly

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 “Here I am to Worship”

Offering Prayer

P: God of creation,
You send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.

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...

*Words of Institution

*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.**

*Invitation to Communion

P: Christ invites you to this table.
 All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

(Please be seated)

Lamb of God



Communion Hymn

“Thaxted (Jupiter)” and “Old Hundredth”
Nathan Lapp, Trumpet

The Sending

Prayer after Communion

P: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your spirit, send us from this table to a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen

*Blessing

P: Creator God bless you and keep you.

Creating Christ shine through you with grace and mercy.

Creative Spirit nourish you and give you + Peace.

C: Amen.

*Closing Hymn “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” Red #836

1. Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
Praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.
2. All thy works with joy surround thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in thee.
3. Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
All who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine!

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Flourish with creation.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music The Sending & Canticle,
 "Lord Let Your Servant Go in Peace"

Serving Today

Reader: Elke Spires

Coffee Host: Jeanne Boudreau

Altar Guild: Connie Cunningham

Office Support: Candace Anderson, Sheila Buswell
 & Sherilyn Jager



Given by
Beth Stiles to honor Barbara Stiles
&
Shelly Barker to celebrate Liz birthday

REFORMATION SUNDAY

OCT. 25TH

10:00am WORSHIP
GERMAN MUSIC LITURGY

11:00am OKTOBER FEAST
& Fun

Brats Provided!

You bring Sides, Dessert & Beer!

See sign ups

“Roll out the barrel . . . ”

with an OOMPA Band

“Thirsty Nine” band is on hold
pending numbers

A Free will offering will be collected to
go to their music scholarships



Monarch Services & Mariposa House Presentation



Thursday, Oct. 8th at 10:30 am

Circle of Promise will have a speaker from Monarch Services share with us about their programs that are meeting the needs for safe shelter and services to victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. Volunteer opportunities and community awareness will be discussed. Join us and bring a friend to this timely and informative presentation.



**&
Día de los Muertos**

November 1

Bring a photo of your departed loved ones, framed or unframed, to display on a remembrance table in the church narthex. You can pick up your photo beginning Sunday, November 8 following worship.

Don't have a physical photo or can't come in-person to church right now? Email a digital photo by October 28 (or any other questions you may have) to Christa Garcia at christawynekengarcia@gmail.com and she will print and display them for you.

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.

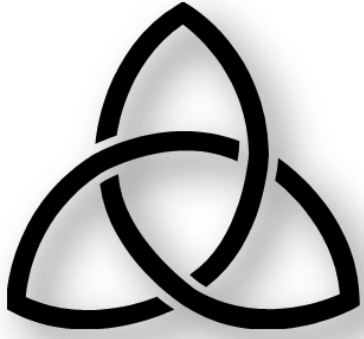
All are available at
<https://ststephenslutheran.org>
Or by scanning this QR code.



Prayer Concerns

SHORT TERM *Alfred Family, James & Family, Family of Mark Linder, Brian Garcia & Family, Dorothy Ronning, James, Kavon, Janet, Shelton, Judy, Mary, Brandon, Josie, Andre, Lurline, Tyeleiga, Diane Johnnie, Phill, Tina Brown, Alma Black, Andrea Black Tamsen, Leila, Doug Yaryan, Rob, Ross Johnston, Debbie Greso, James White, Jeffery, Zaun family, Doug Lentz, Barbara Allen & Family, Rev. Will & Dorothy Sieburg, Pam Huypner, Bob Zigler, Kathybelle, Taiyo, Kat, Kevin, Liz, Sam, Kathy M., Nancy, Grey, Levi, James, Galahad, Debbie, Sam, Nate Barker, Middle East Peace, Tom Dawson, Dustin, Father Jack Davis, Adolfo, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Isaac & Marissa, Mateo & Lina, Atlas, Katarina.*

LONG TERM *Pr. Gary & Corinne Stevenson, 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, Ruth, 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, S.S. Senior Housing, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family, men & women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.*



Trinity Tuesday

(Pub Theology / Discussion)

One Beverage ~ One Hour ~ One Question

Tuesday October 6 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.



On ZOOM
with Pr. Jim

Check email on
Tues. for link

WEDNESDAYS

7:30 – 8:30 pm

We will be looking at the upcoming scripture readings for Sunday, to enrich our worship experience and uncover some of the deeper truths of our faith. As we grow in our faith, we grow in community.



A huge thank you goes to Nancy Adams , for her beautiful voice & song selection—perfect! She will sing for us again in Nov. or Dec. I look forward to working together once more.



The “Players Wanted” invitations have been mailed to Santa Cruz, Harbor, and Soquel High Schools.

We welcome new members to our choir. Please give a thought to joining our singing group. Support is also needed for a Christmas Choir.

As always, we are grateful for the recent \$300 donation for the musicians fund, and we are in need for a bit more. Than you very much .

The Pipe Organ (Mr. Pipes) will be tuned before Christmas . The cost has been covered—hooray!

Yours in Christ and Mission, Gary

Upcoming Events:

September Benevolence Offering =
Lutheran Campus Ministry

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Oct. 6 | Scouts 6:00 pm |
| Oct. 6 | Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm
Discretion Brewery 41st Ave.
Faith Questions genuine community |
| Oct. 7 | Bible Study Zoom 7:30 pm |
| Oct. 8 | Men's A.A. Group 7:00 pm |
| Oct. 8 | Circle of Promise 10:30 am |
| Oct. 9 | "Next Stage Productions" 11 to 1 |
| Oct. 9 | A. A. Group 7:00 pm |
| Oct 10 | Embroider's Guild 10—4 |
| Oct. 13 | Church Council 6:30 pm |
| Oct. 15 | Women's Bold Café 6:00pm
devotions and potluck |
| Oct. 22 | Newsletter Deadline NOON
Think about sharing a God Story! |
| Oct. 25 | Reformation / Oktoberfest |
| Oct. 31 | Host AFC Shelter Dinner St. John's, Aptos 6 p |
| Nov. 1 | All Saints / Dia de los Muertos celebration |

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
Sunday School: Leslie Lapp
Custodian: John Hopping
Powerpoint: Jay Johnston, Kent Madsen & Barbara Rice

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539