

## **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 Statement**

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

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Web Address: [www.ststephenslutheran.org](http://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 Directors: Gary Roberts

Sunday School: Leslie Lapp

Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens

Custodian: John Hopping

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539

# Christ the King Sunday

## November 21, 2021

Welcome to people new to this church or faith, long time Lutherans, and Christians and faiths 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 & questioning believers. This is a place where you are welcome to celebrate & sorrow, rejoice & recover. This is a place where lives are made new.

*Welcome on this GLORIOUS day!*

Instructions: Please fill out the enclosed orange "Worship Slip" and place it in the offering plate with your offering, as a sign of thanksgiving for all of God's blessings.

### Prelude

## The Gathering

### \*Prayer of Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity †,  
the one who fashions us,  
The one who heals us,  
The one who reforms us again and again.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

P: Source of all life,

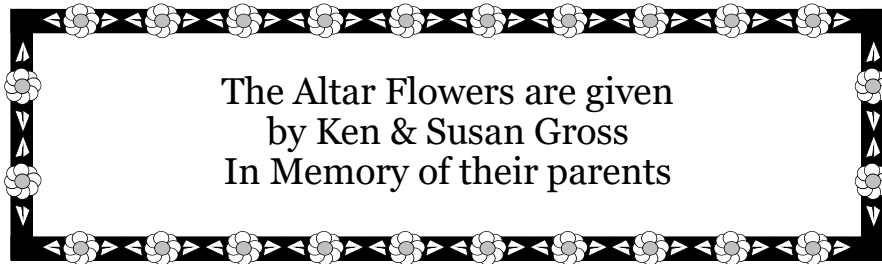
**C: We confess that we have not allowed  
Your grace to set us free.  
We fear that we are not good enough.  
We hear your word of love freely given to us,  
Yet we expect others to earn it.**

## Upcoming Events:

November Benevolence Offering = Sister Parish  
Santa Cruz al Salvador

TODAY	Confirmation 6:30 pm
Nov. 22	Child Development Board 11:15 am
Nov. 23	Provide Habitat Lunches 10:30 (sign up narthex)
Nov. 23	Boy Scouts 7:00 pm
Nov. 25	Blessed Thanksgiving
Nov. 28	Advent begins Sunday School wreath making, - RSVP!
Nov. 29	Newsletter Collating 2:00 (helpers needed)
Dec. 1	Women's Café Group 6:00 pm
Dec. 2	Bible Study 11:00 & 7:30 pm (Zoom)
Dec. 5	Confirmation 6:30 pm
Dec. 10	Deadline to request Altar Poinsettias
Dec. 19	MMRR Holiday Boutique 9:00 am—Noon Accepting baked goods and items to sell. Contact Margaret Schraft 831-588-6051

**Pastor's Office Hours Wed & Thurs. 10:00 to 1:00**



The Altar Flowers are given  
by Ken & Susan Gross  
In Memory of their parents

## Gratitude Sunday! Today

Let's all respond generously to God's love and grace for us. We take this time each year around Thanksgiving and the Fall Harvest to remember that all we have belongs to God. Use the materials mailed out to you to faithfully reflect on how you will give thanks in the coming year. By faith, as God enables us, let's strive to:

- Pray regularly for the ministry of our church.
- Attend worship services often to keep our faith first, and seek to invite others in sharing that with us.
- Be available to follow God's leading by offering your gifts of time and abilities to lift up the witness of our faith and mission as a church. Exercise our faith!
- Significantly give financially to the work of God's Spirit through the ministry of our church in 2022. Dedicate a percentage of your income as you are able.

Your 2022 offering envelopes are in the narthex ready for pick up. If your envelopes are not there, please contact the office 476-4700. Online giving is available, for info. contact Janet Slay (jolene95@comcast.net).

**We turn the church inward,  
Rather than moving it outward.  
Forgive us. Stir us.  
Reform us to be a church powered by love,  
Willing to speak for what is right,  
Act for what is just,  
And seek the healing of your whole creation.  
Amen.**

P: God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us  
And to empower our lives in the world.  
Our sins are forgiven,  
† God's love is unconditional,  
And we are raised up as God's people  
Who will always be made new,  
In the name of Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

### \*Opening Hymn

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Red #254

- 1. Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
Born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth thou art,  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.**
- 2. Born thy people to deliver,  
Born a child, and yet a king;  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all sufficient merit  
Raise us to thy glorious throne.**

### 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**

\*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray: .... now and forever. Celebrate p.1  
C: **Amen.**

**The Word of God**

First Reading Daniel 7:9-14 Celebrate pg. 1

Psalm (chant responsively) Psalm 93 Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading Revelation 1:4-8 Celebrate pg. 3

\*Gospel Acclamation "Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks"  
WOV #671 vs. 2

**REFRAIN**

**Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord;  
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.**

**Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
Jesus has died and has risen. REFRAIN**

\*Gospel Reading John 18:33-37 Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. John the 18th chapter.

**C: Glory to you. O God**

*(The Gospel is read)*

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Rev. James P. Lapp

**Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee!  
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

\*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Sound the good news.  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Gary Roberts

Serving today

Greeters:  
Reader: Nancy Loya  
Coffee Host:

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

**SHORT TERM:** Tyler Slay, Family of Rick Oldfield, Family of Ron Buswell, Family of Edna Lindquist, Barb R., Don S., Trace & Clare, Chris & Patty, Gaye Cornell, Harriet Edsall, Joe & Ali, Dorothy, Laura, Gerardo's Family, Family of Jean Petersen, Family of Betty Kievlan, Erickson, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Jane Davis, Kirsten Skiles, Healthcare workers, teachers, Jane, Nancy, Marisa, Margot Wilson, Rose, Sam, George Webber & Family, Aaron Johnson, Don, Lina, Sal, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Cabel, Miller, Kyle, Noah, Esdras, Immigrant families, The Homeless, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family. 9

## The Sending

### \*Communion Blessing

P: May this Holy Communion from Jesus Christ strengthen you  
and keep you in God's grace now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### \*Post Communion Prayer

P: Holy and compassionate God,  
In bread and wine you give us gifts  
That form us to be humble and courageous.  
May your words come to life  
In our serving and in our witness,  
That we might speak a living voice  
Of healing and justice to all the world,  
Through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

**C: Amen**

### \*Blessing

P: God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being;  
Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead;  
Holy Spirit, living voice,  
calling and enlightening the church;  
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
Bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### \*Closing Hymn

*"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"* Red #631

**Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heav'n to earth come down!  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.**

### \*Hymn of the Day

"Jesus Shall Reign" Red #434

**Jesus shall reign where're the sun  
Does its successive journeys run;  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.**

**To him shall endless prayer be made,  
And praises throng to crown his head;  
His name like sweet perfume shall rise  
With ev'ry morning sacrifice.**

**People and realms of ev'ry tongue  
Dwell on his love with sweetest song;  
And infant voices shall proclaim  
Their early blessings on his name.**

**Blessings abound where're he reigns:  
The pris'ners leap to lose their chains,  
The weary find eternal rest,  
And all who suffer want are blest.**

**Let ev'ry creature rise and bring  
Honors peculiar to our King;  
Angels descend with songs again,  
And earth repeat the loud amen.**

\*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.

Offertory Prayer

P: God of life,  
You give us these gifts of the earth,  
These resources of our life and our labor.  
Take them, offered in great thanksgiving,  
And use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation;  
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light.

**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...

\*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**

P: Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,  
And make us one with you.

Holy Communion

We have changed our practice in order to reflect our concern for the most vulnerable among us. Jesus often lifted up those who were most at risk in life as ones that we all need to care for lovingly. May this way of receiving draw us nearer to God's ways.

Please have your prepared elements ready to receive Holy Communion. Please commune yourself or a loved one with you with the words: "The Body of Christ given." and "The Blood of Christ shed."

Communion Hymn

*"Beautiful Savior"* Red #838

**Beautiful Savior, King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,  
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**

**Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,  
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.**

**Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,  
Bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
Than all the angels in the sky.**

**Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,  
Now and forevermore be thine!**