

BE OPENED

MARK 7:34



16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 2024

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 “Choral” Johann Gottfried Walther 1684-1748

The Gathering

*Confession and Forgiveness

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
Who forgives all our sin,
Whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

Gracious God,
Have mercy on us.
We confess that we have honored you with our lips,
But have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.
The cravings at war within us

**Cause conflicts and disputes.
In our desire to be first
We make distinctions among ourselves.
We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.
In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.
Draw near to us with grace in time of need,
And turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
Our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

P: God promises to forgive our iniquity
And to remember our sin no more.
By grace you have been saved.
In the name of † Jesus Christ,
The source of eternal healing,
Your sins are forgiven.
Amen.

*Opening Hymn “Earth and All Stars!” Red #731

**Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snow storm!
Sing to the Lord a new song!**

Refrain: **God has done marvelous things.
I too sing praises with a new song!**

**Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellos!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain***

**Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Limestone and beams! Loud building workers!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain***

(hymn continued)

Classrooms and labs! Loud boiling test tubes!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Athlete and band! Loud cheering people!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son! Loud praying members!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

*Greeting

From the one who is and who was and who is to come,
And from Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
Grace and peace be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie Refrain

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

1. For peace in the world, for the health of the church,
for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. REFRAIN
2. That we may live out your impassioned response
to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. REFRAIN
3. For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes,
For friends and family;
For life and for love, for our work and our play,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. REFRAIN
4. For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives
in the water and the Word;
That you nourish our souls with you body and blood,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. REFRAIN

This Is the Feast

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *Refrain* This is the feast of



vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Prayer of the Day

P: May God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us Pray.

God Stories

The Word of God

First Reading

Isaiah 35:4-7

Celebrate pg. 1

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146

read responsively

Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading

James 2:1-17

Celebrate pg. 3

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

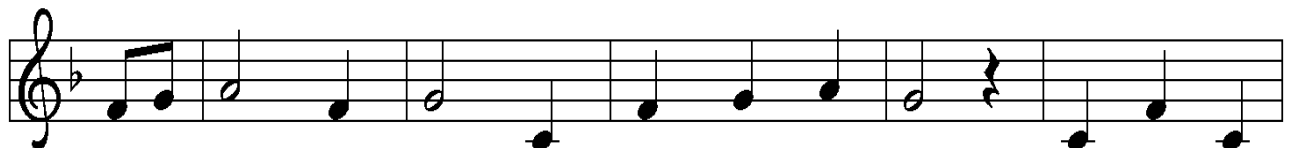
C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are able)

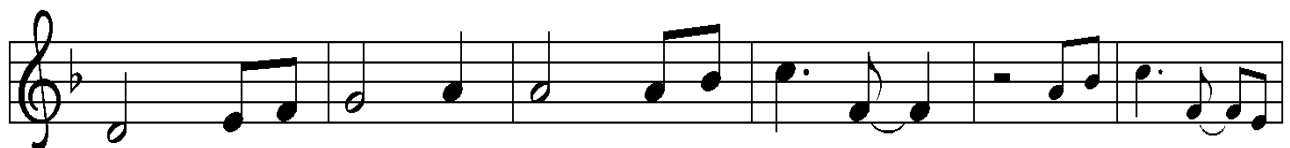
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark

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

Gospel Acclamation



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.



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



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

*Gospel Reading

Mark 7:24-37

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Rev. Susan Birkelo

*Hymn of the Day

“Light Dawns on a Weary World”

Red #726

Light dawns on a wary world
When eyes begin to see
All people’s dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world:
The promised day of justice comes.

REFRAIN

The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

Love grows in a weary world
When hungry hearts find bread
And children’s dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world;
The promised feast of plenty comes. **REFRAIN**

Hope blooms in a weary world
When creatures, once forlorn,
Find wilderness reborn.
Hope bloom in a weary world;
The promised green of Eden comes. **REFRAIN**

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 “Choral with Variations” Var 1V.
 Johann Walther 1684~1748

Offering Prayer

P: Let us Pray...

**C: Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills
Were gathered together to become one bread,
So let your church be gathered together
From the ends of the earth into your kingdom,
For yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.
Amen**

*Great Thanksgiving

P: May God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord**

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, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every tongue and nation.

*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**

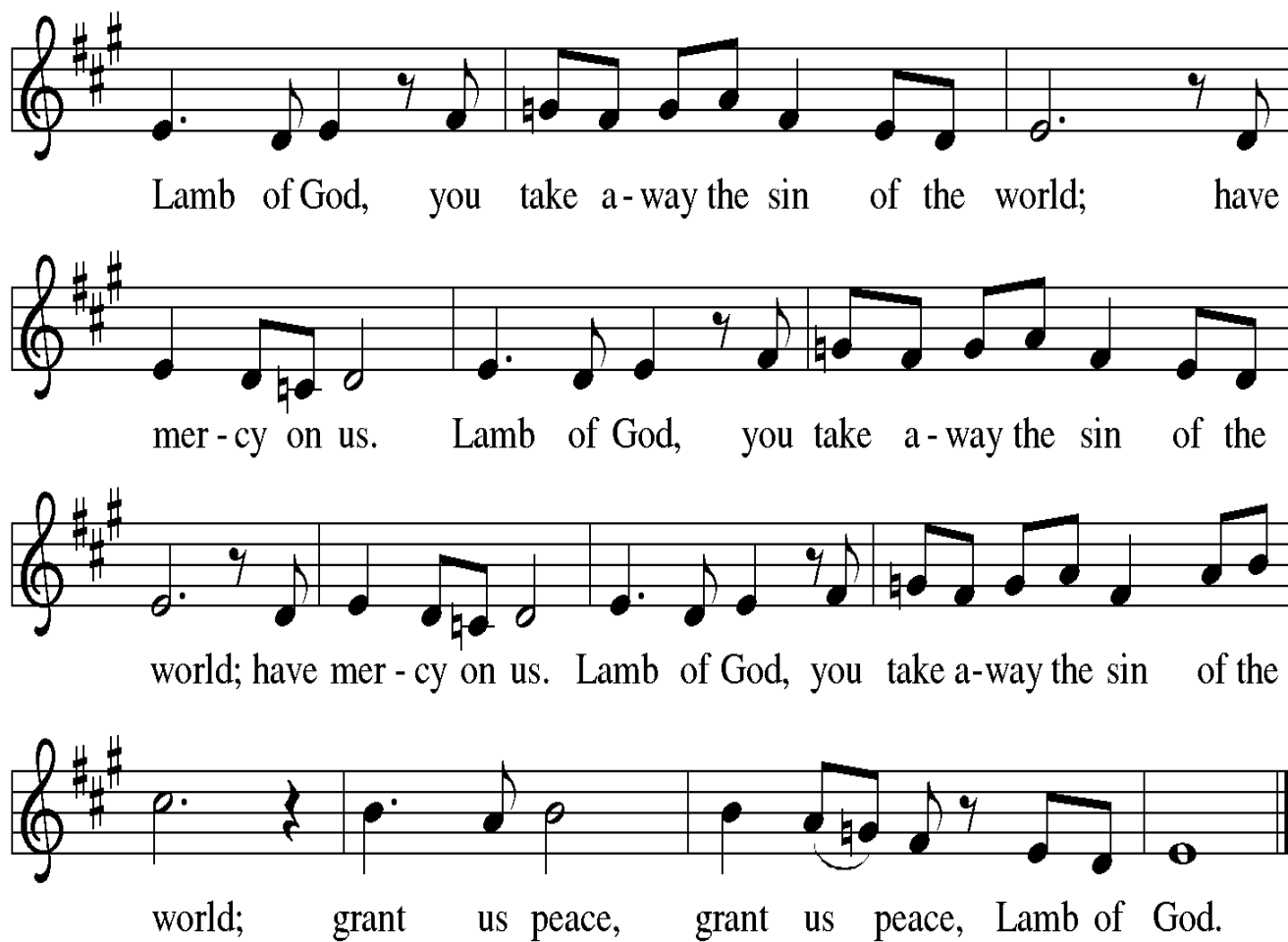
P: Goodness is stronger than evil.
Life is stronger than death.
Taste the goodness and life of God.

(You may be seated)

Holy Communion

Guests: You are welcome to come forward to receive Communion as part of this church family! Children are welcome to come forward and receive a special blessing if they have never communed before. Communion is by intinction, which means that we dip the bread into either the wine (red) or grape juice (white). Please follow the guidance of the ushers as to when and how you are to come forward.

Lamb of God



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, Lamb of God.

Communion Hymn

“Healer of Our Every Ill” Red #612

REFRAIN

Healer of our every ill
Light of each tomorrow
Give us peace beyond our fear
And hope beyond our sorrow

You who know our fears and sadness
Grace us with your peace and gladness
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts *REFRAIN*

In the pain and joy beholding
How your grace is still unfolding
Give us all your vision, God of love *REFRAIN*

Give us strength to love each other
Ev’ry sister, ev’ry brother
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide *REFRAIN*

You who know each thought and feeling
Teach us all your way of healing
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart *REFRAIN*

The Sending

*Communion Blessing

P: May this Holy Communion of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in God’s grace.

C: Amen.

*Prayer after Communion

P: O God,
C: **You have called your servants
To ventures of which we cannot see the ending,
By paths as yet untrodden,
Through perils unknown.
Give us faith to go out with good courage,
Not knowing where we go,
But only that your hand is leading us
And your love supporting us;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Blessing

P: The love of God who created you,
The mercy of † Jesus Christ who died for you,
And the power of the Holy Spirit who strengthens you,
Keep you at one with all the faithful, living and departed,
And remain with you now and forever.
C: **Amen.**

*Closing Hymn *“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*
Red #886

**Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer’s praise,
The glories of my God and king,
the triumphs of his grace!**

**My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth
abroad the honors of your name.**

**The name of Jesus calms our fears
and bids our sorrows cease,
Sings music in the sinner’s ears,
brings life and health and peace.**

(hymn continued)

He speaks, and list'ning to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
Be justified by grace!

To God all glory, praise, and love
Be now and ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above,
The church in earth and heav'n.

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music

“Cortege”
Richard Purvis, Organist—Composer
1913—1994

The Altar Flowers are offered
by Sheila Buswell
In memory of Ron



Serving Today

Reader: Beth Stiles
Communion Assistant:
Coffee Host: Margaret & Bill Schraft

Upcoming Events:

September Benevolence Offering
Lutheran Campus Ministry

- Sept. 10 Knitters Guild 6:15 pm
- Sept. 10 Church Council 6:30 pm
- Sept. 10 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm
- Sept. 11 Preschool Chapel 10:15 am
- Sept. 11 Bible Study Wed. 11 am & 7:30 pm
- Sept. 12 MMRR Circle Fall kick off 10:30 am
- Sept. 12 Mens beginner A.A. Thursdays 7:00 pm
- Sept. 13 A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm
- Sept. 16 & 30 Women's Café Group Mondays at 6:00 pm
- Sept. 21 Sister Parish 30 yr. celebration 2:00 pm
Watsonville Public House
- Sept. 24 Habitat Lunches continue 10:30 am
- Oct 1 NEW Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm — pub off site
(1 hour, 1 faith question, 1 drink)
More info call Kathy Allen 430-6359
- Oct. 22 No Sunday School
- Oct. 27 Reformation Polka Mass / October feast

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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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