

WHO DO YOU SAY  
THAT I AM?

MARK 8:29

# **17th Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 15, 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

“Andante III” (Choral)

Johann G. Walther 1684-1748

German Music Theorist and Organist

## **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

*“God, Bless the Hands” ACS (Blue) #1022*

**God, bless the hands stretched out in love  
through floods below and storms above;  
they search and rescue, comfort, calm,  
give shelter, offer healing balm.  
Oh, guard them by your steadfast hand;  
Reach out in love to help us stand.**

**Bring comfort to the hearts that mourn,  
Left broken, emptied by the storm.  
Give hope to those in deepest grief;  
Empower us to bring relief.  
To you, O God, we raise our hands.  
Save us, we pray, from sinking sands.**

O God, our strength and refuge sure,  
our hope while storms of life endure;  
Teach us to live in harmony  
with earth and river, sky and sea,  
preserving waters, air, and lands  
as holy work for human hands.

\*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 50:4-9

Celebrate pg. 1

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 116:1-9

read responsively

Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading

James 3:1-12

Celebrate pg. 3

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

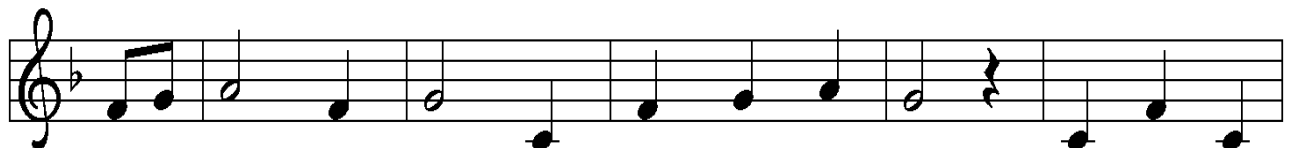
C: **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

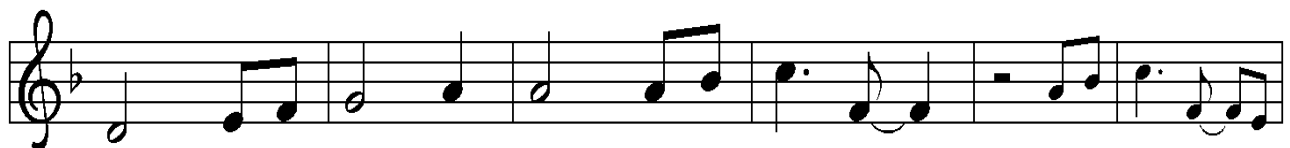
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark

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 8:27-38

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Rev. James P. Lapp

\*Hymn of the Day

“Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song”

Red #808

Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;  
I'll tell ev'rybody about you wherever I go:  
You alone are our life and our peace and our love.  
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.

Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.  
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.  
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.  
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.

As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,  
To carry your cross and to share  
all your burdens and tears.  
For you saved me by giving your body and blood.  
As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.

I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;  
But courage will come with the sound  
of your steps by my side.  
And with all of the fam'ly you saved by your love,  
We'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.

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            “A Retrospection” Richard Purvis  
                         American Composer  
                         Curtis Institute of Music Philadelphia Graduate

### 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**

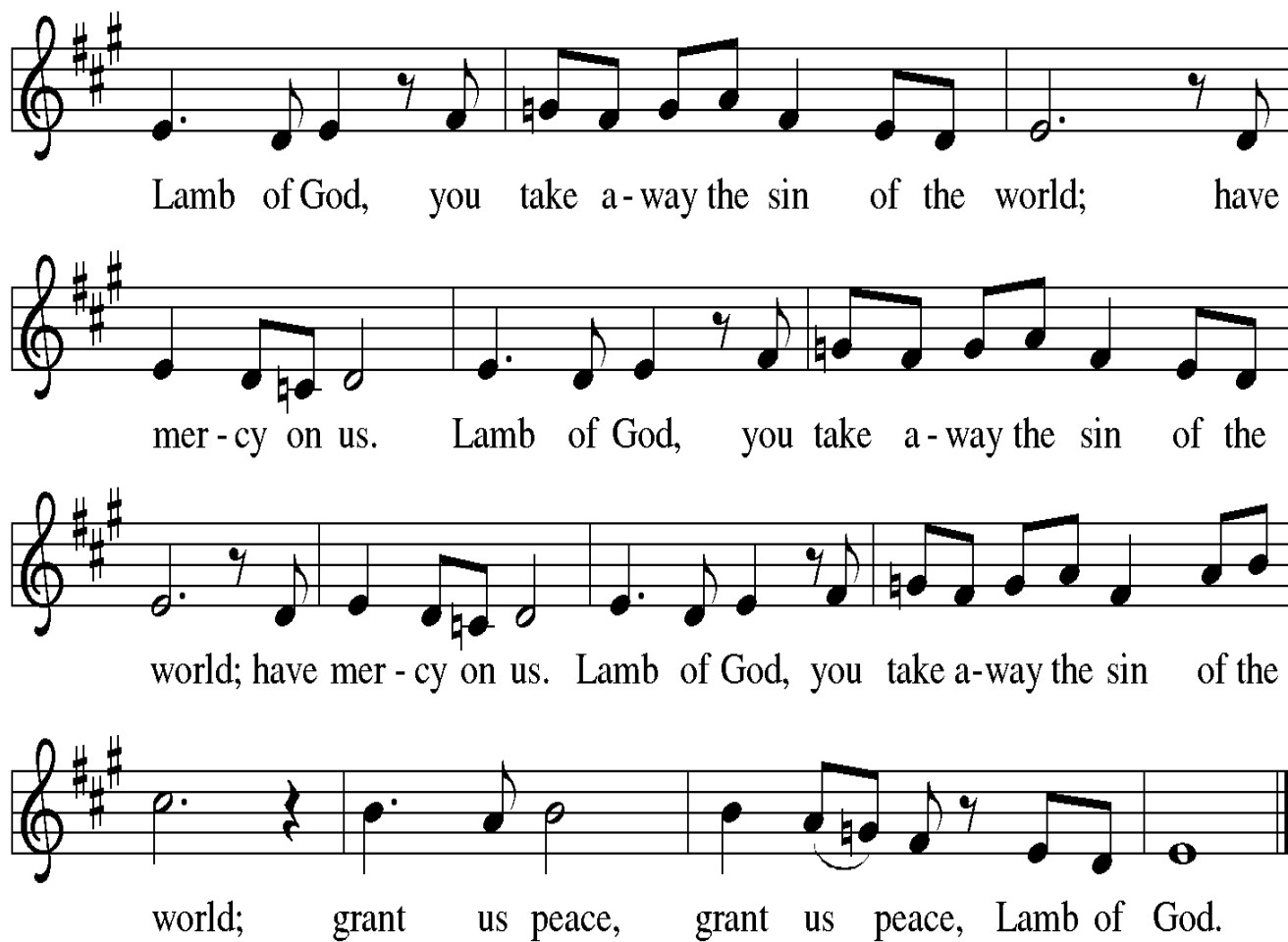
P: Goodness is stronger than evil.  
Life is stronger than death.  
Taste the goodness and life of God.

*(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    “Will You Come and Follow Me”  
(The Summons) Red #798

“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don’t know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
Will you let my name be known,  
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”

“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare,  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer pray’r in you and you in me?”

“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the pris’ners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
and do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”

“Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you’ve found  
to reshape the world around,  
Through my sight and touch and sound  
in you and you in me?”

Lord, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I’ll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

## 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

*“Shepherd Me, O God”*

Red #780

*Refrain:  
Shepherd me, O God,  
Beyond my wants,  
beyond my fears,  
from death into life.*

God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,  
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,  
I walk by the quiet waters of peace.

*(Refrain)*

Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,  
You lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,  
My spirit shall sing the music of your name.

*(Refrain)*

Though I should wander the valley of death,  
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,  
Your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope.

*(Refrain)*

You have set me a banquet of love  
in the face of hatred,  
Crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold.

*(Refrain)*

Surely your kindness and mercy follow me  
all the days of my life;  
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore.

*(Refrain)*

\*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music

“Grand Choeur” G.F. Handle  
(1685~1759) German Composer

The Altar Flowers are offered  
by Janet Slay In memory of Chris



# Upcoming Events:

September Benevolence Offering  
Lutheran Campus Ministry

- Sept. 16 & 30 Women's Café Group Mondays at 6:00 pm
- Sept. 17 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm
- Sept. 18 Preschool Chapel 10:15 am
- Sept. 18 Bible Study Wed. 11 am & 7:30 pm
- Sept. 19 Knitters Guild 10 am
- Sept. 19 Mens beginner A.A. Thursdays 7:00 pm
- Sept. 20 A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm
- Sept. 21 Sister Parish 30 yr. celebration 2:00 pm  
Watsonville Public House
- Sept. 24 Habitat Lunches continue 10:30 am
- Sept. 27 Newsletter Team 2:00 — new helpers needed
- 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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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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