



Justified  
by God's grace  
as a gift

ROMANS 3:24

# Reformation Sunday

Polka Mass

October 27, 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

“Reformation Prelude”

Setting—Lynn L. Peterson

## The Gathering

\*Confession and Forgiveness

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

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

Let us confess our sin, calling for God’s transforming power.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination*

Source of all life,  
**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.  
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 w  
Who will always be made new,  
In the name of Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn

*"All Are Welcome"* #641

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
A place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

REFRAIN

All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

(hymn continued)



Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:        REFRAIN

Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat:  
A banquet hall on holy ground  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;  
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:        REFRAIN

Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
To heal and strengthen serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
Let us bring an end to fear and danger:        REFRAIN

Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:        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.**

Come Now and worship  
Come now and worship the Lord  
Come now and worship  
Join as we sing and adore  
Gather together  
Give God the praise that is due  
Hear us as we come to worship  
Sing praise to you.

We bring our gifts  
Gifts of our selves and our lives.  
With bread and wine  
We offer you our whole lives.  
This celebration  
Draws us all closer to you.  
Hear us as we come to worship.  
Singing praise to you.

Jesus our Savior.  
Died on the cross just for us.  
Rose from the dead  
He gives salvation to us.  
Gather together  
Drawing us closer to you.  
Hear us as we come to worship.  
Singing praise to you.

\*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                      Jeremiah 31:31-34                      Celebrate pg. 1  
R: Word of God, Word of Life.  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading                      Romans 3:19-28                      Celebrate pg. 3  
R: Word of God, Word of Life.  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Good News Acclamation                      (before & after Gospel)

Allelujah.                      Allelujah.                      Allelujah.                      Allelujah.

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. John the 8th Chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O God.**

D:

\*Gospel Reading                      John 8:31-36                      Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Allelujah.                      Allelujah.                      Allelujah.                      Allelujah.

Sermon

Rev. James P. Lapp

\*Hymn of the Day                      *“A Mighty Fortress is our God”* #504

A mighty fortress is our God,  
A sword and shield victorious;  
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod  
And wins salvation glorious.  
The old satanic foe  
Has sworn to work us woe!

With craft and dreadful might  
He arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might!  
We would be lost, rejected.  
But now a champion comes to fight,  
Whom God himself elected.  
You ask who this may be?  
The Lord of hosts is he!  
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,  
God's only Son, adored.  
He holds the field victorious.

Though hordes of devils fill the land  
All threat'ning to devour us,  
We tremble not, unmoved we stand;  
They cannot overpower us.  
Let this world's tyrant rage;  
In battle we'll engage!  
His might is doomed to fail;  
God's judgment must prevail!  
One little word subdues him.

God's Word forever shall abide,  
No thanks to foes, who fear it;  
For God himself fights by our side  
With weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house,  
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
Though life be wrenched away,  
They cannot win the day.  
The Kingdom's ours forever!

## 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

“Wir Glauben All”  
Setting—Jacob B. Weber

Offering Hymn “At This Sacrifice”  
(Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain)

At this sacrifice we gather  
Celebrating of your love.  
For the sins we have committed,  
Grant us pardon Lord of love.  
Hearts to grow a little tender,  
As the time of life goes by.  
Love and kindness for each other,  
Much too fast the moments fly.

Jesus we're not worthy ever,  
To receive you here today.  
Say the word denying never.  
Make us pure again we pray.  
God is love and God is mighty.  
God is ever merciful.  
Graces from God's holy bounty,  
Sends God's love most wonderful.



Through the ages and forever,  
In the heavenly domain.  
Show the path for us to enter,  
There for always to remain.  
Life is like a dying ember,  
Only moments do remain.  
Increase our feeble faith O Jesus.  
Shed thy healing light a gain.

### Offering Prayer

P: Let us Pray...

**Blessed are you, O God,  
Source of every gift of your creation  
By these gifts and with our lives,  
Help us to serve one another and all in need,  
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
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: Jesus welcomes you to this table.  
Come, here is your 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 (Tune: Edelweiss)

Lamb of God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the world's sin.  
Lamb of God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the world's sin.  
Mercy and peace may you grant to us,  
Grant to us forever.  
Lamb of God, Lamb of God, grant to us your peace.

Communion Hymn

*“Under the Skies of Blue”*

Under the skies of blue,  
Kneeling in prayer to you.  
We sinners on earth profess  
Your love and Holiness.

REFRAIN

Glorious Lord.  
Shower your love and your grace on us.  
Say But the word.  
Our souls to heal and bless

Oh Jesus I confess  
Of my unworthiness.  
Regretting the sinful past,  
Be with us to the last.

REFRAIN

This bread and wine we take,  
Oh sacrament divine.  
Releasing the soul from sin  
Keep us forever thine.

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.**

### Post Communion Hymn "Let Us Sing" (Wooden Heart)

Let us sing, let us sing, let us sing to Christ our King.  
Sing to Christ our King as we ask for his help this day.  
God is good God is kind,  
God will give us peace of mind,  
Give us peace of mind if we following God's way.  
There's no strings upon this love  
God gives, God asks only your love in return  
God is good, God is kind,  
God will give us peace of mind,  
Give us peace of mind if we follow in God's way.

### \*Blessing

P: God all mighty,  
God most merciful  
† bless you, keep you,  
And give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

### \*Closing Hymn

*"Go to the World"* ACS #991

Go to the world!  
Go into all the earth.  
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,  
Baptizing, as the sign of our rebirth.  
Alleluia. Alleleluia.

Go to the world!  
Go into every place.  
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace.  
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.  
Alleluia. Alleleluia.

Go to the world!  
Go struggle, bless, and pray;  
The nights of tears and give way to joyous day.  
As servant church, you follow Christ's own way.  
Alleluia. Alleleluia.

“Go to the world!  
Go as the ones I send,  
For I am with you till the age shall end,  
When all the hosts of glory cry, Amen!”  
Alleluia. Alleleluia.

\*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music           “O Lord, We Praise You”  
                    Setting—Benjamin Culli

**Serving Today**

Music: Good News Singers  
Reader: Steven Hendrickson  
Communion Assistant:  
Coffee Host: Fellowship Hall  
Altar Guild: Judith Alvarado  
Office Helpers: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager

## Prayer Concerns

SHORT TERM: For Connie and Family of Paul Cunningham, For Julie Mouw and Family of Marty Lundin, George Webber, Michelle & Family, Family of Travis, Boci, Isaac & Marissa, Chris Powers, Gloria, Jack & Kim Sanford, Lucia, Dennis Lewis, For Beth & Family of Barbara Stiles, Marta's parents, Adrienne, George & Louside Matz, Friends in Tel Aviv, family of Barbara Klapper, family of Lauren Patrick, Patrick & Family, The Moore family, the Brown Family, Family of Sandra Barker, Nick,, James, Beth Mills, Mary D., Candace Anderson & family, Tom, Galahad, Susan O., Debbie, Sam, James, Michael Lee, Nate Barker, Grandpa Dennis, Bob & Shirley Salter, Monica & Family, Lurline Moore, Beth Butler, Jen, Robbin, Maria Mendoza, Ila & Reina, Francisco, Margot Wilson, Michael, Keith, Noelle, Ensley, Tim Oldfield, Sierra, Julie R., Rosie, Janet, Sue, Middle East Peace, Tom Dawson, James, Taiyo, Marissa, Isaac, Alvarado family, Dustin, Father Jack Davis, Sandi Csik, Janica Paustian, James, John, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Allen, Sandy, Levi & Alexandria, Gary Toops, Paul Paustian, Gaye Cornell, Dorothy, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Nancy, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Will, Aaron Johnson, Sal, Katarina, Stephanie Jager.

LONG TERM: Biergiel—Colclough family, Carla Brown, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Joel Hurtgamm, Dawit and family (Ethiopia), April McCalmont, Marty Nehring, Miller Mouw, Kyle Lapp, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Dom, Lisa & Beau, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Bobbie Erickson, Mike, Susan Anderson, Jan Wagner, Richard C., Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Karin, Will, Chris, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, Cabel, Noah, Esdras, Immigrant families, The Homeless, People of Ukraine, People of Palestine/Israel, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, S.S. Senior Housing, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family, men & women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

*Altar Flowers are given by Janet Slay  
In memory of  
Barry Hansen's 80th Birthday*





## Upcoming Events:

October Benevolence Offering    Lutheran Campus Ministry

- Oct. 28            Women's Café Group Mondays at 6:00 pm
- Oct. 29            Boy Scouts 6:30 pm
- Oct. 30            Preschool Chapel 10:15 am
- Oct. 30            Bible Study Wed. 11 am & 7:30 pm
- Oct. 30            NL Collating 2:00 pm
- Oct. 31            Mens beginner A.A. Thursdays 7:00 pm
- Nov. 1            A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm
- Nov. 5            NEW Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm  
Discretion Brew 41st Ave. Kathy Allen 430-6359  
(1 hour, 1 faith question, 1 drink)
- Nov. 12           Knitters Guild 6:15 pm
- Nov. 12           Church Council 6:30 pm
- Nov. 14           MMRR women's circle 10:30 am
- Nov. 21           Knitters Guild 10 am
- Nov. 24           Thanksgiving Potluck & Kids card Turkey Trot
- In Dec.           Angel Tree & Bake Sale

**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](mailto:office@ststephenslutheran.org)  
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 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