



NOT
ONE STONE
WILL BE LEFT
UPON
ANOTHER

MARK 13:2

26th Sunday after Pentecost

November 17, 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

“Occasional Oratorio”

G.F. Handel 1685-1759

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

“My Lord, What a Morning”

Red #438

REFRAIN

**My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning;
Oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to
fall.**

**You will hear the trumpet sound,
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
When the stars begin to fall. REFRAIN**

(hymn continued)

You will hear the sinner cry,
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
When the stars begin to fall. REFRAIN

You will hear the Christian shout,
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
When the stars begin to fall. 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.**

Call To Worship

“Come Now and Worship”

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

Daniel 12:1-3

Celebrate pg. 1

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:11-25

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. Mark the 13th Chapter.

C: Glory to You, O God.

*Gospel Reading

Mark 13:1-8

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

“Look Who Gathers at Christ’s Table”

ACS #977

Look who gathers at Christ’s table!
Hear the stories that they bring.
Some are weeping; Some are laughing;
Some have songs they want to sing.
Others ask why they’re invited,
Burdened by the wrong they’ve done.
Christ insists they all are welcome.
There is room for ev’ry one.

Clouds of light surround the table;
Ancient followers appear,
saints confessing how they wrestled
with their guilt, their doubt and fear.
Peter tells of his denying
Christ was ever in his sight;
Paul relates his fruitless efforts
to obliterate the light.

Their sad stories are repeated
in a thousand different ways,
But they share one thing in common;
They all end in thanks and praise

for the host who has invited
north and south and east and west
to converge around this table,
Where all life is fed and blest.

Bring your joy and bring your sadness,
and prepare to be surprised
by the host whose hands are wounded,
who will open wide your eyes
when he blesses bread and breaks it—
truth and manna from above! ~
and then passes wine that wakens
in your heart the taste of love.

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

“Aria in F. Major”
G. F. Handel 1685-1759

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.

Show 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

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past” Red #632

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood
or earth received its frame,
From ever lasting you are God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream,
Bears all our years away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music “Fugue in C. Major”
 Felix Mendelssohn
 Bart Holdy 1809– 1847

Serving Today

Reader: Beth Stiles

Communion Assistant:

Coffee Host: Rebecca Wickham

Altar Guild:

Office Helpers: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager

*The Altar Flowers
Are given by Janet Slay
In memory of Al & Sylvia Hansen*





Prayer Concerns

SHORT TERM: For Connie and Family of Paul Cunningham, The Glosier family, For Julie Mouw and Family of Marty Lundin, Unemployed, 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, Gary & Louse 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., 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 & Alexandra, Gary & Marjie 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.

***Grateful for
God's Persistent Abundance***

Consecration Sunday
&
Thanksgiving Potluck

November 24

Please bring your commitments to worship

***Let's all respond to God's love
and grace for us generously with gratitude!***

Your packets are in the narthex for you to take home for honest reflection on how we will give back to God through our church in the coming year.

Through faith and persistence, as God enables us, let's strive to:

- Pray persistently for the ministry of our church.
- Attend worship services often to keep our faith first, and seek to interest others in sharing that with us.
- Be available to follow God's leading by offering your gifts of time and ability through our church.
- Thank God for your life's blessings by returning a tithe (10%) of your income back to God, through the ministry of our church in 2025.

Music at St. Stephen's



Hello & Greetings to everyone.

Join the Choir! The Good News Singers will be singing in worship and supporting worship through music & the “Polka Mass” will continue for the next three weeks. In November many thanks to Tina Gates for introducing this modern take for Christian celebration, and musical FUN!

Join the Christmas Choir! We meet around the piano each Sunday for worship. The choir will be singing through out November and the four weeks of Advent.

Share your talents! Rejoice and bring your talents to life each Sunday!

All that Brass returns for Christmas and Easter.

Musicians Fund. Thanks you for your support!

“Music is a higher revelation
than all wisdom and philosophy.”

~J.S. Beethoven

Yours in Mission and Christ, Gary

Altar Guild & Communion
Set up Help is **NEEDED!**

We, as a congregation, want our sanctuary to reflect our love and reverence for Christ throughout the year. As we approach Advent and Christmas, altar guild help is especially needed.

Currently, worship and communion preparations are being handled by only one or two people.

Please prayerfully consider volunteering one weekend during November or December to prepare the sanctuary and communion for worship. Instructions are available.

Sign up in the narthex.



MaryMartha / Ruth Rebecca Circle



ANGEL TREE

Our Angel Tree will appear in the narthex Thursday, November 14th with the MMRR Elves assistance. 30 Angels will be ready for the taking and gifting to children ages 3 to 12 years old. Pick up your Angels, sign the gift sheet and buy a gift for \$20.00 or less. **Return the gift December 8th with the Angel tag securely attached.**

Our Angel gifts are provided to deserving children through the "Adopt a Family" outreach program of the Volunteer Center. These local families are dealing with hardships such as: unemployment, homelessness, disabilities, health challenges or are victims of violent crime.

Sunday, December 8th



We have a great way to expand your variety of holiday goodies for family and friends. Bring your batches of homemade specialties. Buy the delights that intrigue you! Bake Sale proceeds will continue the Circle ministry projects.

Dec. 12th, 10:30 – Circle Cookie & Gift Exchange.

Bring a dozen cookies and a \$10.00 gift. We will take a break from holiday preparations to visit over cookies, coffee & tea.

Upcoming Events:

November Benevolence Offering - Santa Cruz al Salvador

Now —Dec. 8 Angel Tree

Nov. 17—26 No Boy Scouts 7:00 pm

Nov. 18 Choir dinner & rehearse pm (fellowship hall)

Nov. 18 Embroiders Guild 7:00 pm

Nov. 20 Preschool Chapel 10:15 am

Nov. 20 Bible Study Wed. 11 am & 7:30 pm

Nov. 21 Knitters Guild 10 am

Nov. 21 Mens beginner A.A. Thursdays 7:00 pm

Nov. 22 A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm

Nov. 24 Consecration Sunday—share your gifts

Nov. 24 Thanksgiving Potluck & Kids card Turkey Trot

Nov. 25 CDC Board 11:15 am

Nov. 25 Women's Café Group Mondays at 6:00 pm

Dec. 5 NEW Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm
Discretion Brew 41st Ave. Kathy Allen 430-6359
(1 hour, 1 faith question, 1 drink)

Dec. 8 Bake Sale & TBD Christmas Pageant

Dec. 12 MMRR Womens Circle 10:30 am

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
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