

# St Stephen

Evangelical Lutheran Church



Encouraging and  
strengthening faith in Jesus,  
and sharing the joy of God's love.

September 20, 2015    Seventeen Sunday after Pentecost    10:15 am

Pastor Pedro Suarez

# WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

—WE GATHER—

## INTRODUCTION

Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them an actual flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the particular children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Please stand as you are able*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Before God and in the company of our sisters and brothers, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*



P: God and Father of all,

**C: We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed.**

**We have thought better of ourselves than others. We have told lies, said hurtful things, acted in ways we wish we could take back, and looked the other way when action was needed. In your mercy, O God, forgive us, cleanse us, and heal us, for the sake of Jesus, our Savior.**

P: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; everything has become new! In Christ, + you are a new creation: your sins are taken away and you are made new. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

**C: Amen.**



1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,  
 2 The church from you, dear Mas - ter, re - ceived the gift di - vine;  
 3 Oh, make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:  
 and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.  
 to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;



we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,  
 It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,  
 oh, teach your wand - 'ring pil - grims by this their path to trace,



a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.  
 mid mists and rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.  
 till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.

Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

## THE 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.



# HYMN OF PRAISE "This is the Feast..."

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

*All*  
1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. 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 and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together:

**C: O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN**

## Children's Message

**FIRST READING:**

**Jeremiah 11:18-20**

*Today’s reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God’s word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.*

<sup>18</sup> It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. <sup>19</sup> But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, “Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!” <sup>20</sup> But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 54**

*God is my helper; it is the LORD who sustains my life. (Ps. 54:4)*

<sup>1</sup> Save me, O God, by your name,  
and vindicate me by your might.

<sup>2</sup> **Hear my prayer, O God;  
give ear to the words of my mouth.**

<sup>3</sup> For the insolent have risen against me,  
the ruthless seek my life;  
they do not set God before them. *Selah*

<sup>4</sup> **But surely, God is my helper;  
the Lord is the upholder of my life.**

<sup>5</sup> He will repay my enemies for their evil.  
In your faithfulness, put an end to them.

<sup>6</sup> **With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you;  
I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good.**

<sup>7</sup> For he has delivered me from every trouble,  
and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.

<sup>13</sup> Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup> But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup> Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup> For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup> But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup> And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

<sup>1</sup> Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup> You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup> You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

<sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8a</sup> Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Amen.

**L:** The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**P:** Please Rise for the Gospel Acclamation.

**THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Alleluia ”**

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

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

**P:** The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the 8th chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord!**

**GOSPEL:****Mark 9:30-37**

*Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.*

<sup>30</sup> They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup> for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." <sup>32</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. <sup>33</sup> Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" <sup>34</sup> But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup> He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." <sup>36</sup> Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

You may be seated.

**SERMON****—WE RESPOND—**

P: Please stand as you are able for the Sermon Song

**SERMON SONG****Jesus Loves Me****ELW #595**

1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;  
 2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;  
 3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.  
 he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.  
 when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

*Refrain*

Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.  
 Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868



## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

*After each petition of the prayer is said:*

A: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Trusting your love and healing, O God, we commend to you all for whom we pray, knowing you will hear and answer, through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us share with one another the peace of the Lord.



**~WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE~**

## **OFFERING**

1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
 2 Oh, may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,  
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa-ther now be giv-en,

who won-drous things has done, in whom this world re-joic-es;  
 with ev-er joy-ful hearts and bless-ed peace to cheer us,  
 the Son, and Spir-it blest, who reign in high-est heav-en,

who, from our moth-ers' arms, has blest us on our way  
 and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per-plexed,  
 the one e-ter-nal God, whom earth and heav'n a-dore;

with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to-day,  
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next,  
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev-er-more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878.  
 Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

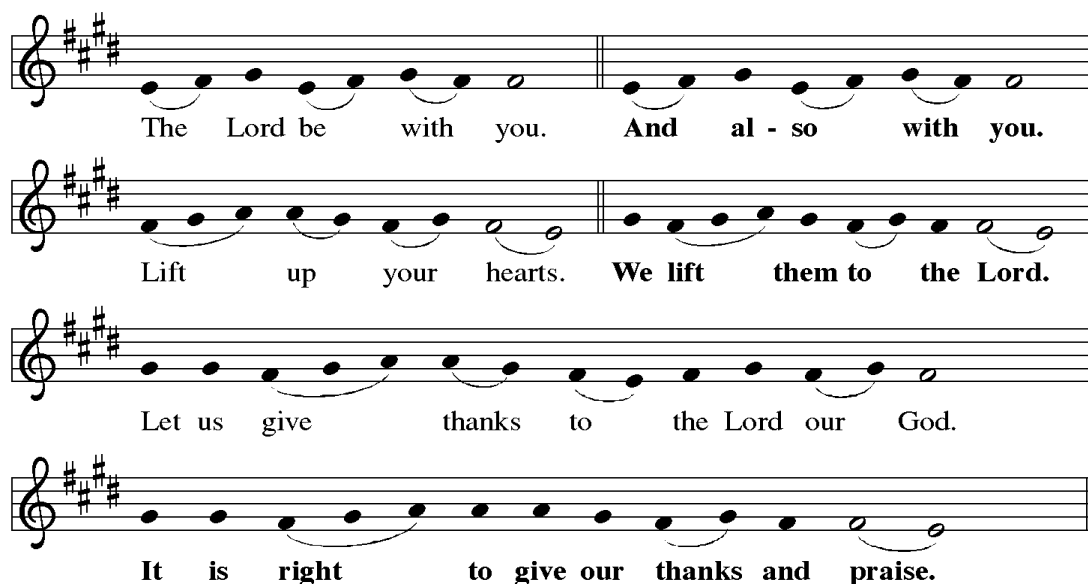
## OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray,

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. **Amen.**

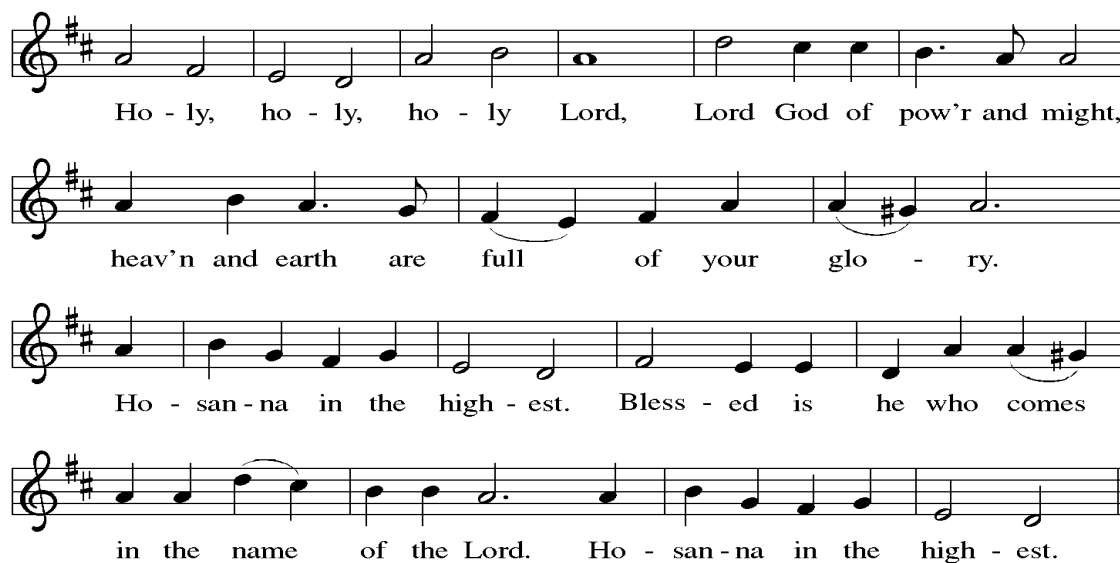
# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

## Dialogue (Sung)



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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, for the glorious resurrection of our savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

P: And now, we come to You in prayer, as our Savior Jesus has taught us:

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## **Invitation of Communion**

Jesus said, "I am the true vine. Abide in me as I abide in you."

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*We believe Jesus Christ is present in the bread and wine by his Word of Promise. All baptized Christians are invited to participate in the celebration of God's forgiving love, strengthening faith, and grace-filled hope. Those who are not baptized and children not yet communing may come forward for a blessing (please cross your arms on your chest if you desire a blessing).*

## **Reception of Communion**

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

*Communion distribution is continuous. Please come forward by the center aisle and receive the bread in your hands as you hear the words "The body of Christ, given for you" to which you may respond, "Amen." You may then dip the bread into the cup as you hear the words "The blood of Christ, shed for you," to which you may respond, "Amen." Please note that the communion wine is alcohol-free.*



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;  
 2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;  
 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;  
 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.  
 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.  
 let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.  
 as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.  
 Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842  
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### *Instrumental Music*

*Cesar Vidaud*

P: Please stand as you are able.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray,

Wise and generous God, we thank you that at this holy table you have fed us again with the food of everlasting life. Send us with your blessing to seek the good of our neighbor and call others to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**~WE ARE SENT FORTH~**

### **Benediction**

P: Almighty and merciful God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you this day and forevermore. **Amen.**



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in  
 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the  
 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter  
 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings  
 bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to  
 joy like seed and, all our days, to  
 to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.  
 share a dream and help the blind to see.  
 cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.  
 pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

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## DISMISSAL

**A:** Go in peace. Share the good news.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## IN OUR PRAYERS

**In our prayers** today are these members of our homebound and others of our parish family in need of healing: Cynthia Langbauer. We also need to pray for: Kathy Runk, Robert McKenzie, Mary S. Bailey, Roy Kaptain, Jimmy Fennelli, Bob & Jane Reinhold, Larry and Beverly Sheehan, Dee Lauterberg, Barbara W., Chico E.

**Prayers for Friends of the Church:** Adam Rubino, Berna, Braemen Weiner, Chandler Weiner, Debbie Fiore, Debbie Seckel, Elaine Brustad, Elizabeth Kraus, Harry Danforth, Hazel Quire, Juan Tavarez, Lee Rassis, Kenneth Smith, Mary Taylor, Norma Duckworth, Cynthia, Jimmy Bright, Tim Tyler, Richard H., Fran M., Antonio Celis, Yuko Koach and the family of Ralph Graper.

*We are always updating our prayer list. If you would like your name added or removed, please notify Pat Belanger or the office.*

**Flowers sponsored this week by:** Roger Hinkley in memory of his mother.

# Announcements

**MID-WEEK RECHARGE WITH PRAISE AND PRAYER:** Join us for mid-week recharge of Praise and Prayer every Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** We need more people to donate in order to have enough flowers each Sunday at the altar for our worship. Please check with Rosie Fennelli, or Pastor Suarez.

**CHANGE FOR CHANGE:** You will notice as you exit that there is a large box with the words *Change for Change*. This is an effort to collect funds for our local benevolence. Please give freely.

**TRAINING SCHEDULES:** We are starting one hour training on Saturdays (September 19th and 26th) at 10:00a.m. Assisting Ministers & Lectors – Sept. 19th, Acolytes & Altar Care – Sept. 26th. Please be at church by 9:45 a.m., sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Thank You!

**FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE:** Our schedule this fall is:

**1st Service** 9a.m. (Praise and Faith Formation)

**2nd Service** 10:15a.m. (Traditional/Blend)

**3rd Service** 12:30 p.m. (Latino Worship.)

## Service Assistants for September

<b>Time Change 10:15 AM</b>	<u>September 20</u>	<u>September 27</u>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Aura Suarez	Pat Belanger
ACOLYTE	Carol Jacobson	Maddie Kibler
LECTOR	Natalie Prego	Catherine Zippay
USHERS – Need 4 to Serve	Linda Hanzlik TBA	Marsha Kibler Aura Suarez Lynda & Zac Smith
Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli	Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli	Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS – Need 2 to serve	Lisa Castaneda Suzanne Loggins	Eduardo Arango Caroline Smith
SOUND	Sera Butz	TBA
PROJECTION	Larry Jones	Larry Jones



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# St. Stephen

## Evangelical Lutheran Church

Encouraging and strengthening faith in  
Jesus, and sharing the joy of God's love.

### Sunday Worship Schedule

Praise and Faith formation 9:00 a.m.  
Traditional Blend Worship Service at 10:15 a.m.  
Latino Worship Service at 12:30 p.m.  
Holy Communion is celebrated weekly

### Church Staff

**Rev. Pedro Suarez** – Pastor  
pastor@ststephenlutheran.net  
**Cesar Vidaud** – Director of Music  
**Aidee Koach** – Administrative Assistant  
sslcpompano@gmail.com

### Congregation Council

**Rob Lewis**, President:  
councilpresident@ststephenlutheran.net

Web Antill  
Christian Hecker  
Natalie Prego - Secretary

Sera Butz  
Larry Jones  
Kathy Runk - Vice Pres.

Eric Castaneda  
Barbara Nilles

Office hours: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 Mon- Fri

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