

**September 17, 2023
10:00 AM**

**The Sixteenth Sunday
after Pentecost**

Holy Eucharist



St. Stephen's in-the-Field Episcopal Church

7269 Santa Teresa Boulevard
San Jose, CA 95139
(408) 629-1836
www.ssitf.org

**We the people of Saint Stephen's in-the-Field
seek to know Christ, to share Christ, and to serve Christ,
recognizing his presence in all people,
and reaching out in love to each other and to the world around us.**

WORD OF GOD

Opening Hymn:

Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor

H #596

KOMM, O KOMM, DU GEIST DES LEBENS

fr. *Neu-vermehrtes und zu Übung Christl.*

Henry Scott Holland (1847-1918)

Gottseligkeit eingerichtetes Meiningsches Gesangbuch, 1693

1. Judge e - ter - nal, throned in splen - dor, Lord of lords and
3. Crown, O God, thine own en - dea - vor; cleave our dark - ness

King of kings, with thy liv - ing fire of judg - ment
with thy sword; feed all those who do not know thee

purge this land of bit - ter things; sol - ace all its
with the rich - ness of thy word; cleanse the bo - dy

wide do - min - ion with the heal - ing of thy wings.
of this na - tion through the glo - ry of the Lord.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

All

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gloria

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

God of debts forgiven, you call to account our hunger for power; you disturb hierarchies which crush the weak: break the vicious cycles of revenge and domination that we might look to him whose mercy never ends, Jesus Christ our redeemer. **Amen.**

The Lessons

First Reading

Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm:

Psalm 114

1 Hallelujah!

When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

2 Judah became God's sanctuary *
and Israel his dominion.

3 The sea beheld it and fled; *
Jordan turned and went back.

4 The mountains skipped like rams, *
and the little hills like young sheep.

5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *
O Jordan, that you turned back?

6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *
you little hills like young sheep?

7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

Second Reading

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since

they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Gospel Gradual:

Forgiveness is a Given with the Lord

Songs for the Cycle, p. 48

TOULON

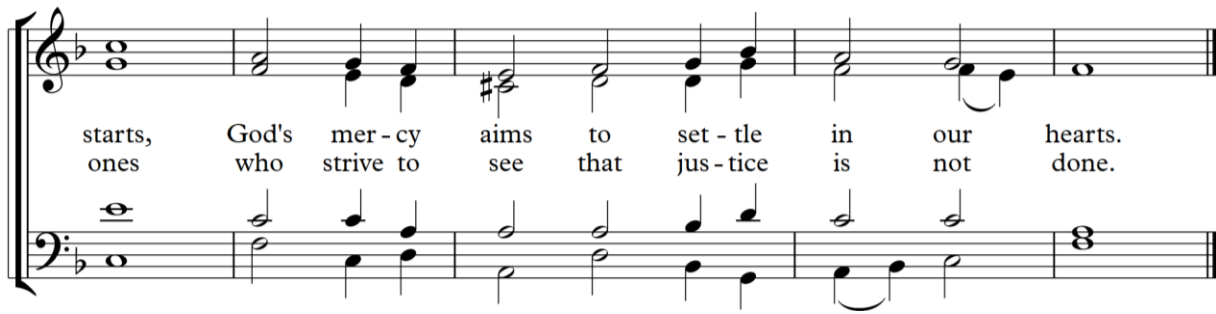
Michael Hudson (2004)

fr. *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551

1. For - give-ness is a gi-ven with the Lord, no mat - ter how much
2. We see in Je - sus that a soul on fire can strive a - gainst in -

in - jur - y is stored; it does - n't mat - ter where the pro-cess
jus - tice, yet as - pire to burn with mer - cy for the ver - y

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features two systems of music. The first system contains two verses of lyrics. The second system continues the melody with additional lyrics. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a clear harmonic structure.



Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Karen Cuffie

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Leader: Each of us is finally accountable to God. So let us pray, saying,
Lord, we are in need of your mercy;

People: Have patience with us.

Leader: Lord, we acknowledge that we all sin against our friends in Christ. Forgive us even as we forgive each other. Help us to be merciful to each other in the Church. In the diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for faithful stewardship: that we may use our wealth wisely and recognize our true riches; for our Finance Committee; for the Fund Development Committee; for the diocesan Treasurer; for all congregational commissions on stewardship; for all congregations' treasurers and finance committees; and for St. Matthew's of San Ardo.

Silence

Lord, we are in need of your mercy;

People: **Have patience with us.**

Leader: Lord, we acknowledge that we desire to repay violence with violence. Open our hearts to forgive even those who commit evil acts towards us and those we love. Help us to live mercifully in our world.

Silence

Lord, we are in need of your mercy;

People: **Have patience with us.**

Leader: Lord, we acknowledge we do not always appreciate the diversity of your creation. Teach us to live in peace with each other and with your creation. Help us to live mercifully with our world.

Lord, we are in need of your mercy;

People: **Have patience with us.**

Leader: Lord, we acknowledge that we do not love our neighbors as you love us. Forgive us for placing ourselves as judge over others when judgement belongs to you alone. Help us to accept the great mercy you choose to show others.

Silence

Lord, we are in need of your mercy;

People: **Have patience with us.**

Leader: Lord, we pray for those whose lives are broken by evil. Because of your mercy we believe that whatever befalls them, they belong to you; you care for the brokenhearted. Help us to share your love with all those who are hurting.

(Please add your own petitions and thanksgivings either silently or aloud.)

Silence

Lord, we are in need of your mercy;

People: Have patience with us.

Leader: Lord, we remember those who died in violence. We remember those men and women of the armed services, innocent bystanders, first responders, and even those we have called enemies. The dead belong to you, O Lord. Even as we seek your mercy for ourselves, judge all those who have died with mercy.

Silence

Lord, we are in need of your mercy;

People: Have patience with us.

Celebrant: Creator God, you call us to love and serve you with body, mind, and spirit through loving your creation and all people. Open our hearts in compassion and receive these petitions on behalf of the needs of the church and the world.

People: Amen.

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins to God and our neighbor.

(There will be a moment of silence)

**People: Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen**

Absolution

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

The Peace

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

People: **And also with you.**

Exchange peace.

Offertory:

Go Down, Moses

Lift Every Voice and Sing #228

Traditional spiritual

1. When Is - rael was in E-gypt's land, let my peo - ple go;
2. The Lord told Mo - ses what to do, let my peo - ple go;
3. They jour - neyed on at his com - mand, let my peo - ple go;

op - pressed so hard they_ could not stand, let my peo - ple go.
to lead the chil - dren of Is - rael through, let my peo - ple go.
and came at length to_ Canaan's land, let my peo - ple go.

Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land;_

tell old Pha - roah to let my peo - ple go.

Doxology (Old 100th):

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A - men.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People: **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Celebrant: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People: **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Celebrant: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People: **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

Celebrant: And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord *Sanctus*

S130

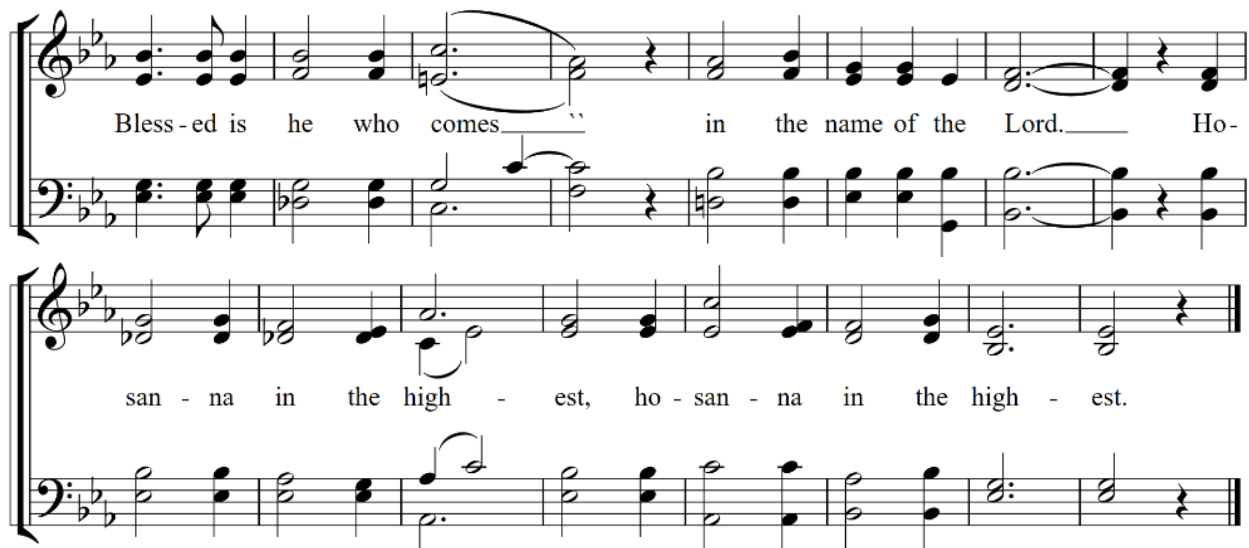
Setting from *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert, arr. Richard Proulx

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,____

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,____

hea - ven and earth are full,____ full____ of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

People

**We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.**

The Celebrant continues

Lord God of our fathers and mothers: God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rachael, Jacob and Leah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the bread.

The Celebrant continues

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People and Celebrant

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,

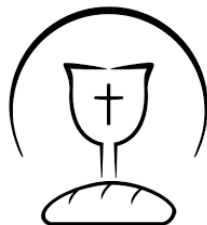
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

***People:* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.



Communion Hymns:

O Bless the Lord, My Soul

James Montgomery (1771-1854)
para. Psalm 103:1-5

H #411

ST. THOMAS
Aaron Williams (1731-1776)

1. O bless the Lord, my soul! His grace to thee pro-claim!
2. O bless the Lord, my soul! His mer-cies bear in mind!
3. He will not al-ways chide; he will with pa-tience wait;
4. He par-dons all thy sins, pro-longs thy fee-ble breath;

And all that is with-in me join to bless his ho-ly name.
For-get not all his ben-e-fits! The Lord to thee is kind.
his wrath is ev-er slow to rise and read-y to a-bate.
he heal-eth thine in-fir-mi-ties and ran-soms thee from death.

He Is Lord

Based on Philippians 2:10-11

Renew! #29

Words and tune: Anonymous

1. He is Lord, he is Lord! He is ris-en from the dead and he is Lord!
2. He is King, he is King! He will draw all na-tions to him, he is King;
3. He is Love, he is Love! He has shown us by his life that he is Love;
4. He is Life, he is Life! He has died to set us free and he is Life;

Ev-ery knee shall bow, ev-ery tongue con-fess that Je-susChrist is Lord!
and the time shall be when the world shall sing that Je-susChrist is King!
all his peo-ple sing with one voice of joy that Je-susChrist is Love!
and he calls us all to live ev-er-more, for Je-susChrist is Life!

Post Communion Prayer

Please stand

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen**

Announcements

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

Birthday Blessing: Watch over your birthday *children*, O Lord; as *their* days increase; bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if *they* fall; and in *their* hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anniversary Blessing: O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Mission Song:

We Sing the Praise of Hildegard

Edith Sinclair Downing (c) 1995

Voices Found #7

St. Hildegard's feast day is September 17

KINGSFOLD
English Folk melody

1. We sing the praise of Hil - de - gard, a wo - man for all time;
4. We ce - le - brate with Hil - de - gard the green - ing of the soul.

a pro - phe - tess who urg - es us to seek the light di - vine.
The mois - ture from the Spi - rit's breath can cleanse us, make us whole.

Her vis - ion came in - sis - tant - ly, sent by her Liv - ing Light.
May we now share life - giv - ing love, help jus - tice find a home,

A - noin - ted with the Spi - rit's power, she spoke God's truth a - right.
and by our deeds sow seeds of peace - pre - pare for God's Sha - lom!

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Mark your calendar

- Wednesday Book Group, every Wednesday morning at St. John's, 11am
- Saturday, September 30th – St. Stephen's Harvest Dinner Fundraiser, 5pm

Vestry Members

Susan Zaballos, *Senior Warden* • Rob van der Molen, *Junior Warden* • Andy Lief, *Treasurer/Finance* • Jill Vaughn, *Clerk* • Rowena Dizon-Burger • Anthony Francis • Jessica Dickinson Goodman • Janet Thorsrud