

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

West & East Bay, Central Valley, and Southern California

Member congregations of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (clclutheran.org)

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July 28, 2024 † Pentecost 10

We Welcome Our Visitors who are with us this morning.

We hope that you are uplifted by the Gospel at our worship service.

We invite you to join us every Sunday. Please sign our guestbook in the entry.

† Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 84 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

**Our Worship Services will be Posted to Our Website Each Sunday Evening.
To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:**

<https://www.sslctest.org/worship.html>

Opening Hymn: 849 *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

LSB 849



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered

at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious

Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and

Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us

storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955

Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia

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Tune: Public domain

Invocation

We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore we stand in awe of You.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, and call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Confession and Absolution

We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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 justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and gives them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** **Amen.**

Kyrie *Latin for “O Lord.” We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life.*

LSB 204



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis *Latin for "Glory to God in the highest."*

LSB 204



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation ("Greeting") and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P We pray:

Almighty and most merciful God, the provider and protector of all who trust in You, strengthen our faith and give us courage to believe that in Your love You will rescue us from all adversities. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Ephesians 4:1-7 (EHV)

As a prisoner in the Lord, therefore, I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called. ² Live with all humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another in love.

³ Make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in the one hope of your calling. ⁵ There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in us all.

⁷ But to each one of us grace was given, according to the measure of the gift from Christ.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

John 6:1-15 (EHV)

P The Gospel reading is from John 6:1-15.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

After this, Jesus crossed over to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias). ² A large crowd followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he was performing on those who were sick. ³ Jesus went up on the hillside and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴ The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a huge crowd coming toward him, he asked Philip, "Where can we buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ But Jesus was saying this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do.

⁷ Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to have just a little."

⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹ "There's a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what is that for so many people?"

¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, so they sat down. There were about five thousand men.

¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves and, after giving thanks, he distributed pieces to those who were seated. He also did the same with the fish—as much as they wanted.

¹² When the people were full, he told his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over so that nothing is wasted." ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with pieces from the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

¹⁴ *When the people saw the miraculous sign Jesus did, they said, "This really is the Prophet who is coming into the world."*

¹⁵ *When Jesus realized that they intended to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.*

P Here ends our Gospel reading.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 205

When God speaks to us in His Word it is natural for us to respond. We sing "Allelujah!"—meaning, "Praise the Lord!"

G Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

G These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

G Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff is for the Alleluia chorus. The second and third staves are for the verse, with the lyrics "These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God." The fourth staff is for the final Alleluia chorus. Each staff begins with a square icon containing the letter 'G'.

Apostles' Creed *We boldly confess what we believe.*

LSB 207

G I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Hymn of the Day: 806 Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

LSB 806

(This is one of the songs our children learned during our VBS this past week.)

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give thanks to the
Ho - ly One, Give thanks _____ be - cause He's giv - en__ Je - sus
Christ His Son. Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give
thanks to the Ho - ly One, Give thanks _____ be - cause He's giv - en__
Je - sus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say "I am
strong," Let the poor say "I am rich," _____ Be - cause of
what the Lord has done for us. And now let the
weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am

Song continues on next page →

rich," ____ Be-cause of what the Lord has done for us.

Give thanks, _____ give thanks. _____

Text and tune: Henry Smith, 1952 Text and tune: © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862

Sermon Text: Ephesians 4:1-7 (EHV)

¹¹ He himself [Christ] gave the apostles, as well as the prophets, as well as the evangelists, as well as the pastors and teachers, ¹² for the purpose of training the saints for the work of serving, in order to build up the body of Christ. ¹³ This is to continue until we all reach unity in the faith and knowledge of the Son of God, resulting in a mature man with a stature reaching to the measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ The goal is that we would no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, when people use tricks and invent clever ways to lead us astray. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we would in all things grow up into Christ, who is the head. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, being joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows in accordance with Christ's activity when he measured out each individual part. He causes the growth of the body so that it builds itself up in love.

Sermon Theme: Christ's "Body Building" Program

1. Equipped

✝ What "trainers" and equipment has Christ given us to build up our faith and His body, the church? **(v. 11-12)**

2. United

✝ What is it that unifies us as one body in Christ? **(v. 13)**

3. Growing

✝ What key "ingredient" does Christ use to grow and strengthen His body, the church? **(v. 16)**

Offertory

LSB 956



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Public domain

Offering *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*
(† ***If you have an offering to give today, please place it in the plate in the church entryway.*** †)

Sermon Hymn: 644 *The Church's One Foundation*

LSB 644



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
By schisms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed,
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more
And mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,
O bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.
And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.
That we, like saints be - fore us, May see You face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900, alt. Tune: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–76 Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Church / Prayer Requests *We bring our prayers to God.*

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

- ☩ 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.

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



Closing Hymn: "Grace Has a Thrilling Sound" *(please stand for last verse)*

(This is the hymn our children learned during our VBS this past week.)

- 1. Grace has a thrilling sound To each believer's ear;
That peace with God through Christ is found
Is news I gladly hear.
Grace first devised the way To save our fallen race;
The Father sent His only Son
Who came to take our place.**
- 2. Grace first inscribed my name In God's eternal book,
And grace has brought me to the Lamb,
Who all my sorrows took.
Grace led my wand'ring feet To tread the heav'nly road,
And grace supplies each hour I meet
While pressing on to God.**
- 3. Grace taught my soul to pray And made my eyes o'erflow;
His grace has kept me to this day
And will not let me go.
Grace all our work shall crown Through everlasting days;
The heav'nly home God gives His own
Shall echo with our praise.**

Acknowledgments - Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **St. Stephen – West** (Mt. View): **Joint Worship Service – 10am**
7/28/24 **Church Picnic** (Cuesta Park) – **11:30am**
(No East Bay Worship Service)

This Week: Tuesday - **Board of Education** (Mt. View) (Zoom) – **6pm**
Thursday - **Stockton Worship** (Oakmont) – **2pm**
Sacramento Worship (Forever Easter House) - **4:30pm**

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West** (Mt. View): **Bible Study – 9am**
8/4/24 **Worship w/ Communion – 10am**
St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): **Worship w/ Communion – 1pm**
Congregational Meeting – 2pm
Online Worship Services - <https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html>

Church Picnic – Following Worship Service - Cuesta Park in Mountain View -



Our annual church picnic will be starting at approx. **11:30am**, after our **10am joint worship service in Mountain View.**

We will be having our picnic at a new location this year: **Cuesta Park** (615 Cuesta Park Dr.) in Mountain View. Maps are available in the entryway.

Directions to the reserved picnic area: Turn in to the first parking lot opposite Nilda Ave. At the picnic area at the end of the parking lot, go to the left.

VBS Recap and Thank You - We were blessed with a wonderful Vacation Bible School this past week. Our theme was "Vibrance of the Son: Explore the Colors of God's Grace." Each day we learned how a different color from the seasons of the church year can remind us about Jesus and His Word. Our students ended the week with a presentation of some wonderful songs of praise and a review of what they learned. We had 15 total students attend and had all 15 students attend each day, except for Wednesday when we had 14 students. 7 of the students



were attending our VBS for the first time. Praise God! We were assisted by an incredible group of volunteer teachers and staff who did an amazing job of sharing the love of our Savior Jesus with His little lambs. We thank everyone for their time, efforts, donations, and support. Thanks to donations from our congregations, we were also able to do some fun sightseeing trips with our teachers to Alcatraz and Golden Gate Bridge area, as well as to the Santa Cruz area. We were even able to spend a day at California's Great America with our teachers and helpers. We thank God for giving us such a blessed and successful VBS!

Teachers: **Miss Sam Schmitt** (Preschool) **Mr. Isaac Schmitt** (1st – 2nd Grade)
 Mr. Grant Bernthal (3rd – 6th Grade)
 Mrs. Jewels Bernthal (Music)
 Mrs. Mikkela Schmitt (Arts & Crafts)
 Pastor Luke (VBS Coordinator / opening & closing devotions)

Staff: **Mrs. Tari Bliss** (Snacks prep & Recess help)
 Rachel Blank, Natalie Lang, and Serena Stefanek
 (Registration, Crafts, Recess, and music help)

East Bay Congregational Meeting (Hayward) – Next Sunday, August 4th @ 2pm – St. Stephen-East Bay will be having a congregational meeting to discuss the current state of our congregation and our plans going forward. Our congregations have also received a pastor call list from CLC President Wilke that can be discussed. All East Bay congregation members are invited and encouraged to attend. This meeting will be in advance of the joint congregational meeting that is planned for **Sunday, August 11th in Mountain View** (see announcement below).

Joint Congregational Meeting in Mountain View – Sunday, August 11th @ 11:15am –

We are planning on having a joint congregational meeting following our joint worship service on **Sunday, August 11th in Mountain View at 11:15am.** We will be discussing the current state of our congregations and our plans going forward. We will also be discussing the pastoral call list and, Lord willing, having a call meeting to extend a call to our next pastor. All of our congregation members are invited and encouraged to attend. The voting members of both congregations are, of course, strongly encouraged to attend this important meeting. Members at a distance who cannot attend in person will be able to attend via Zoom.

St. Stephen-West (Mt. View) Voter's Meeting - Church Council Position – Sun., 8/11 -

We will be conducting a voter's meeting on Sunday, August 11th (after the joint congregational meeting) to fill our slate of officers for the remaining months of 2024.

CLC News - Grace Lutheran, Sleepy Eye, MN. Grace has *extended* the call to Pastor Michael Gurath of Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor James Albrecht of St. John's Lutheran Church, Okabena, MN has announced that he will be *retiring* from the ministry at the end of this year.