

# ***St. Stephen Lutheran Church***

## ***West & East Bay, Central Valley, and Southern California***

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

320 Moorpark Way - Mountain View, California 94041-1600

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Online Video Production: Chris Holt, Julia Bernthal, Scott Mueller



**Websites: [ststephenclc.org](http://ststephenclc.org) (East Bay) - [sslwest.org](http://sslwest.org) (West)**

**Church Office: (650) 964-5915**

St. Stephen Lutheran School Staff: Isaac & Mikkela Schmitt (Teachers),  
Julia Bernthal (Administrator), Pastor Luke Bernthal (Principal)

**School Office: (650) 961-2071**

**School Website: [ssls.org](http://ssls.org)**

**September 1, 2024 † Pentecost 15**

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**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.

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† Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 119:25-32 (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.sslwest.org/worship.html>**

# Opening Hymn: 668 *Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You*

LSB 668



1 Rise! To arms! With prayer em-ploy you, O Chris-tians, lest the  
2 Cast a - far this world's vain plea - sure And bold - ly strive for  
3 Wise - ly fight, for time is fleet - ing; The hours of grace are



foe de-destroy you; For Sa - tan has de-signed your fall.  
heav'n-ly trea - sure. Be stead-fast in the Sav - ior's might.  
fast re - treat - ing; Short, short is this our earth - ly way.



Wield God's Word, the weap - on glo - rious; A - gainst all foes be  
Trust the Lord, who stands be - side you, For Je - sus from all  
When the Lord the dead will wak - en And sin - ners all by



thus vic - to - rious, For God pro-protects you from them all.  
harm will hide you. By faith you con-quer in the fight.  
fear are shak - en, The saints with joy will greet that day.



Fear not the hordes of hell, Here is Em - man - u - el.  
Take cour - age, wea - ry soul! Look for - ward to the goal!  
Praise God, our tri-umph's sure. We need not long en-dure



Hail the Sav - ior! The strong foes yield To Christ, our shield,  
Joy a - waits you. The race well run, Your long war won,  
Scorn and tri - al. Our Sav - ior King His own will bring



And we, the vic - tors, hold the field.  
Your crown shines splen - did as the sun.  
To that great glo - ry which we sing.

Text: Wilhelm Erasmus Arends, 1677-1721; tr. John M. Sloan, 1835-after 1890, alt.

Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608

Text and 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, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, 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 God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, that in the Last Day, when Jesus shall come again in glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to life immortal in heaven with Him. 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

**Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8 (EHV)**

***So now, Israel, listen to the statutes and the ordinances that I am teaching you, and carry them out so that you may live and so that you may enter the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving to you and take possession of it. <sup>2</sup> Do not add to the word that I am commanding you, and do not subtract from it, so that you keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you.***

***...<sup>6</sup> Keep them and put them into practice, because in this way your wisdom and your understanding will be recognized by all the people who hear about all these statutes; and they will say, "This great nation is certainly a wise and understanding people," <sup>7</sup> because what other great nation is there that has a god as close to it as the LORD our God is to us whenever we call on him? <sup>8</sup> What other great nation is there that has statutes and ordinances as righteous as this entire law that I am presenting to you today?***

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

**Mark 13:31-37 (EHV)**

**P** The second reading is from Mark 13:31-37.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

***<sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.***

***<sup>32</sup> "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Watch! Be alert and pray, because you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup> It is like a man going away on a journey. When he left his home, he put his servants in charge and assigned what each one was to do. He also commanded the doorkeeper to keep watch. <sup>35</sup> Therefore keep watch, because you do not know when***

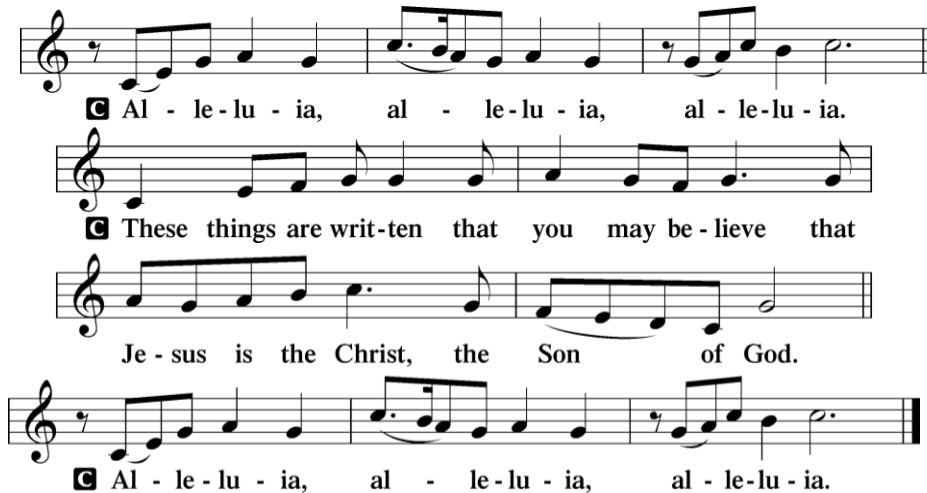
*the owner of the house is coming: whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or early in the morning. <sup>36</sup> If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup> What I say to you, I say to everyone: Keep watch!"*

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Alleluia and Verse

*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.

## INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

**President & Board of Education Chairman** – Michael Slattengren

**V.P. / Board of Elders Chairman & Financial Secretary** - Mark Gullerud

**Secretary** – Gary Fenton

**Treasurer / Finance Committee Chairman** – Brenton Horrillo

**Mission Committee Chairman & Property Committee Chairman** – Isaac Schmitt

**☩ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.**

**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Hymn of the Day: 774 (Worship Supplement) *A Mighty Fortress is Our God***

## **Sermon Text: Ephesians 6:10-18 (EHV)**

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can stand against the schemes of the Devil. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> For this reason, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to take a stand on the evil day and, after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand, then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness fastened in place, <sup>15</sup> and with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace tied to your feet like sandals. <sup>16</sup> At all times hold up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the Evil One. <sup>17</sup> Also take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup> At every opportunity, pray in the Spirit with every kind of prayer and petition. Stay alert for the same reason, always persevering in your intercession for all the saints.



## **Sermon Theme: The Armor of God**

- ✝ What do the different parts & weapons of the “armor of God” (v. 13) represent:
- Belt – (v. 14)
  - Breastplate – (v. 14)
  - Shoes/Sandals – (v. 15)
  - Shield – (v. 16)
  - Helmet – (v. 17)
  - Sword – (v. 17)



- † What is unique about the **“sword of the Spirit” (v. 17)** in relation to the other pieces of the **“armor of God”**?
  
- † What other **“weapon”** does Paul remind us to wield in our spiritual battles? **(v. 18)**
  
- † Why can we be confident of victory in the spiritual battles we face in life? **(see v. 10, and Romans 8:37)**

## 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.*

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

## Sermon Hymn: 665 *Be Strong in the Lord*

LSB 665



1 Be strong in the Lord In armor of light,  
2 In - teg - ri - ty gird You round to im - part  
3 With ea - ger - ness shod Stand firm in your place,  
4 Though Sa - tan pre - sume To test you and try,  
5 So wield well your blade, Re - joice in its pow'rs,

With hel - met and sword, With shield for the fight;  
The truth of His Word As truth in your heart;  
Or go forth for God With news of His grace;  
In hel - met and plume Your head shall be high;  
Fight on un - dis - mayed For Je - sus is ours!

On prayer be de - pen - dent, Be belt - ed and shod,  
His righ - teous - ness wear - ing As breast - plate of mail,  
No foe shall dis - arm you Nor force you to yield,  
Be - set by temp - ta - tion Be true to your Lord,  
Then in Him vic - to - rious Your ar - mor lay down,

In breast - plate re - splen - dent: The ar - mor of God.  
His vic - to - ry shar - ing, Be strong to pre - vail.  
No ar - row can harm you With faith as your shield.  
Your hel - met sal - va - tion And Scrip - ture your sword.  
To praise, ev - er glo - rious, His cross and His crown.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926–2024

Tune: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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Tune: Public domain

## Service of the Sacrament

*Now we approach the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in which Jesus comes to bless us with His very body and blood.  
We move toward the Sacrament with prayers of thanksgiving and songs of adoration.*

### Preface

LSB 208

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them up to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P** It is truly fitting, right, and spiritually beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

## **Sanctus** *Latin: "Holy."*

LSB 208



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**P** We give You thanks, O Lord our God, for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ and His cross. Give us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. In His name we pray, as we now join in the prayer that He taught us:

## Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

- 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.

## The Words of Institution

*The words spoken by Jesus the night He instituted the Lord's Supper, by which our Lord assured to His Church the real presence of His body and blood in the Sacrament.*

## Pax Domini ("The Peace of the Lord")

LSB 209

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei

LSB 210

*Latin: "Lamb of God." Jesus is the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29)*

**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

## The Distribution

- † For the distribution we will start with those who would like to partake of the Lord's Supper from the pew. After that, those who would like to come up to the altar steps will partake as directed by our usher.

*Note to our Guests:* We are so glad you are worshiping with us this morning. The Word of God treats the Lord's Supper with great care. The Word of God considers the Lord's Supper to be a wonderful Means of Grace – a way in which Christ forgives and blesses. It is also considered an opportunity for congregations to express unity and oneness (1 Corinthians 10:16-17) – that is, to say to the world "This is what we believe!" But God's Word also warns against taking the Sacrament to our judgment (1 Corinthians 11:27-30). For these reasons our congregation asks that you fully understand our teachings before partaking. We respectfully ask that those who have joined this congregation through public confession of faith, or who are members of another congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) approach the altar at the usher's direction. By following this practice we do not make any judgment on your faith. Rather we do this out of love for you, as a public confession of our unity, and out of obedience to and love for God's Word. Speak to our pastor anytime and he will be glad to provide the information you would need – and want. We look forward to communing together, Lord willing, in the future.

## Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

Latin: "Now Dismiss." Simeon's words after seeing the Christ Child. (Luke 2:29-32)

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is

(Song continues on next page ->)

to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

### **Choir Song: "A Benediction"**

**Benediction** *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

- ☐ 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.

☐ A-men, a-men, a - men.

### **Closing Hymn: 662 Onward, Christian Soldiers** *(please stand for last verse) LSB 662*

1 On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, March - ing as to war,  
 2 Like a might - y ar - my Moves the Church of God;  
 3 Crowns and thrones may per - ish, King - doms rise and wane,  
 4 On - ward, then, ye faith - ful, Join our hap - py throng,  
 With the cross of Je - sus Go - ing on be - fore.  
 Broth - ers, we are tread - ing Where the saints have trod.  
 But the Church of Je - sus Con - stant will re - main.  
 Blend with ours your voic - es In the tri - umph song:



Christ, the roy - al mas - ter, Leads a - gainst the foe;  
 We are not di - vid - ed, All one bod - y we,  
 Gates of hell can nev - er 'Gainst that Church pre - vail;  
 Glo - ry, laud, and hon - or Un - to Christ, the king;



For - ward in - to bat - tle See His ban - ners go!  
 One in hope and doc - trine, One in char - i - ty.  
 We have Christ's own prom - ise, And that can - not fail.  
 This through count - less a - ges Men and an - gels sing.



On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, March - ing as to war,



With the cross of Je - sus Go - ing on be - fore.

Text: Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt.  
 Tune: Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900  
 Text and tune: Public domain

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Scripture quotations marked EHV are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today:  
9/1/24

**St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Class – 9am**

**Joint Worship Service (Mt. View) - 10am**

**Congregational Meeting/Call Meeting –11:15am**

**Farewell Luncheon for Scott & Diane (after the meetings)**

**No East Bay Worship Service (Hayward)**

This Week: Monday – Labor Day (No School at SSSL)

Next Sunday:  
9/8/24

**St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Class – 9am**  
**Worship – 10am**  
**Crafting Bee / Book Club – 11:15am**

**St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): Worship – 1pm**  
**Bible Class – 2pm**

**Online Worship Services - <https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html>**

**In Your Mailbox & Church Entryway** – St. Stephen Church Calendar - *September*

**Call Meeting – Mountain View – TODAY Sunday, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> @ 11:15am** – There will be another congregational meeting / potential pastor call meeting TODAY Sunday, Sept. 1st after the worship service in Mountain View at 11:15am. Members at a distance who cannot attend in person will be able to attend via Zoom.

Pastor's Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8729663333>

**Farewell Luncheon for Scott and Diane – TODAY Sunday, 9/1 – After the Call Meeting**

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us as we bid a fond farewell (or more appropriately, "Aloha!") to Scott Mueller and Diane Fowler as they are moving back to Hawaii in September. We will have a luncheon in their honor following our call meeting today **Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup>**. NOTE: Please wear Hawaiian clothes if you have them.

**Kinship Sponsor UPDATE** – The Kinship Committee is happy to report that all current sponsorship needs are now met. Praise God! The "Standby List," however, is nearly empty, and that list is important in that it allows Kinship to quickly fill needs when they arise – which they regularly do. If you would like more information, or to be put on the sponsorship "Standby List," please contact: **Dan Roehl – cell: 507-381-2042 Email: [danroehl@hotmail.com](mailto:danroehl@hotmail.com)**

**CLC News** - Pastor Samuel Rodebaugh of Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO *has received* the call to St. John's Lutheran Church, Okabena, MN following Pastor James Albrecht's retirement at the end of the year. < > Pastor Zachary Sippert of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Bowdle, SD and Zion Ev. Lutheran Church Ipswich, SD *has received* the call to Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, Sleepy Eye, MN.