

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

West & East Bay, Central Valley, and Southern California

A member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (cclutheran.org)

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Julia Bernthal (Administrator), Pastor Luke Bernthal (Principal)

School Office: (650) 961-2071

School Website: ssls.org

September 15, 2024 † Pentecost 17



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 116 (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: 825 *Rise, Shine, You People*

LSB 825



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
2 See how He sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
3 Come, cel - e - brate, your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent His Son to save us.



Our hu - man sto - ry; God in Him is cen - tered.
He brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing.
Your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing.
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us.



He comes to us, by death and sin sur -
All men and wom - en, who by guilt are
To all the world go out and tell the
Tell how the Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry



round - ed, With grace un - bound - ed.
driv - en, Now are for - giv - en.
sto - ry Of Je - sus' glo - ry.
na - tion His new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, 1939–2021, alt. Tune: Dale Wood, 1934–2003
Text and tune: © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862

Invocation

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

- P** In the name of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- G** Amen.

Confession and Absolution

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

- P** God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
- G** If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** (1 John 1:5, 7-9)

P Let us pray...

C **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer:**

We confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.

P Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven! With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the joy and peace of forgiveness let us praise the Lord...

“Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good” *LSB 819 v. 1*

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of five staves of music in G major, 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the fifth staff.

1 Sing praise to God, the high - est good, The au - thor of cre -
a - tion, The God of love who un - der - stood
Our need for His sal - va - tion. With heal - ing balm our
souls He fills And ev - 'ry faith - less mur - mur stills:
To God all praise and glo - ry!

Text: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1640–90; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, adapt.
Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615
Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P We pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, our support and defense in every need, continue to preserve Your Church in safety, govern her by Your goodness, and bless her with Your peace. We pray this in Your name, dear Jesus, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-10 (EHV)

***4 The LORD God gave me a tongue like the learned, an instructed tongue,
so I know how to sustain the weary with a word.***

He wakes me up morning by morning.

He wakes up my ears so that I listen like the learned.

5 The LORD God opened my ear, and I myself was not rebellious.

I did not turn back.

6 I submitted my back to those who beat me,

and my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard.

I did not hide my face from disgrace and from spit.

7 The LORD God will help me, so I will not be disgraced.

Therefore I have made my face hard like flint.

I know that I will not be put to shame.

8 The one who will acquit me is near!

Who can accuse me?

Let us take our stand.

Who can pass judgment on me?

Let him approach me.

9 Look, the LORD God will help me.

Who then can declare me guilty?

Look, all of them will wear out like a garment.

A moth will consume them.

***10 Who among you worships the LORD
and listens to the voice of his servant?***

Anyone who walks in darkness

and who has no bright light—

let him trust in the name of the LORD,

and let him lean on his God.

Second Reading

Mark 8:27-30 (EHV)

P The second reading is from Mark 8:27-30

C Sanctify us by Your truth, O LORD. Your Word is truth!

²⁷ *Jesus went away with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?"*

²⁸ *They told him, "John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others say one of the prophets."*

²⁹ *"But who do you say I am?" he asked them.*

Peter answered him, "You are the Christ."

³⁰ *Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him.*

P Here ends our Scripture readings.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

"All Who Confess Christ's Holy Name" LSB 819 v. 5

5 All who con - fess Christ's ho - ly name, Give God the praise and
glo - ry. Let all who know His pow'r pro - claim
A - loud the won - drous sto - ry. Cast ev - 'ry i - dol
from its throne, For God is God, and He a - lone:
To God all praise and glo - ry!

Text: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1640–90; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, adapt.
Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615
Text and tune: Public domain

**☐ 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 there 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: 853 *How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord*

LSB 853



1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord,
2 But if, for - get - ful, we should find
3 We mar - vel how Your saints be - come
4 In what You give us, Lord, to do,



When once we heed Your call: To live ac - cord - ing
Your yoke is hard to bear; If world - ly pres - sures
In hin - dranc - es more sure; Whose joy - ful vir - tues
To - geth - er or a - lone, In old rou - tines or



to Your Word And dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re - stored,
fray the mind, And love it - self can - not un - wind
put to shame The cas - ual way we wear Your name
ven - tures new, May we not cease to look to You,



That You are Lord of all And will not let us fall.
Its tan - gled skein of care: Our in - ward life re - pair.
And by our faults ob - scure Your pow'r to cleanse and cure.
The cross You hung up - on— All You en - deav - ored done.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Tune: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918
Text: © 1982 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862
Tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: Mark 8:31-35 (EHV)

³¹ Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things; be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the experts in the law; be killed; and after three days rise again. ³² He was speaking plainly to them. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But after turning around and looking at his disciples, Jesus rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! You do not have your mind set on the things of God, but the things of men." ³⁴ He called the crowd and his disciples together and said to them, "If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it. But whoever loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

Sermon Theme: Loss is Gain

† What does Jesus call on us to "lose" in this text? What does He promise we will "gain"?

v. 34 –

v. 35 –

† What are the "crosses" Jesus calls each one of us to bear?

† What does it mean to "follow" Jesus (what are some of the things it involves)?

Offertory

LSB 956



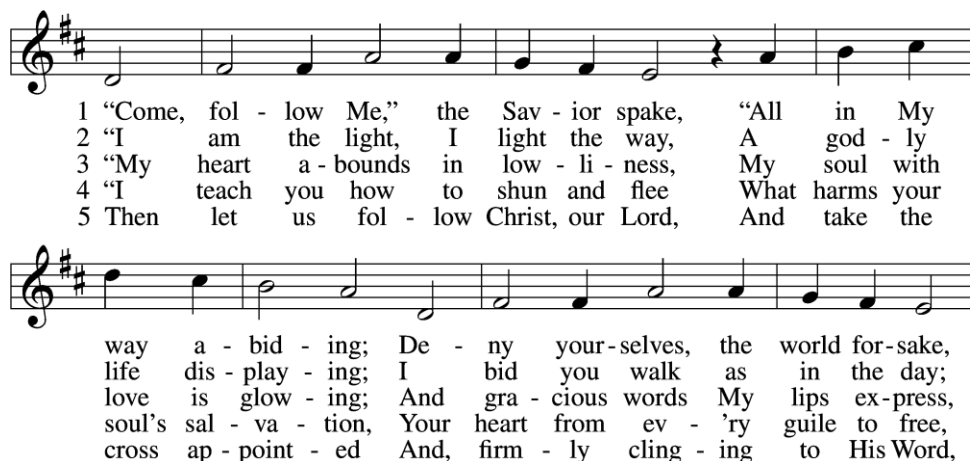
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

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.*

Sermon Hymn: 688 ***“Come Follow Me,” the Savior Spake***

LSB 688



1 “Come, fol - low Me,” the Sav - ior spake, “All in My
2 “I am the light, I light the way, A god - ly
3 “My heart a - bounds in low - li - ness, My soul with
4 “I teach you how to shun and flee What harms your
5 Then let us fol - low Christ, our Lord, And take the
way a - bid - ing; De - ny your - selves, the world for - sake,
life dis - play - ing; I bid you walk as in the day;
love is glow - ing; And gra - cious words My lips ex - press,
soul’s sal - va - tion, Your heart from ev - ’ry guile to free,
cross ap - point - ed And, firm - ly cling - ing to His Word,



O - bey My call and guid - ing. O bear the cross, what -
I keep your feet from stray - ing. I am the way, and
With meek - ness o - ver - flow - ing. My heart, My mind, My
From sin and its temp - ta - tion. I am the ref - uge
In suf - f'ring be un - daunt - ed. For those who bear the



e'er be - tide, Take My ex - am - ple for your guide.
well I show How you must so - journ here be - low.
strength, My all, To God I yield, on Him I call.
of the soul And lead you to your heav'n - ly goal."
bat - tle's strain The crown of heav'n - ly life ob - tain.

Text: tr. Charles W. Schaeffer, 1813-96; (sts. 1-3, 5): Johann Scheffler, 1624-77; (st. 4): Geistliche Lieder und Lobgesänge, 1695
Tune: Bartholomäus Gesius, c. 1555-1613, adapt.
Text and tune: Public domain

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

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

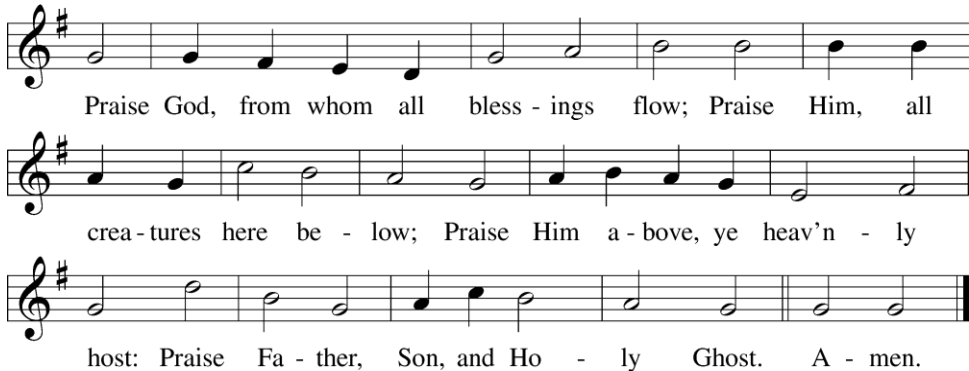
- C** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is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

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

- 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.

The Doxology

LSB 805



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Public domain

Closing Hymn: "Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken" TLH 423 v. 1, 3, 5-6 (please stand for last verse)

- 1. Jesus, I my cross have taken, All to leave and follow Thee;
Destitute, despised, forsaken, Thou from hence my All shalt be.
Perish every fond ambition, All I've sought or hoped or known;
Yet how rich is my condition! God and heaven are still my own.**

- 3. Go, then, earthly fame and treasure! Come, disaster, scorn, and pain!
In Thy service, pain is pleasure; With Thy favor, loss is gain.
I have called Thee Abba, Father! I have stayed my heart on Thee.
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather, All must work for good to me.**

- 5. Take, my soul, thy full salvation; Rise o'er sin and fear and care;
Joy to find in every station, Something still to do or bear.
Think what Spirit dwells within thee, What a Father's smile is thine,
What a Savior died to win thee; Child of heaven, shouldst thou repine?**

- 6. Haste, then, on from grace to glory, Armed by faith and winged by prayer;
Heaven's eternal day's before thee, God's own hand shall guide thee there.
Soon shall close the earthly mission, Swift shall pass thy pilgrim days,
Hope soon change to glad fruition, Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.**

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

Today: **St. Stephen – West** (Mt. View): **Bible Class – 9am**
9/15/24 **Worship – 10am**

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

This Week: Tuesday – **Elders / Church Council Meeting** (Zoom) (Mt. View) – **7pm**

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West** (Mt. View): **Worship – 10am**
9/22/24

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

St. Stephen – South (Ontario): **Worship & Bible Study – 6:30pm**

Meal Sign-up / Donations Requested – Pacific Coast Pastoral Conf. – Oct. 1st – Oct. 3rd – We will be hosting the Pacific Coast Pastoral Conference from Tues. Oct. 1st – Thurs. Oct. 3rd here at St. Stephen-West in Mountain View. There will be a total of 8 pastors in attendance. We are in need of volunteers to provide snacks and meals for the sessions from Tues.-Thurs., and we are having a fellowship meal “Taco Bar” on Wednesday evening **Oct. 2nd at 6pm** before the **Worship Service at 7pm**. Please see the sign-up sheet in the entryway if you’d like help provide food for the meals or the snacks.

Also, we have reserved tickets for the Alcatraz Tour on Tues. Oct. 1st for the pastors’ recreational outing. We also plan to treat the pastors to a meal afterwards. If you would like to make a donation to help pay for the outing please mark your offering “Pastoral Conference.”

NOTE: We have housing volunteers in place already for all of the pastors.

Please speak with Pastor Luke if you have any questions. Thank You!

Southern California Worship and Bible Study – NEXT Sunday 9/22 @ 6:30pm -

Our Southern California Worship Service and Bible Study will be held **NEXT Sunday, September 22nd @ 6:30pm**. This will be my “farewell” worship service and Bible Study with the Southern California group. We plan to meet in the conference room at Kevin Fossum's workplace. The location is near the Ontario airport. Here is the address:

**Total Transportation & Distribution
9278 Charles Smith Ave.
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730**

St. Stephen Pastor Call – On Sunday, September 1st we had a voters' meeting/call meeting to call our next pastor. We have called Pastor Drew Naumann, of Trinity Lutheran, Spokane, WA. Please pray that the Lord would give Pastor Naumann clarity in his call deliberations, and if it is the Lord's will, that he would accept our call. Pastor Naumann shared his contact info and invites you to contact him as you please during his call deliberation.

Email: pastordrewnaumann@gmail.com cell: (253) 414-4740

CLC News - Pastor Zachary Sippert will be installed at Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, Sleepy Eye, MN on September 29, 2024.

Missionary Evensen Update - One of our missionaries, Peter Evensen, has been stateside living in Spokane, WA for the past few months due to health complications. He recently gave an update on his health:

“Please assure your congregation that I’m still alive.

The antibiotic has taken care of the bad infection. My Apple Watch reports that my resting heart rate continues to trend down toward normal, which I take as a good sign. My right foot is swelling much less but it is often painful to walk on. My knees are relatively pain free some days and rather painful and stiff others.

I am eager awaiting my appointment with infectious diseases in September 23. Hopefully they can order some tests to find the underlying cause, but otherwise I generally seem to be improving.

Thank you for all your prayers and concern. Please thank your congregations as well.

Peter Evensen