

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

West & East Bay, Central Valley, and Southern California

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

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October 27, 2024 ✝ Reformation Sunday



✠ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 46 (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.sslcwest.org/worship.html>

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.

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn: 566 *By Grace I'm Saved*

LSB 566



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; My soul, be-lieve and
2 By grace! None dare lay claim to mer - it; Our works and con - duct
3 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, Came down to earth to
4 By grace! This ground of faith is cer - tain; As long as God is



doubt it not. Why stag - ger at this word of prom - ise?
have no worth. God in His love sent our Re - deem - er,
bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own mer - it
true, it stands. What saints have penned by in - spi - ra - tion,



Has Scrip - ture ev - er false - hood taught? No! Then this word must
Christ Je - sus, to this sin - ful earth; His death did for our
That Je - sus died your soul to win? No, it was grace, and
What in His Word our God com - mands, Our faith in what our



true re - main: By grace you too will life ob - tain.
 sins a - tone, And we are saved by grace a - lone.
 grace a - lone, That brought Him from His heav'n - ly throne.
 God has done De - pends on grace— grace through His Son.

***5. By grace to timid hearts that tremble, In tribulation's furnace tried,
 By grace, in spite of fear and trouble, The Father's heart is open wide.
 Where could I help and strength secure If grace were not my anchor sure?***

***6. By grace! On this I'll rest when dying; In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
 For though I know my heart's condition, I also know my Savior's voice.
 My heart is glad, all grief has flown Since I am saved by grace alone.***

Text: Christian Ludwig Scheidt, 1709–61; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
 Tune: Cornelius Heinrich Dretzel, 1697–1775
 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, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- C** 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.
- C** **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...

“Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice” - v. 1

LSB 556 v. 1

I Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re-joice, With ex-ul-ta-tion
spring-ing, And with u-nit-ed heart and voice And ho-ly
rap-ture sing-ing, Pro-claim the won-ders God has done, How
His right arm the vic-t'ry won. What price our ran-som cost Him!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt. Tune: Etlich Cristlich liden, 1524, Wittenberg Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

- P** We pray:
Almighty God, through the preaching of Your servants, the blessed Reformers, You caused the light of the gospel to shine forth. Grant that we may faithfully defend it against all enemies and joyfully proclaim it to the salvation of people everywhere to the glory of Your holy name; through Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Habakkuk 2:1-4 (NKJV)

I will stand my watch And set myself on the rampart, And watch to see what He will say to me, And what I will answer when I am corrected. ² Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision And make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it. ³ For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry. ⁴ " Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Luke 11:37-46 (NKJV)

P The second reading is from Luke 11:37-46

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

³⁷ *And as He spoke, a certain Pharisee asked Him to dine with him. So He went in and sat down to eat. ³⁸ When the Pharisee saw it, he marveled that He had not first washed before dinner. ³⁹ Then the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees make the outside of the cup and dish clean, but your inward part is full of greed and wickedness. ⁴⁰ "Foolish ones! Did not He who made the outside make the inside also? ⁴¹ "But rather give alms of such things as you have; then indeed all things are clean to you. ⁴² "But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. ⁴³ "Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces. ⁴⁴ "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like graves which are not seen, and the men who walk over them are not aware of them." ⁴⁵ Then one of the lawyers answered and said to Him, "Teacher, by saying these things You reproach us also." ⁴⁶ And He said, "Woe to you also, lawyers! For you load men with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers.*

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

LSB 655



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and



by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your
Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal



Son And bring to naught all He has done.
we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
strife And lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1543, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug
Text and tune: Public domain

Confession of Faith - 2nd Article of the Apostles' Creed *Luther's Catechism (Sydow, p. 87)*

☐ I believe 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, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.

He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity. This is most certainly true!

Hymn of the Day: 555 v. 1, 5-10 Salvation Unto Us Has Come LSB 555 v. 1, 5-10



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come By God's free grace and
5 Yet as the Law must be ful - filled Or we must die de -
6 Since Christ has full a - tone - ment made And brought to us sal -
7 Let me not doubt, but tru - ly see Your Word can - not be



fa - vor; Good works can - not a - vert our doom, They
spair - ing, Christ came and has God's an - ger stilled, Our
va - tion, Each Chris - tian there - fore may be glad And
bro - ken; Your call rings out, "Come un - to Me!" No



help and save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus
hu - man na - ture shar - ing. He has for us the
build on this foun - da - tion. Your grace a - lone, dear
false - hood have You spo - ken. Bap - tized in - to Your



Christ a - lone, Who did for all the
Law o - beyed And thus the Fa - ther's
Lord, I plead, Your death is now my
pre - cious name, My faith can - not be



world a - tone; He is our one Re - deem - er.
ven - geance stayed Which o - ver us im - pend - ed.
life in - deed, For You have paid my ran - som.
put to shame, And I shall nev - er per - ish.

**8. The Law reveals the guilt of sin And makes us conscience-stricken;
But then the Gospel enters in The sinful soul to quicken.
Come to the cross, trust Christ, and live; The Law no peace can ever give,
No comfort and no blessing.**

**9. Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone And rests in Him unceasing;
And by its fruits true faith is known, With love and hope increasing.**

***For faith alone can justify; Works serve our neighbor and supply
The proof that faith is living.***

**△ 10. All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God who saved us by His grace; All glory to His merit.
O triune God in heav'n above, You have revealed Your saving love;
Your blessed name we hallow.**

Text: Paul Speratus, 1484–1551; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, 1524, Wittenberg
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: Galatians 1:6-9 (NKJV)

⁶ I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷ which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

Sermon Theme: That We Might Not Lose the Rediscovered Gospel Once Again.

The 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.** †)

Hymn: 656 A Mighty Fortress is our God

LSB 656

Hymn of the Day



1 A might - y for - tress is our God,
2 With might of ours can naught be done,
3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill,
4 The Word they still shall let re - main



A trust - y shield and weap - on;
Soon were our loss ef - fect - ed;
All ea - ger to de - vour us,
Nor an - y thanks have for it;



He helps us free from ev - 'ry need
But for us fights the val - iant One,
We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
He's by our side up - on the plain



That hath us now o'er - tak - en.
Whom God Him - self e - lect - ed.
They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.
With His good gifts and Spir - it.

The old e - vil foe Now means
 Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus
 This world's prince may still Scowl fierce
 And take they our life, Goods, fame,
 dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might
 Christ it is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord,
 as he will, He can harm us none.
 child, and wife, Though these all be gone,
 Are his dread arms in fight; On earth
 And there's none oth - er God; He holds
 He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -
 Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -
 is not his e - qual.
 the field for - ev - er.
 tle word can fell him.
 dom ours re - main - eth.

Text: tr. composite
 Text and tune: Martin Luther, 1483-1546
 Text and tune: Public domain

Reformation Prayer

Lord's Prayer

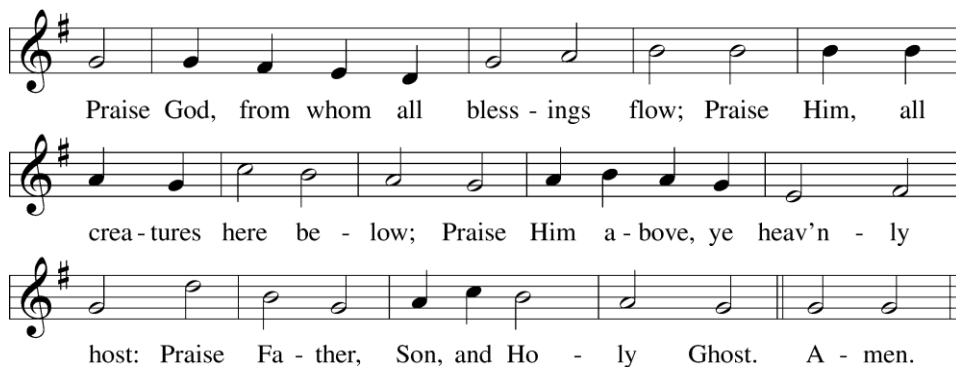
- ☑ Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
 give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For Thine 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 to shine upon you and be gracious unto 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: 582 *God's Word Is Our Great Heritage*

LSB 582



God's Word is our great her - i - tage And shall be ours for -
 ev - er; To spread its light from age to age Shall be our
 chief en - deav - or. Through life it guides our way, In death it
 is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds en - dure, We keep its



teach - ings pure Through - out all gen - er - a - tions.

Text: Nikolai Fredrik Severin Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Ole G. Belsheim, 1861–1925, alt.
Tune: Friedrich O. Reuter, 1863–1924
Text and tune: Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **Voter's Call Meeting after the worship service**
The Fellowship Meal will follow the meeting. (Fellowship Hall)

This Week:

Saturday - ☀ **Daylight Saving Time Ends – Turn Clocks Back One Hour** ☀

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen Worship w/ communion– 10am**
Choir Rehearsal after service

Coming Up: **St. Stephen – Voter's Meeting w/ Elections – Sun. 11/10**



Welcome! – We welcome our guests who are with us today. We pray that you have been blessed through the Gospel message! Everyone is invited to join us for a fellowship meal after the worship service. We hope you can join us!



In Your Mailbox – St. Stephen Church Calendar – *November*

Thank You! – Thank you to all who helped decorate, set up, and provide food for our Reformation worship service and meal. Your willing service is very much appreciated.

Wedding Anniversary Warren and Joy St. John Malachi are celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary this weekend. Praise God for this blessing.