

St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School

An Affiliate of the Church of the Lutheran Confession

320 MOORPARK WAY MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA
CHURCH OFFICE (650) 964-5915 SCHOOL OFFICE (650) 961-2071

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Lent 3 (Oculi – “Look”)

Today’s Focus:

GOD SUPPORTS US AS WE FACE OPPOSITION IN HIS SERVICE

Pre-service Meditation: As we set out to serve God, we quickly realize that ours is not an easy task. Satan and the world constantly oppose us and can sometimes cause actual suffering. In this world where the glory of God is veiled we must be willing to share the abuse unbelievers show toward Him Who we love and serve. Yet we serve with confidence, knowing the ultimate victory is ours!

“O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. -1 Corinthians 15:55-58

OPENING HYMN 182 (Red Hymnal)

Jesus, Loving to the End

THE ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE - Worship Supplement, Page 12

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

1 Corinthians 1:22-25 (on back) *We’re taught although unbelievers reject Christ, He’s our hope and salvation.*

L: My eyes are ever toward the Lord: for He will pluck my feet out of the net. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am desolate and afflicted. To You, O Lord, do I lift up my soul, O my Almighty God, I trust in You, let me never be ashamed.

ALL: AMEN.

John 2:13-22 (on back) *Jesus cleanses the Temple, reminding the leaders of their apostasy, calls for faithfulness and gives the sign of the temple's rebuilding.*

CONFESSION OF FAITH Worship Supplement, Page 15 – Apostles’ Creed

The Apostles’ Creed was written as a brief summary of the Christian faith as believed and taught by the Apostles.

HYMN 773 (Worship Supplement)

Rise, Shine, You People

SERMON/STUDY – From “Sermons of Martin Luther”

NASB Ephesians 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. 3 But do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints; 4 and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words,

for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them; 8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth).

THEME: THE EXHORTATION TO BE IMITATORS OF GOD!

(You might ask: Does 500 years later sound any different than what is going on today?)

Paragraph #:

Personal Notes:

1. A Letter of Admonition
2. “Be IMITATORS”
3. “Walk in love”
4. “A fragrant aroma”

SINS NOT TO BE NAMED AMONG CHRISTIANS

5. Sexual immorality
6. Proper correction
7. Christian warfare
8. “Saints”
9. “Filthiness”

FOOLISH TALKING AND JESTING

10. “Foolish Talking”
11. Needless church practices
12. Other Obstacles
13. “Jesting”
14. “Not fitting”

FRUITLESS CHRISTIANS ARE HEATHEN

15. “This you know”
16. Divine love
17. “Idolater”

DECEPTION BY EMPTY WORDS

18. “Empty”
19. “Sons of Disobedience
20. Works (Serving) follows faith
21. Walk as Children of Light
22. “Fruit of the light”

OFFERTORY - Worship Supplement, Page 16

HYMN 409 (Red Hymnal)

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS

GENERAL PRAYER - LORD’S PRAYER - BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN 48 (Red Hymnal)

How Blest are They Who Hear God’s Word

NEWS and NOTES

Welcome visitors! We are very happy that you are here with us today and invite you to come again! Please sign our guest book in the hallway. If you have questions about our church and school please ask!

TODAY: There will be no Bible class or Sunday school.

PLEASE CHECK your church calendars for upcoming dates. There are extras in the entryway.