

# 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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Pentecost 7

Today's Focus:

## EXAMPLES OF FAITHFUL SERVANTS OF GOD

Pre-service meditation: "The Garden"

(Words on front of bulletin)

OPENING HYMN 609 (Red Hymnal)

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

### THE ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE – Tan Worship Supplement, Page 12

#### SCRIPTURE LESSONS

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10** (on back) The Epistle tells of Paul's harassing thorn in the flesh which made him rely all the more on God's power.

#### RESPONSIVE READING

**Psalms 143:1-2, 5-8** - The Psalmist asks God to hear his cry for mercy, for he knows his unworthiness. In his troubles he remembers God's past goodness and reaches out in hopeful expectation for present deliverance.

Pastor: O LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy;

**Congregation: In your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.**

P: Do not bring your servant into judgment,

**C: For no one living is righteous before you.**

P: The enemy pursues me, he crushes me to the ground; he makes me dwell in darkness like those long dead.

**C: So my spirit grows faint within me; my heart within me is dismayed.**

P: I remember the days of long ago;

**C: I meditate on all your works and consider what your hands have done.**

P: I spread out my hands to you;

**C: My soul thirsts for you like a parched land.**

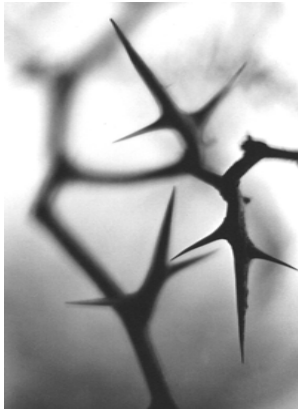
P: Answer me quickly, O LORD; my spirit fails.

**C: Do not hide your face from me or I will be like those who go down to the pit.**

P: Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you.

**C: Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. AMEN.**

**Mark 6:1-6** (on back) We find our Lord's gracious intentions hampered by the unbelief of His neighbors. He is there to serve God in their midst, but they will not allow Him to.



#### 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 770 (Worship Supplement)

I Hear the Savior Calling

SERMON – NIV Ezekiel 2:1 He said to me, "Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you." 2 As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. 3 He said: "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their fathers have been in revolt against me to this very day. 4 The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says.' 5 And whether they listen or fail to listen-- for they are a rebellious house-- they will know that a prophet has been among them. 6 And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them or their words. Do not be afraid, though briars and thorns are all around you and you live among scorpions. Do not be afraid of what they say or terrified by them, though they are a rebellious house. 7 You must speak my words to them, whether they listen or fail to listen, for they are rebellious. 8 But you, son of man, listen to what I say to you. Do not rebel like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you."

#### THEME - YOU ARE MADE READY TO FACE THE REBELLION

1. The Readiness of a **PROPHET**
2. The Readiness of a **PEOPLE**
3. The Readiness of a **PURPOSE**

HYMN 37 (Red Hymnal)

Lord, 'Tis Not that I did Choose Thee

#### OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS TO THE LORD – Sing 400 v. 1, 6 (Red Hymnal)

*Take my life and let it be; Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days; Let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Take my love, my Lord, I pour; At Thy feet its treasure-store;  
Take myself, and I will be; Ever, only, all, for Thee.*

#### SPECIAL PRAYERS - GENERAL PRAYER - LORD'S PRAYER BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN 769 (Worship Supplement)

Lift High the Cross

#### 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. If you have questions about our church and school please ask!

**TODAY:** We welcome the TVBS Flier distribution team following the service with a potluck lunch for all!  
**CAMPING:** August 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at Pincrest lake up near Sacramento has been reserved. Sign up in entryway!  
**EWASTE:** Fliers for our Ewaste date on August 1<sup>st</sup> are on entry table. Please take some to inform all!

