

clothing and shoes, meat and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, cattle, and all my goods, and all that I need to keep my body and life; defending me against all danger, and guarding and protecting me from all evil;

All of this He does out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, not because of anything I have done to earn or deserve it. For all of this it is my duty to thank and praise, and to serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.



**HYMN 574** (Red Hymnal)

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

**SERMON – NKJV - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

16 Rejoice always,  
17 pray without ceasing,  
18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Theme: **“More than just another holiday...”**

**HYMN 568** (Red Hymnal)

*We Praise Thee, O God, Our Redeemer, Creator*

**AN OFFERING** *of thankful hearts to the LORD*

Lord, I will tell, while I am living,  
Thy goodness forth with every breath  
And greet each morning with thanksgiving,  
Until my heart is still in death;  
Yea, when at last my lips grow cold,  
Thy praise shall in my sighs be told.

(To the tune of TLH 243)



**GENERAL PRAYER - LORD'S PRAYER - BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING HYMN 792** (Tan Worship Supplement) *Let All Things Now Living*

### NEWS and NOTES

**Welcome one and all!** A blessed and joyful day of Thanksgiving to you all in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ! On this day of thanks, remember to whom you are giving thanks – God Himself. He is certainly worthy of our thanks and praise every day of our lives. May God give us all more appreciative and thankful hearts, for He truly *“has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3)*. Please join us in thanking and praising our Savior Jesus again at our worship service this **Sunday at 10am**.

## St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School

*An Affiliate of the Church of the Lutheran Confession*

320 MOORPARK WAY.....MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA

CHURCH (650) 964-5915 SCHOOL (650) 961-2071

Worship: 10am. Bible Study: 11:15am. Website: [www.sslcwest.org](http://www.sslcwest.org)

November 26, 2009

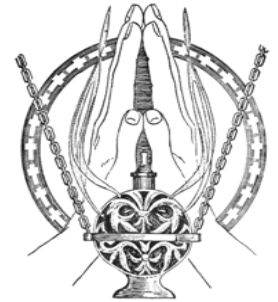
Thanksgiving Day

Today's Focus:

**ALWAYS THANKFUL-IN CHRIST**

**Pre-service:** “Once Again”

*We welcome everyone to this special thanksgiving service today. It is our prayer that your faith is strengthened by the preaching of our Lord's pure Word, that you may live lives of thanksgiving knowing what great things God has done for you. If you are visiting, please sign our guest register in the entryway, and we hope you will come again!*



**OPENING HYMN 36** (Red Hymnal)

*Now, Thank, We all our God*

### THE ORDER OF HIS DIVINE SERVICE

Pastor: We begin our service of Thanksgiving in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### CONFESSION OF SINS

P: Dear friends in Christ, aware of God's providence and grace, let us come before Him to confess our sins and look to Him in repentance and faith for forgiveness:

**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in our desires, thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We implore You to have mercy on us, and for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ forgive our wrongs. Help us to delight in Your will and to walk in Your ways, giving thanks in all circumstances through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all Your sins in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Be of good cheer! God for Jesus' sake has removed your transgressions from you as far as east is from west. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will. **Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

**Genesis 50:14-24** ...And after he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers and all who went up with him to bury his father. 15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil which we did to him." 16 So they sent messengers to Joseph, saying, "Before your father died he commanded, saying, 17 'Thus you shall say to Joseph: "I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you." ' Now, please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. 18 Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we are your servants."

19 Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? 20 "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in



order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. 21 "Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

22 So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his father's household. And Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. 23 Joseph saw Ephraim's children to the third

generation. The children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were also brought up on Joseph's knees. 24 And Joseph said to his brethren, "I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

### **REPONSIVE READING OF PSALM 67**

P: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face shine upon us,

**C: That Your ways may be known on earth; Your salvation among all nations.**

P: May the peoples praise You, O God, may all the peoples praise You.

**C: May the nations be glad and sing for joy: For You rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.**

P: May the peoples praise You, O God. May all the peoples praise You.

**C: Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us.**

P: God will bless us:

**C: And all the ends of the earth will fear Him. Amen.**

**Romans 8:31-39** ...What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?



Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Adult Choir – "O Give Thanks"**

*(Based off Psalm 107)*

**Luke 17:12-19** ...Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. 13 And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" 14 So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. 15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, 16 and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. 17 So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? 18 "Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" 19 And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."



### **CONFESSION OF FAITH – (Luther's Explanation to the First Article)**

*I believe that God has made me and all creatures, giving me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my reason and all my senses; and that He still preserves me; richly and daily providing*