

St. Stephen Lutheran Church & School
An affiliate of the Church of the Lutheran Confession
320 Moorpark Way
Mountain View, California 94041
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Pastor: Terrel Kesterson Organist: Peggy Kesterson

NEW YEAR'S DAY 2012

OPENING HYMN: "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;

Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.

Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood;

"Jesus out of ev'ry nation has redeemed us by His blood."

Alleluia! Bread of heaven, here on earth our food, our stay;

Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to You from day to day.

Intercessor, Friend of sinners, earth's Redeemer, hear our plea

Where the songs of all the angels sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;

Alleluia! He is near us; faith believes, nor questions how.

In our daily lives He leads us, ev'ry day His blessings pour.

Never shall we lose His promise: "I am with you evermore!"

(the following is all spoken):

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN.

P: O Lord, open my lips.

C: AND MY MOUTH SHALL DECLARE YOUR PRAISE.

P: Hasten to deliver me, O God.

C: HASTEN TO HELP ME, O LORD.

ALL: GLORY BE TO THE FATHER AND TO THE SON AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.

AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING, IS NOW, AND SHALL BE FOREVER. AMEN.

- Confession of Sins and Absolution for Sins -

P: Dearly beloved! We have come together in the presence of God our heavenly Father to give Him thanks for the great blessings that we have received at His hand, to praise Him, to hear His holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of others those things that are necessary

for our life and salvation. O come, let us worship Him! Let us kneel and bow down before Him. Let us confess our sins with penitent hearts, and obtain forgiveness by His infinite grace and mercy.

ALL: ALMIGHTY AND MOST MERCIFUL FATHER, WE HAVE STRAYED FROM

YOUR WAYS LIKE LOST SHEEP. WE HAVE FOLLOWED THE DEVICES AND DESIRES OF OUR HEARTS. WE HAVE OFFENDED AGAINST YOUR HOLY LAW. WE HAVE DONE THOSE THINGS WHICH WE SHOULD NOT HAVE DONE, AND WE HAVE NOT DONE THOSE THINGS WE SHOULD HAVE DONE. HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD! SPARE AND RESTORE US, ACCORDING TO THE PROMISES YOU HAVE DECLARED TO US IN JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD. FOR HIS SAKE GRANT THAT WE MAY LIVE A GODLY, RIGHTEOUS, AND SOBER LIFE, TO THE GLORY OF YOUR HOLY NAME.

P: The almighty and merciful Lord has granted us pardon and forgiveness for all of our sins, grace for repentance and newness of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Responsive Reading from Psalm 90

P: LORD, You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

C: BEFORE THE MOUNTAINS WERE BROUGHT FORTH OR THE EARTH AND THE WORLD,
FROM EVERLASTING TO EVERLASTING YOU ARE GOD.

P: For a thousand years in Your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.

C: TEACH US TO NUMBER OUR DAYS ARIGHT, THAT WE MAY GAIN A HEART OF WISDOM.

P: Satisfy us in the morning with Your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

C: MAKE US GLAD FOR AS MANY DAYS AS YOU HAVE AFFLICTED US, FOR AS MANY YEARS AS WE HAVE SEEN TROUBLE.

P: May Your deeds be shown to Your servants, Your splendor to their children.

C: MAY THE FAVOR OF THE LORD OUR GOD REST UPON US; ESTABLISH THE WORK OF OUR HANDS FOR US – YES, ESTABLISH THE WORK OF OUR HANDS.

- An Affirmation of Faith -

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and our Father in Him. And to His deeds we do testify. He called all things into being, creating man in His own image and setting before him the way of life and death. He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. He judges people and nations by His righteous will declared through the prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the God-Man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, He has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering death by atoning for our sins, and so reconciling the world unto Himself. He has sent us His Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the Church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant a faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races. He has called us to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be His servants in the service of men, to proclaim the Gospel to all the world, to share in Christ's

baptism and eat at His Table, and to join Him in His suffering and victory. He gives to all who believe in Him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in struggle, His presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in His Kingdom which has no end. BLESSING AND HONOR, GLORY AND POWER BE UNTO HIM! AMEN!

HYMN 785 (Worship Supplement) “Children of the Heavenly Father”

The Sermon: Psalm 46
GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH

God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth move, and the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling. There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of day. The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Come, behold the works of the Lord, who has made desolations in the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariot in the fire. Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

The Offertory, page 16 (Worship Supplement)

HYMN 764 (Worship Supplement) “God of Grace and God of Glory”

The Offering, Special Prayers, General Prayer, and The Lord’s Prayer

Responsive Words of Institution

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed established the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

C: PRAISE BE TO YOU, O LORD, FOR GIVING US THIS SACRAMENT BY WHICH WE CHRISTIANS ARE STRENGTHENED IN OUR FAITH, UPLIFTED IN OUR SPIRITS, AND BUILT UP IN OUR LOVE FOR YOU AND FOR OUR NEIGHBOR.

P: He took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples.

C: WE GIVE THANKS TO YOU, LORD JESUS, FOR THIS SPECIAL MEAL BY WHICH YOU NOURISH AND SUSTAIN THE SOULS OF YOUR DISCIPLES.

P: He said to His disciples, “Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you.”

C: HOW GREAT AND MARVELOUS IS YOUR POWER IN THIS SACRAMENT, O LORD, IN GIVING US TO EAT OF YOUR BODY WHICH WAS LIFTED UP ON THE CROSS TO MAKE US REDEEMED CHILDREN OF GOD AND HEIRS OF HEAVEN.

P: Concerning the sacramental eating of His body Jesus said, “Do this in remembrance of Me.”

C: HELP US, DEAR LORD, TO MAKE FREQUENT USE OF THIS SACRAMENT AND TO BE REMINDED THROUGH IT OF THE GREAT SACRIFICE YOU MADE FOR OUR ETERNAL SALVATION.

P: In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to His disciples.

C: WE GIVE THANKS TO YOU, LORD JESUS, FOR BEING WILLING TO DRINK THE BITTER CUP OF SUFFERING ON THE CROSS AS OUR SAVIOR SO THAT IN THIS SACRAMENT THE CUP OF BLESSING MIGHT BE RECEIVED FOR OUR SPIRITUAL REFRESHMENT.

P: He said to His disciples, “Drink from it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.”

C: HOW MARVELOUS IT IS, DEAR SAVIOR, THAT IN THIS SACRAMENT YOU GIVE OF YOUR VERY BLOOD WHICH WAS POURED OUT ON THE CROSS IN ATONEMENT FOR ALL OF OUR SINS. IN YOUR PRECIOUS BLOOD WE FIND THE SURE AND CERTAIN GUARANTEE OF YOUR COVENANT OF GRACE.

P: Concerning the sacramental drinking of His blood Jesus said, “Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

C: MAY YOUR PRECIOUS BLOOD, LORD JESUS, GIVEN HERE IN THIS SACRAMENT, ALWAYS SERVE TO REMIND US OF GOD’S FORGIVING LOVE THROUGH YOU.

Communion Distribution –

COMMUNION HYMN: 755 (Worship Supplement) “What Is This Bread”

Nunc Dimittis, Thanksgiving, and Benediction (pages 20-21 in the Worship Supplement)

CLOSING HYMN: 800 (Worship Supplement) “Go, My Children, With My Blessing”

WELCOME, VISITORS! We’re very happy that you are here today! You are always welcome.

Please leave a record of your visit in our guest book in the entryway.

TODAY is COMMUNION Sunday. We have BIBLE STUDY after church.

WEDNESDAY: MIDWEEK BIBLE HOUR: 6:00-7:00 PM. We’re on 1 John 3:1.

THURSDAY: NO choir this Thursday.

SUNDAY: WORSHIP SERVICE: 10:00 AM; BIBLE STUDY: 11:15 AM.

NEXT SUNDAY we will INSTALL our CHURCH OFFICERS during our Sunday morning service. LOIS MENKVELD MEMORIAL SERVICE at St. Stephen: 2:00 PM.

LOIS MENKVELD ENTERED ETERNAL LIFE on December 24. Jesus says, “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in Me has everlasting life.” (John 6:47)

THANK YOU: Pastor and Peggy want to thank you all for your kind and generous Christmas gift.

CLC NEWS: Pastor Del Maas is resigning his call to Holy Cross, Phoenix, AZ. He will remain in the CLC, but will pursue other work. Missionary Dave Koenig is retiring from the ministry. Pastor Michael Gurath, currently without a call, has the call to replace Missionary Koenig.