

Benediction *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

LSB 202

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and \dagger give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn: 706 Love in Christ Is Strong and Living

LSB 706

Acknowledgments

Adapted from Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book
Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week: Wednesday – **Elders Meeting – 6:30pm / Church Council - 7pm**

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West** (Mountain View): **Bible Class – 8:45am / Worship – 10am**
2/19/17

St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): **Worship – 1pm / Bible Class – 2pm**

February Elder & Usher: Nick Hasulak (Elder) & Brenton Horillo (Usher)

Bible Class Invite – This morning we began a Bible Class based on the book, *“Questioning the Bible: 11 Major Challenges to the Bible’s Authority”* by Jonathan Morrow. The Foreword to the book gives this description: “...there are very, very few, if any, books that attempt to address the question: Can a thoughtful person today seriously believe that the Bible is the very speech of God Himself?...In my opinion there will be more and more attacks on the Bible as culture turns more secular. Thus, Morrow’s book is very timely. It needs to be read and studied in groups and individually. And it must be given to friends and relatives, especially college students, who need to consider the wisdom in its pages. *Questioning the Bible* is for such a time as this” (J. P. Moreland). Copies of the book are available and we can order more if needed. Please join us for this important study each Sunday at 8:45am.

CLC News – Financial Report – Jan. In Your mailbox. <> Pastor Edward Starkey of Resurrection Lutheran, Corpus Christi, TX has returned the call to St. Luke’s Lutheran, Lemmon, SD. <> Resignation: Ernest Bernet has resigned from the public ministry and from membership in the CLC.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School

A member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (cclutheran.org)

320 Moorpark Way - Mountain View, California 94041-1600

Church Office: (650) 964-5915 School Office: (650) 961-2071

Websites: sslcwest.org ssls.org

Pastor: Luke Bernthal

Email: lbernthal@live.com \dagger **Cell:** (402) 389-2147

Organist: Sue Slattengren



February 12, 2017 \dagger The Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

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.

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.” (1 John 4:7)

\dagger Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 119:1-8 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) \dagger

Opening Hymn: 392 God Loves Me Dearly

LSB 392

Invocation

We invoke (“call upon”) the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Confession and Absolution

We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and gives them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

Kyrie *Latin for “O Lord.” We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life.* LSB 204



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.¹² Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

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.*

Sermon Hymn: 700 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling LSB 700

Prayer of the Church / Prayer Requests *We bring our prayers to God.*

Lord’s Prayer LSB 209

And 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, died and was buried.
 He descended into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: 845 *Where Charity and Love Prevail*

LSB 845

Sermon: "Love is..."

Text: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (NIV)

¹ If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like

Gloria in Excelsis *Latin for "Glory to God in the highest."*

LSB 204



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
 2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
 3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth!
 O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
 You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
 Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
 In God the Fa-ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation ("Greeting") and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P We pray:

O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

1 John 4:7-11 (NIV)

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm (Responsive)

Psalm 98:1-4

P Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
C for he has done marvelous things!

P His right hand and his holy arm
C have worked salvation for him.

P The LORD has made known his salvation;
C He has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

P He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.
C All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

P Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
C break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Gospel Reading

John 15:9-17

P The Gospel reading is from John 15:9-17.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁹[Jesus said:] "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends.

¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Alleluia and Verse

When God speaks to us in His Word it is natural for us to respond. We sing "Allelujah!"—meaning, "Praise the Lord!"



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Apostles' Creed

We boldly confess what we believe.

LSB 207

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.