

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: 488 He is Arisen! Glorious Word!

LSB 488

Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **Voter's Meeting – 2nd teacher call meeting** (after worship service)

This Week: **Tuesday – Stockton Area Service – 2pm** (meets at Cameron's in Rio Vista)
Elders Meeting – 6:30pm / Church Council Meeting – 7pm
Wednesday – Villa Fontana Service – 11am

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West (Mountain View): Bible Class – 8:45am / Worship – 10am**
4/30/17 **Mission Outreach Meeting w/ Lunch – 11am**

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

April Elder & Usher: Paul Pelzl (Elder) & Shaun Levandoski (Usher)

Voter's Meeting – 2nd Teacher Call – The voters are asked to meet after the service for a meeting to discuss the call for our 2nd teacher in St. Stephen's School.

Mission Outreach Meeting – Sun. April 30th – After Worship – Our Mission Board met on Thursday night to discuss plans going forward for "inreach" and "outreach" (sharing the Gospel and giving encouragement both inside and outside our congregation). We are planning on having a meeting and a light lunch after our worship service on **April 30th** for anyone who would like to learn more about our plans and how you can join our mission efforts. Please make plans to join us!

St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School

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

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April 23, 2017 \dagger The Sunday After Easter

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.

\dagger Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 16 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) \dagger

Opening Hymn: 633 At The Lamb's High Feast We Sing

LSB 633

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, and call upon Him in prayer and praise, 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.

G **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.

G **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



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

and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." ²⁸ And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." ³⁰ And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

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.

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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: 472 These Things Did Thomas Count as Real LSB 472

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

Lord's Prayer LSB 209

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

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: 470 v. 4-9 *That Night The Apostles Met in Fear*

Sermon: Blessed "Blind" Faith

- 1. Not Really a "Blind" Faith
- 2. But Truly a "Blessed" Faith!

Text: John 20:24-31 (NKJV)

²⁴ Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." ²⁶ And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" ²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here,



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:

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God. We pray this through the same 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 Peter 1:3-9 (ESV)

³*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Psalm (Responsive)

Psalm 16 (selected verses)

- P** Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust.
- C** O my soul, you have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, My goodness is nothing apart from You."
- P** O LORD, You are the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You maintain my lot.
- C** The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Yes, I have a good inheritance.
- P** I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel;
- C** My heart also instructs me in the night seasons.
- P** I have set the LORD always before me;
- C** Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.
- P** Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices;
- C** My flesh also will rest in hope.
- P** For You will not leave my soul in the grave,
- C** Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.
- P** You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy;
- C** At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-23 (NJKV)

- P** The Gospel reading is from John 20:19-23.
- C** Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁹ *Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."*

- 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.