

# St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School

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

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Guest Organist: Barb Gullerud

**December 3, 2017 † Advent 1**



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**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.

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† Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 24 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

**Opening Hymn: 350 *Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come***

LSB 350

## **Advent Invocation**

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

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

**C** Amen.

## **Confession and Absolution**

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

**P** Jesus is the Light of the World, and in Him is no darkness at all.

**C** **If we walk in the light as He is in the light,  
we have fellowship with one another,  
and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin.**

**P** In this Advent season we celebrate the *coming* of Jesus, the Light of the World.

**C** **Dear Jesus, we celebrate Your coming at Your birth in Bethlehem. We thank You for coming into our hearts by Your gift of faith, and we look forward to Your coming on the Last Day when You will take us, and all believers, to be with You forever in heaven.**

**P** As we meditate on Your manger, Your cross, Your empty tomb, and Your Word, we come before Your throne today confessing our sins and asking for Your forgiveness.

**C** **Lord of heaven and earth, forgive us all our sins. As we see the world in darkness and in need of Your light, increase our faith, love, courage, and strength. Give us Your power to be lights in this world, reflecting Your love. Amen.**

**P** Our Father in Heaven has been good and merciful to us. In His love He has given us, His children, the greatest Gift: He sent His Son Jesus, the Christ Child, whose birth in Bethlehem so long ago we celebrate. Jesus came as a lowly servant to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. By His shed blood on the cross we are forgiven! In peace and joy let us sing of our salvation!

### 344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

LSB 344 v. 2, 5



2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the  
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



way for God with - in, And let us all our  
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

## Prayer of the Day

**P** We pray:

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance. 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.

## Responsive Psalm – *Psalm 98 (NKJV)*

**P** Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things;

**C** **His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.**

**P** The LORD has made known His salvation;

**C** **His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.**

**P** He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;

**C** **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

**P** Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth;

**C** **Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.**

**P** Sing to the LORD with the harp, With the harp and the sound of a psalm,  
With trumpets and the sound of a horn;

**C** **Shout joyfully before the LORD, the King.**

**P** Let the sea roar, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell in it;

**C** **Let the rivers clap *their* hands; Let the hills be joyful together before the LORD,**

**P** For He is coming to judge the earth.

**A** **With righteousness He shall judge the world, And the peoples with equity.**

## Second Reading

*Matthew 24:37-44 (NKJV)*

**P** The second reading is from Matthew 24:37-44.

**C** **Sanctify us by Your truth, O LORD. Your Word is truth!**

<sup>37</sup> "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. <sup>38</sup> "For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> "and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. <sup>40</sup> "Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. <sup>41</sup> "Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. <sup>42</sup> "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> "But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. <sup>44</sup> "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

☐ Here ends our Scripture readings.

### 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357 v. 1

I O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive  
 Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. *Refrain* Re - joice! Re - joice!  
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

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### The 2<sup>nd</sup> Article of the Apostle's Creed *with explanation from Luther's Catechism (Sydow, p. 87)*

☑ I believe 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, dead, and buried;  
 He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;

**He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God,  
begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man,  
born of the virgin Mary is my Lord.**

**He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person,  
purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil,  
not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood  
and His innocent suffering and death.**

**He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom,  
and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy;  
just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity.  
This is most certainly true!**

**Hymn of the Day: 340 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates***

*LSB 340*

## **Sermon: “The Gifts of Christmas” - Salvation**

**Text: Romans 13:11-14 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup> The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. <sup>13</sup> Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

## Offertory

LSB 956

### 956 Create in Me

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.*

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

### Lord's Prayer

**Sermon Hymn: 345** (tune of Hymn 83 TLH) ***Hark! A Thrilling Voice...*** LSB 345

## Service of the Sacrament

*Now we approach the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in which Jesus comes to bless us with His very body and blood.  
We move toward the Sacrament with prayers of thanksgiving and songs of adoration.*

### The Words of Institution

*The words spoken by Jesus the night He instituted the Lord's Supper, by which our Lord assured to His Church the real presence of His body and blood in the Sacrament.*

## Prayer Before the Lord's Supper

Adapted from *The Lutheran Hymnal*, p. 4

**C** Dear Savior, upon Your gracious invitation I come to Your altar.  
Let me find favor in Your eyes that I may approach Your table in true faith  
and receive the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of my sins and the  
strengthening of my faith. Amen

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always!

**C** Amen.

## Hymn of Preparation

619 Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior

LSB 619 v. 1

1 Thy bod - y, giv'n for me, O Sav - ior, Thy blood which Thou for  
me didst shed, These are my life and strength for -  
ev - er, By them my hun - gry soul is fed.

*Refrain*  
Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be  
for my soul the high - est good!

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## The Distribution

*Note to our Guests:* We are so glad you are worshiping with us this morning. The Word of God treats the Lord's Supper with great care. The Word of God considers the Lord's Supper to be a wonderful Means of Grace – a way in which Christ forgives and blesses. It is also considered an opportunity for congregations to express unity and oneness (1 Corinthians 10:16-17) – that is, to say to the world "This is what we believe!" But God's Word also warns against taking the Sacrament to our judgment (1 Corinthians 11:27-30). For these reasons our congregation asks that you fully understand our teachings before partaking. We respectfully ask that those who have joined this congregation through public confession of faith, or who are members of another congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) approach the altar at the usher's direction. Speak to our pastor anytime and he will be glad to provide the information you would need – and want. We look forward to communing together, Lord willing, in the future.

## Prayer After the Lord's Supper

*Adapted from The Lutheran Hymnal, p. 4*

**G O blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, You have given Yourself to me in this holy Sacrament, keep me in Your faith and favor. As You live in me, let me also live in You. May Your body and blood preserve me in the true faith unto everlasting life! Amen.**

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness!

## The Thanksgiving

### 619 My Heart Has Now Become Thy Dwelling

*LSB 619 v. 5*

5 My heart has now be-come Thy dwell-ing, O bless-ed, ho-ly  
Trin-i-ty. With an-gels I, Thy prais-es  
tell-ing, Shall live in joy e-ter-nal-ly.

*Refrain*

Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be  
for my soul the high - est good!

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

- ☐ 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 ✠ give you peace.

## The Doxology

LSB 923 v. 3

3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all  
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye  
heav'n - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

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**Closing Hymn: 705** (Worship Supplement) ***Come, O Long-Expected Jesus*** W.S. 705

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **Children's Christmas Eve Service Practice** – After Worship Service

This Week: Tuesday – **Choir Practice – 6:30pm**  
Wednesday – **Villa Fontana Worship Service – 11am (RESCHEDULED)**  
**Catechism Classes (via Skype) (Fossum) – 7pm**

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): NO Bible Class**  
12/10/17 **Worship – 10am**

**St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): Worship – 1pm**  
**NO Bible Class**

**St. Stephen South (Corona, CA): Worship – 6:30pm**

**December Elder & Usher:** Michael Slattengren (Elder) & Brenton Horrillo (Usher)

### **Advent / Christmas Season Worship Schedule**

**Wed. Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm** - Advent Worship / Christmas Carols & Cookies (**Mt. View**)

**Christmas Eve – Sun. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>** –

**10am (Mt. View)** - Christmas Eve Worship & Children's Program

**1pm (Hayward)** - Christmas Eve Worship Service

**Christmas Day – Mon. Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>** –

**11am (Hayward)** - Christmas Day Worship (**NO Worship service in Mt. View**)

**Wedding Service – Fri. Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>** – Pastor Luke Bernthal & Julia Anderson

**Noon (Mt. View)** Refreshments following the wedding service

**New Year's Eve – Sun. Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>** – Pastor Mark Bernthal (guest preaching)

**10am (Mt. View)** NO Bible Class & **NO Worship in East Bay (Hayward)**

**Christmas Decorating – THANK YOU!** – A big "THANK YOU!" to all who helped decorate the church for the Christmas season last Sunday. The church looks beautiful! Thank you all for your time and efforts.



