

St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School

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

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December 10, 2017 † Advent 2

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.

† Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 85 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

Opening Hymn: 515 *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

LSB 515

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.



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 - shi - ped 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:

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds and pure hearts. We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

First Reading – *Psalm 130 (NKJV - Responsive)*

P Out of the depths I have cried to You, O LORD;

C Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive To the voice of my supplications.

P If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

C But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared.

P I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

C And in His word I do hope.

P My soul waits for the Lord More than those who watch for the morning

C Yes, more than those who watch for the morning.

P O Israel, hope in the LORD; For with the LORD there is mercy,

C And with Him is abundant redemption.

A And He shall redeem Israel From all his iniquities.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10 (ESV)

P The Second reading is from Isaiah 11:1-10.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

*There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.*

² *And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.*

³ *And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.*

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

⁴ *but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;*

*and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.*

⁵ *Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.*

***6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.***

***7 The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.***

***8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.***

***9 They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.***

***10 In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him
shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.***

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.

**☩ 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: 359 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

LSB 359

Sermon: "The Gifts of Christmas" - Hope

Text: Romans 15:4-13 (NKJV)

⁴ For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. ⁵ Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, ⁶ that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. ⁸ Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, ⁹ and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written:

"For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name."
¹⁰ And again he says: "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!" ¹¹ And again: "Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!" ¹² And again, Isaiah says: "There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope." ¹³ Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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: 342 What Hope! An Eden Prophesied

LSB 342

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

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

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 † give you peace.



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

Closing Hymn: 349 Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

LSB 349

Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **St. Stephen - South** (Spring Hill Suites, Corona, CA): **Worship – 6:30pm**

This Week: Wednesday – **Wednesday Advent Worship / Carols & Cookies – 7pm**
Thursday – **Choir Practice – 6:30pm**

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West** (Mt. View): **Bible Class – 9am**
12/17/17 **Worship w/ communion – 10am**

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

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



Wednesday Advent Worship / Carols & Cookies – 7pm –

Please join us for a special Wednesday Advent worship service this Wednesday at **7pm**. We will gather for some Christmas cookies and Christmas carol singing in the fellowship hall after the worship service. Feel free to bring your favorite Christmas cookies to share, if you'd like! Or just bring yourself and your singing voice and join us for worship and fellowship this Wednesday!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(continued)

In Your Mailbox – St. Stephen Financial Report - November

Southern California Worship – Tonight @ 6:30pm – Corona, CA –

Our worship service in Corona, CA this evening is scheduled to go on as planned, as so far, travel in the area we are holding our worship service has not been affected by the wildfires in Southern California. Once again we'll be meeting at **Spring Hill Suites Corona (2025 Compton Ave, Corona, CA 92881)**. I've been in contact with a number of our Southern California members this past week & this weekend. From all reports our brothers and sisters in Christ of St. Stephen – South are safe and they and their properties have not been affected or threatened by the wildfires in the area. We thank the Lord for His protection and grace! Please continue to pray for all who have been affected by the fires, and pray for continued safety and protection of our brothers and sisters in Christ in Southern California.

Food Donations for Christmas – We are collecting non-perishable food items to deliver to the Community Service Agency (CSA) in Mountain View for Christmas. There is a large box in the church entry marked "Food Drive."

Advent / Christmas Season Worship Schedule

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

Christmas Eve – Sun. Dec. 24th –

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

1pm (Hayward) - Christmas Eve Worship Service

Christmas Day – Mon. Dec. 25th –

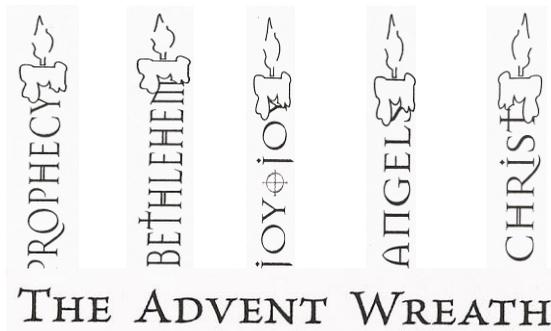
11am (Hayward) - Christmas Day Worship (**NO Worship service in Mt. View**)

Wedding Service – Fri. Dec. 29th – Pastor Luke Bernthal & Julia Anderson

Noon (Mt. View) Refreshments following the wedding service

New Year's Eve – Sun. Dec. 31st – Pastor Mark Bernthal (guest preaching)

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



The Advent Wreath to some may be, A simple art display.
What is it for? What does it mean? What does it really say?

Well, like so many symbols at This special time of year,
We should rehearse their meaning that, Their message may be clear.

The candle which we light at first, It speaks of PROPHECY;
The woman's Seed, the virgin's Son, What chosen prophets see.

The second candle tells the place, Where Jesus Christ was born.
It points us all to BETHLEHEM, A barn – a place of scorn.

The shepherds bring us to the light, And JOY of candle three.
That's why it's pink and urges us, With Shepherds come and see.

God's ANGELS are the light to all, In candle number four.
Their joyful word shouts, "Peace to all;" We all need nothing more.

Then in the center tall and white, On Christmas Day we light,
The candle representing CHRIST, Which burns with beauty bright.

The light of all the world has come, Into this sin-dark place.
Forgiveness, life and peace with God, Through Jesus Christ by grace.

So preach His Word and sing His praise, And let the symbols speak,
Reminding us of God's great love, Which wise men still will seek.

[From "Poems of Prayer & Praise" © 2008 by CLC Pastor Emeritus L. Dale Redlin.]