

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 13, 2017 † Wednesday Advent Worship

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 71 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

Opening Hymn: 375 *Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising*

LSB 375

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:

Lord Jesus Christ, we ask You to hear our prayers and praises. Lighten the darkness of our hearts and give us Your joy by Your gracious visitation. 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

Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11 (NKJV)

P The second reading is from Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11.

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

***“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me
 To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
 To proclaim liberty to the captives,
 And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
² To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD,
 And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,
³ To console those who mourn in Zion,
 To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning,
 The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;
 That they may be called trees of righteousness,
 The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.”***

***...¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God;
 For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
 He has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
 As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments,
 And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.***

***¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its bud,
 As the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth,
 So the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the
 nations.***

P Here ends our Scripture readings.

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357 v. 5-6



5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high,



And close the path to mis - er - y. Re - joice! Re - joice!



- 6** ***O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!***

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The 2nd 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!

Sermon: "The Gifts of Christmas" - Joy

Text: Luke 2:10-11 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Then the angel said to them [the shepherds], "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

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.*

Sermon Hymn: 386 *Now Sing We, Now Rejoice*

LSB 386

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

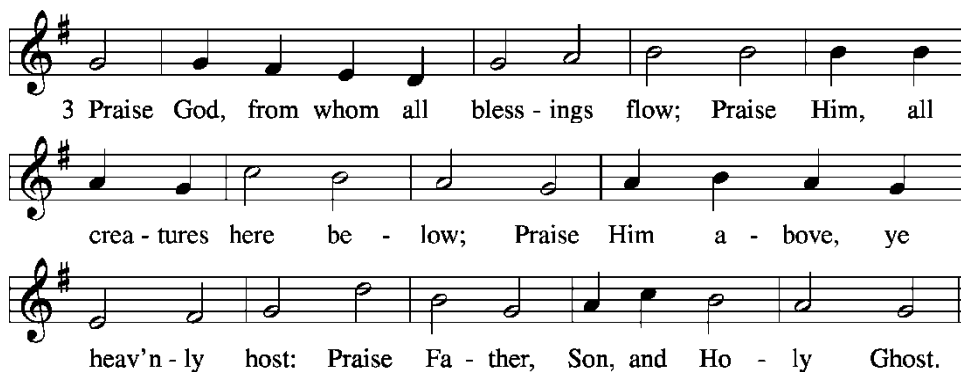
Lord's Prayer

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

- 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.

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: 387 Joy to the World

LSB 387

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tonight: **Christmas Carols & Cookies** – After the worship service in the fellowship hall

This Week: Thursday – **Choir Practice – 6:30pm**

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)



Christmas Carols & Cookies – After the Worship Service –

We will gather for some Christmas cookies and Christmas carol singing in the fellowship hall after the worship service. Please join us!

Advent / Christmas Season Worship Schedule

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)**