St. Stephen Lutheran Church
West & East Bay, Central Valley, and Southern California
Member congregations of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (clclutheran.org)
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School Office: (650) 961-2071  School Website: ssls.org

April 19, 2020  Easter 2

We Welcome Our Visitors who are worshiping with us today.
We hope that you are uplifted by the Gospel (“Good News”) of Jesus in our worship service.
We invite you to join us every Sunday.

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

To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:

https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html
Opening Hymn: 741 v. 1-5 Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense

1 Jesus Christ, my sure defense And my Savior, now is living!
   Knowing this, my confidence

2 Jesus, my Redeemer lives; Like-wise I to life shall waken. He will bring me where He is;
   Ever; Faith’s strong hand the Rock has found,

3 No, too closely I am bound By my hope to Christ forever; But by faith I now discern
   In this body I shall view God, my Lord, with eyes unclouded;

4 I am flesh and must return To the dust, whence I am taken;
   In this flesh I then shall see Jesus Christ eternally.

5 Glorified, I shall anew With this flesh then be enshrouded;
   In this body I shall view God, my Lord, with eyes unclouded;
   In this flesh I then shall see Jesus Christ eternally.

PUBLIC DOMAIN

SERVICE OF THE WORD
(Worship Supplement, p. 12)

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.
Confession and Absolution

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

P We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy upon me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

P God our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. Through faith in Him, which was created in you by the Holy Spirit, you are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

C Amen.

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

Lord have mercy on us. Christ have mercy on us. Lord have mercy on us.

Gloria in Excelsis Latin for “Glory to God in the highest.”

Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise;
Of heav’nly joy and peace on earth we sing.
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,
Lord God, almighty Father, heav’nly King.

Lord Jesus Christ, the Father’s only Son,
You bore for us the load of this world’s sin.
O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict’ry won,
Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within.

Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,
At God’s right hand in majesty most high:
Who with the Spirit worshiped and adored,
With all the heav’nly host we glorify.
Prayer of the Day

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 God and Savior. 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

Revelation 1:4-18 (EHV)

4 John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia:
Grace to you and peace from him who is, who was, and who is coming, and from the 
seven spirits that are before his throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the 
firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us 
and has freed us from our sins by his own blood 6 and made us a kingdom and priests to 
God his Father—to him be the glory and the power forever. Amen.

7 Look, he is coming with clouds, and every eye will see him, including those who 
pierced him. And all the nations of the earth will mourn because of him. Yes. Amen.

8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, the one who is, and who was, 
and who is coming, the Almighty.

9 I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingship and patient 
endurance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and 
the testimony about Jesus. 10 I was in spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard a loud voice 
behind me, like a trumpet, 11 saying, “Write what you see on a scroll and send it to the 
seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and 
Laodicea.”

12 I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me. When I turned, I saw seven gold 
lampstands, 13 and among the lampstands was one like a son of man. He was clothed 
with a robe that reached to his feet, and around his chest he wore a gold sash. 14 His 
head and his hair were white, like white wool or like snow. His eyes were like blazing 
flames. 15 His feet were like polished bronze being refined in a furnace. His voice was 
like the roar of many waters. 16 He held seven stars in his right hand. A sharp two-
edged sword was coming out of his mouth. His face was shining as the sun shines in all 
its brightness.
When I saw him, I fell at his feet like a dead man. He placed his right hand on me and said, “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last—the Living One. I was dead and, see, I am alive forever and ever! I also hold the keys of death and hell.

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-23 (NKJV)

The Gospel reading is from John 20:19-23.

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

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." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it!

Alleluia and Verse

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

🎶 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
These words are written that we may believe
That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Apostles' Creed

We boldly confess what we believe.

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 there 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. 1, 4-8 O Sons and Daughters...

"My piercèd side, O Thomas, see,
And look upon My hands, My feet;
Not faithless but believing be." Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

No longer Thomas then denied;
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
"You are my Lord and God!" he cried. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

How blest are they who have not seen
And yet whose faith has constant been, For they eternal life shall win.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sermon 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, 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.

Sermon Theme: Blessed Are Those Who Have NOT Seen and Yet Have Believed

✠ How do Jesus’ words to Thomas apply to you in v. 29?

Application: What are some sure and certain reminders from Jesus that you can turn to in times of doubt and uncertainty? (For starters look at v. 30-31)

Offertory

🎵 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence,
Take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation.
Uphold with Your Spirit free.

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: 861 Christ Be My Leader

1 Christ be my Leader by night as by day; Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
2 Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth, Drifting or shifting as sand, Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.
3 Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife; Death cannot future His care, Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Lord’s Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
      Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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.

C Amen.
**Announcements**

This Week: SSLS - Online Classes / Learning from home continues

Wednesday – CLC Call meeting for Teacher & Seminary Graduates
(see announcements below)

Next Sunday: Online Worship Services - [https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html](https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html)

4/26/20 Teacher Call Meeting (Mt. View) (if necessary) via Zoom – 11am
(see announcements below)

**Share the Good News by Sharing our Worship Service Link** – Please remember:
You can invite many others to our online worship services by copying and pasting this link in an email or on your Facebook page, etc.: [https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html](https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html)

Share the Good News!

We hope that these online services will be a blessing to all during this time when we are not able to worship together in person. Let’s all continue to pray that we are able to join again together in worship soon, and pray for the health and safety of us all.

Email and hard-copy mailings of the sermon and bulletin for each worship service are also available. Please let Pastor Luke know if you’d like to have the sermon and bulletin mailed to your home. Our shut-ins and those who are unable to access the service via the internet will be getting mailed copies.

**Thank You** - to Chris Holt for his work in producing, editing, and posting the video and music for our worship service today.

**Teacher Call Meeting Next Sunday – 4/26 @ 11am (if necessary)** -
We have made a request to the CLC Call Committee for Graduates for the graduate from the teaching program at Immanuel Lutheran College in Eau Claire, WI. That graduate is Mikkela Hammond, our student teacher who was with us from January through March. What this means is that the Call Committee will meet via video conference this **Wed. (4/22)** to determine where Mikkela’s call will be assigned (other CLC schools have also requested the graduate). If the call committee chooses not to assign Mikkela to our school then we have scheduled a call meeting via Zoom video/conference call for **next Sunday, April 26th at 11am**. If Mikkela is assigned to us and she accepts the call there will be no need for a call meeting. An update and further details will be sent after we hear the results from the CLC Call Committee. Please continue to pray!
**Private Communion During the Month of April** – Communicant members of our St. Stephen congregations who would like to partake of communion this month please let me know so that I can make arrangements with you to have private communion. **402-389-2147 (cell).**

Also, a reminder, please do not hesitate to call, text, or email me if pastoral care is needed—especially if it’s an emergency—or even if you just need someone to talk to and hear some comfort from God’s Word in these times of isolation. I will do my best to stay in touch with all of you. Let’s all be conscious of calling on each other and reaching out to each other to communicate and express our Christian care and concern for each other during this difficult time.

In Christ’s love and with prayers for all of us,

Pastor Luke

**Offerings** - The well-being of our members, both spiritual and physical, is our foremost concern. At the same time, it is important to support our mutual work for the LORD, even during this unusual time. Please mail in your offerings to the following addresses:

**West Bay (Mt. View) & Southern California**
- Please mail your offering to our financial secretary: Chris Holt
  4517 Catalina Dr.
  San Jose, CA 95129

**East Bay & Central Valley**
- Please mail your offering to our financial secretary: Jan Messerschmidt
  6220 Robin Court
  Pleasanton, CA 94588

**Pastor’s KINSHIP Africa Mission Trip Flights Have Been Cancelled 5/27-6/17** – The flights for my mission trip with Pastor Mike Gurath to Kenya and Nigeria on behalf of the CLC KINSHIP Committee have been cancelled by the airline. Flight credit was given for the cancelled flights and can be used within two years of our original travel dates. We pray that this trip will be possible again in the near future.

**CLC Convention this Summer Rescheduled for July 30th – August 2nd** – The CLC Convention for this summer has been rescheduled from the end of June to **Thurs. July 30th – Sun. Aug. 2nd.**