

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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November 27, 2022 ☩ Advent 1

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 18 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) ☩

To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:

<https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html>

Opening Hymn: 331 *The Advent of Our King* (please stand for last verse)

LSB 331



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel-come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
Him-self a ser-vant's form puts on To set His ser-vants free.
Nor let your faith-less heart de-spise The peace He comes to bring.
And His true mem-bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

***5. Before the dawning day Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away, The new self now put on.***

***△ 6. All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one Through all eternity.***

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.
Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–76
Text and tune: Public domain

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!

357 v. 1, 6 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

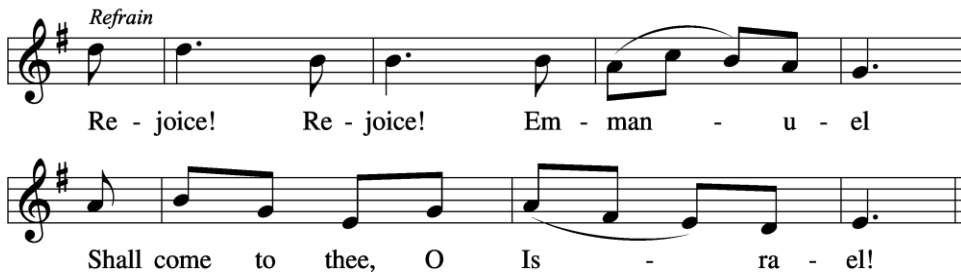
LSB 357 v. 1, 6

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
by Thy draw - ing night; Dis - perse the gloom - y

ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.

(hymn continues on next page ->)



Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: French, 15th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

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.

First Reading

Romans 5:15-19; 6:23(EHV)

^{5:15} ***But the gracious gift is not like Adam's trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of this one man, it is even more certain that God's grace, and the gift given by the grace of the one man Jesus Christ, overflowed to the many!***

¹⁶ ***And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin, for the judgment that followed the one trespass resulted in a verdict of condemnation, but the gracious gift that followed many trespasses resulted in a verdict of justification.***

¹⁷ ***Indeed, if by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through the one man, it is even more certain that those who receive the overflowing grace of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ!***

¹⁸ ***So then, just as one trespass led to a verdict of condemnation for all people, so also one righteous verdict led to life-giving justification for all people.*** ¹⁹ ***For just as through the disobedience of one man the many became sinners, so also through the obedience of one man the many will become righteous.***

^{6:23} ***For the wages of sin is death, but the undeserved gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

Second Reading

Luke 1:67-79 (EHV)

P The second reading is from Luke 1:67-79.

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

⁶⁷ **His** *[John's] father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:*

⁶⁸ *Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel,*

because he has visited us and prepared redemption for his people.

⁶⁹ *He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,*

⁷⁰ *just as he said long ago through the mouth of his holy prophets.*

⁷¹ *He raised up salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us,*

⁷² *in order to show mercy to our fathers by remembering his holy covenant,*

⁷³ *the oath which he swore to Abraham our father,*

⁷⁴ *to grant deliverance to us from the hand of our enemies,*

so that we are able to serve him without fear,

⁷⁵ *in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.*

⁷⁶ *And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High,*

because you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

⁷⁷ *to give his people the knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins,*

⁷⁸ *because of God's tender mercies,*

by which the Rising Sun from on high will visit us,

⁷⁹ *to shine on those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,*

to guide our feet into the way of peace.

P Here ends our Scripture readings.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed *We boldly confess what we believe.*

LSB 207

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: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" W.S. 705 & LSB 338 (tune of LSB 428)

***1. Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.***

***2. Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.***

***3. Born Thy people to deliver;
Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.***

***4. By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.***

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.
Text: Public domain

Sermon Text: James 1:17-18 (EHV)

¹⁷ Every good act of giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the lights, who does not change or shift like a shadow. ¹⁸ Just as he planned, he gave us birth by the word of truth so that we would be a kind of firstfruits of his creations.

Sermon Theme: “Christmas Traditions” – Gift Giving

- † What was the original reasons **gifts** were given at Christmas time?
- † How much are the gifts we receive at Christmas dependent on our “performance” or on whether or not we deserve them?

How about the greatest **gift** that God has given us in Jesus?
(see **Romans 5:15-16** from our Scripture reading earlier)

Application: What is the “**gift**” God wants most of all from us?

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.

Public domain

Offering *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*
(† *If you have an offering to give today, please place it in the plate in the church entryway.* †)

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

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

☐ 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.

Sermon Hymn: 361 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

LSB 361



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-93 Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908 Text and tune: Public domain

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 805

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. A - men.

Public domain

Closing Hymn: 358 v. 1-4, 6, 13-15 *From Heaven Above* (please stand for last verse)



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your
4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by

news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your
God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,

joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
low - ly birth, Shall be the joy of all the earth.
Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.
bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.

**6. How glad we'll be to find it so! Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done In sending us His own dear Son.**

**13. Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart For You to dwell within my heart.**

**14. My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradlesong:**

**15. Glory to God in highest heav'n, Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.**

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Geistliche Lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valten Schumann
Text and tune: Public domain

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Scripture quotations marked EHV are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today (Sun. 11/27): **St. Stephen – West** (Mt. View): **Bible Class – 9am**
Worship – 10am
Christmas Decorating – 11:15am

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

This Week: Monday – **School Resumes at SSLS – 8:15am**
Tuesday – **Stockton Worship** (Oakmont) – **2pm**
Friday – **Memorial Service for Mildred “Elaine” Hocker** (Mt. View) – **4pm**

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West** (Mt. View): **Bible Class – 9am**
Worship w/ communion – 10am
Choir Practice (Lord willing) – **11am**
St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): **Worship w/ communion – 1pm**
Bible Class – 2pm

Online Worship Services - <https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html>

Christmas Tree and Church Decorating (Mt. View) – **TODAY (11/27) @ 11:15am**



We plan to put up the Christmas tree and church Christmas decorations **TODAY** after the worship service (approx. 11:15am). Snacks and refreshments will be provided. Please come and join us if you are able!

Memorial Service for Mildred “Elaine” Hocker – THIS Fri., 12/2 @ 4pm – Mountain View

The memorial service for Sue Blank's grandmother (Beth Hocker's mother-in-law), Mildred “Elaine” Hocker, (affectionately also known as “Mame-maw”) will be held **at St. Stephen-West in Mountain View on Friday, December 2nd at 4pm.**

A reception/gathering will follow in the fellowship hall. Pastor Luke will be conducting the memorial service (he had also conducted the graveside service for Elaine on October 31st).

West Bay (Mountain View) Church Council 2023 Election Results –

The West Bay voters had their meeting on Sunday, November 13th with elections for the Church Council in 2023. Here are the results from the election. We pray for the Lord's blessings on their continued work for our congregation and we thank these men for their willing service! (Note: Installation of officers will take place during the 1/8/23 worship service).

President & Board of Education Chairman – Michael Slattengren

V.P. / Board of Elders Chair & Property Committee Chairman – Scott Mueller

Secretary & Financial Secretary – Mark Gullerud

Treasurer / Finance Committee Chairman – Brenton Horrillo

Mission Committee Chairman – Albert Abdrashitov

East Bay (Hayward) Church Council 2022 Election Results –

The East Bay voters had their meeting last Sunday (11/20) with elections for the Church Council in 2022. Here are the results from the election. We pray for the Lord's blessings on their continued work for our congregation and we thank these men for their willing service! (Note: Installation of officers will take place during the 1/8/23 worship service).

President & Property Committee – Timothy Blank

Head Elder / VP & Financial Secretary – Jan Messerschmidt

Treasurer / Secretary – Roy Cameron

Education Chairman – Jim Niblett

Mission Chairman – Jerry Dimpel

Christmas Season Worship Schedule 2022

Advent Worship & Christmas Cookies – Wed. Dec. 14th - 7pm (Mt. View)

Christmas Eve – Sat. Dec. 24th – 5pm (Mt. View) – Christmas Eve Joint Worship
& Children's Program

Christmas Day – Sun. Dec. 25th – 10am (Mt. View) Christmas Day Worship
1pm (Hayward)

