

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (clclutheran.org)

320 Moorpark Way - Mountain View, California 94041-1600



Pastor: Luke Bernthal

Email: lbernthal@live.com † Cell: (402) 389-2147

Home: (650) 282-5752

Online Video Production: Chris Holt, Julia Bernthal & Scott Mueller

Organist: Barb Gullerud



Website: sslcwest.org

Church Office: (650) 964-5915

St. Stephen Lutheran School: Mikkela Hammond (Principal), Julia Bernthal (Administrator)

School Office: (650) 961-2071

School Website: ssis.org

December 4, 2022 † 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 130 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

**Our Worship Services will be Posted to Our Website Each Sunday Evening.
To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:**

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

Opening Hymn: 349 *Hark the Glad Sound!*

LSB 349

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es

throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51
Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820
Text and tune: Public domain

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 we stand in awe of You.

- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, 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.
- C** **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.
- C** **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



C 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-shiped 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 hearts. 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

Isaiah 9:1-7 (EHV)

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for the land that was in anguish. In former times, he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will cause it to be glorious, along the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles.

***² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned.***

***³ You have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy.
They rejoice before you like the joy at harvest time,
like the celebration when people divide the plunder.***

***⁴ For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them.
You have broken the bar on their shoulders and
the rod of their oppressor,
as you did in the day of Midian.***


***⁵ Every boot that marched in battle
and the garments rolled in blood will be burned.
They will be fuel for the fire.***

***⁶ For to us a child is born.
To us a son is given.
The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders.
He will be named:
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.***

***⁷ There will be no limit to his authority
and no end to the peace he brings.
He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness
from now on, into eternity.
The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this.***

Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8-14 (EHV)

 The second reading is from 2 Peter 3:8-14.

 Glory to You, O Lord.

⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: For the Lord, one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to do what he promised, as some consider slowness. Instead, he is patient for your sakes, not wanting anyone to perish, but all to come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. On that day the heavens will pass away with a roar, the elements will be dissolved as they burn with great heat, and the earth and what was done on it will be burned up. ¹¹ Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed, what kind of people ought you to be, living in holiness and godliness, ¹² as you look forward to and hasten the coming of the day of God? That day will cause the heavens to be set on fire and destroyed, and the elements to melt as they burn with great heat. ¹³ But according to his promise we look forward to new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ Therefore, dear friends, as you look forward to these things, make every effort to be found in peace, spotless and blameless in his sight.

P This is the Word 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 one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day: 375 *Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising*

LSB 375

1 Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the
2 Christ, from heav'n to us de-scend-ing And in
3 Ja-cob's star in all its splen-dor Beams with
4 From the bond-age that op-pressed us, From sin's

Lord with glad-ness prais-ing; Loud-ly sing His love a-
love our race be-friend-ing; In our need His help ex-
com-fort sweet and ten-der, Forc-ing Sa-tan to sur-
fet-ters that pos-sessed us, From the grief that sore dis-

maz-ing, Wor-thy folk of Chris-ten-dom.
tend-ing, Saved us from the wi-ly foe.
ren-der, Break-ing all the pow'rs of hell.
tressed us, We, the cap-tives, now are free.

**5. *Oh, the joy beyond expressing When by faith we grasp this blessing,
And to You we come confessing That Your love has set us free.***

**6. *Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us, From Your lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us Till we join Your choir above.***

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: German, 14th cent.

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862

Tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: John 1:1-9 (EHV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. ⁵ The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

⁹ The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world.

Sermon Theme: "Christmas Traditions" - Decorations

What are some of the symbols and meanings behind some of these familiar Christmas decorations?

✝ Advent Wreath -

✝ Christmas Tree -

✝ Lights -

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.*

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

Sermon Hymn: 702 (Worship Supplement) ***As Angels Joyed...***

W.S. 702

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.*

Preface

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

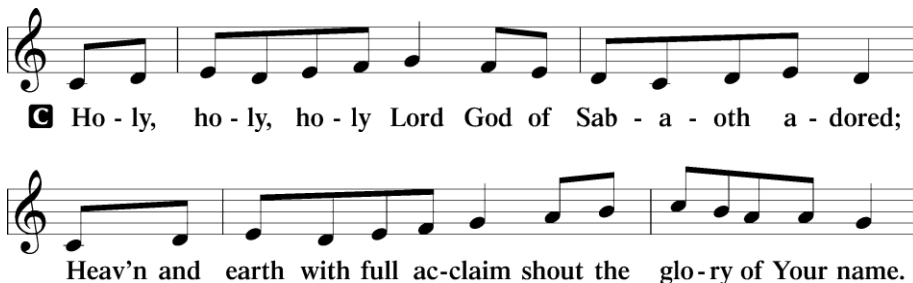
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly fitting, right, and spiritually beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

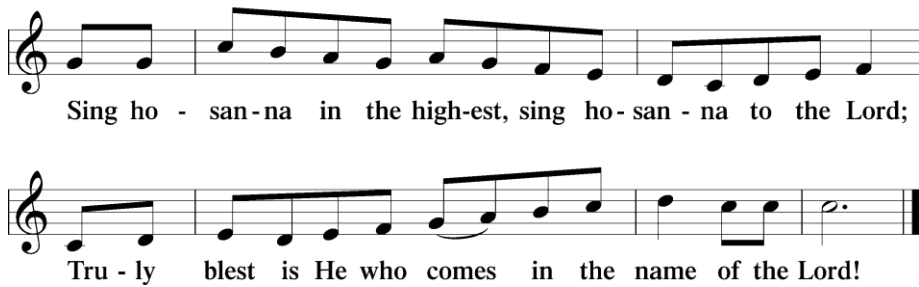
Sanctus *Latin: "Holy."*

LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;

Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** We give You thanks, O Lord our God, for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ and His cross. Give us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. In His name we pray, as we now join in the prayer that He taught us:

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

- 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.

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.

Pax Domini ("The Peace of the Lord")

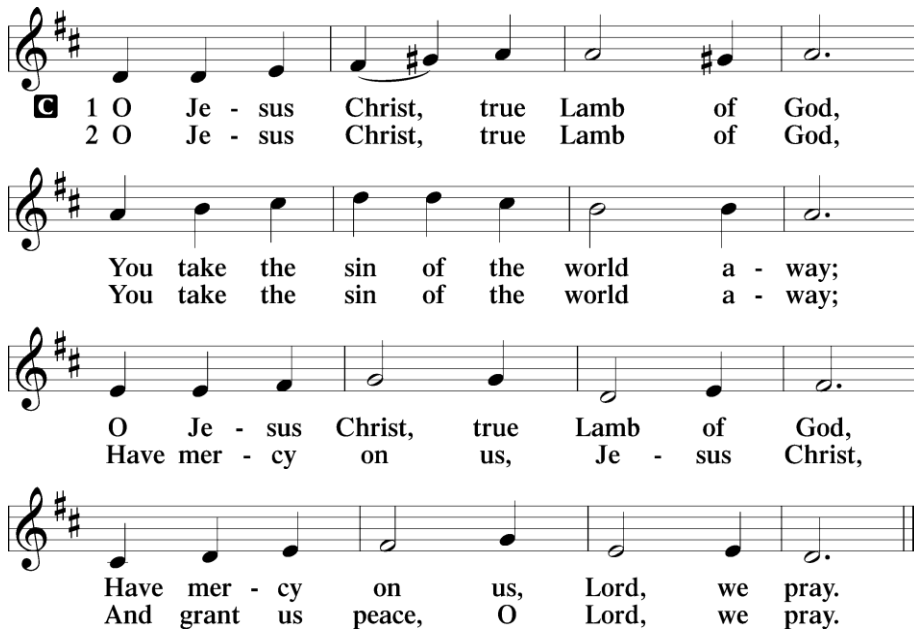
LSB 209

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

Latin: "Lamb of God." Jesus is the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29)



1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

The Distribution

- ✠ For the distribution we will start with those who would like to partake of the Lord's Supper from the pew. After that, those who would like to come up to the altar steps will partake as directed by our usher.

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. By following this practice we do not make any judgment on your faith. Rather we do this out of love for you, as a public confession of our unity, and out of obedience to and love for God's Word. 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.

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

Latin: "Now Dismiss." Simeon's words after seeing the Christ Child. (Luke 2:29-32)

1 O Lord, now let to Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

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

Closing Hymn: 386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice (please stand for last verse) LSB 386



1 Now sing we, now re - joice,	Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me;	I can - not rise to Thee.
3 Now through His Son doth shine	The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found?	Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth	Poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it,	O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign - ing o'er us	Through sin and van - i - ty
Where the an - gels sing - ing	With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth	The sun in yon - der skies.
Through Thy grace and mer - it,	Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
Till He o - pened for us	A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing	In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art!	Thou my Sav - ior art!
Draw me un - to Thee!	Draw me un - to Thee!
May we praise Him there!	May we praise Him there!
Oh, that we were there!	Oh, that we were there!

Text: Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.
Tune: German, 14th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Adapted from Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

Scripture quotations marked EHV are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2019

Wartburg Project, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **Choir – 11:15am / Children’s Christmas Eve Practice – 11:30am**

St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): Worship – 1pm

Bible Class – 2pm

This Week: Wednesday – **Church Council & Elders Meeting –7:15pm** (Zoom) (Mt. View)

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Worship – 10am**

12/11/22 **Choir – 11:15am / Children’s Christmas Eve Practice – 11:30am**

St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): Worship – 1pm

St. Stephen – South (Huntington Beach): Worship & Bible Study – 6:30pm

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

In Your Mailbox – St. Stephen Church Calendar – *December*

Thank you! - to all who helped decorate the church for Christmas last Sunday. The church looks beautiful and your work is greatly appreciated in enhancing our worship during the Advent and Christmas season!

Choir Meets After Church Today – 11:15am / Children’s Christmas Eve Practice at 11:30am –

We’ll be practicing our choir pieces for Advent and Christmas Eve after the worship service today. Please join us if you are interested in singing in our choir. The first children’s Christmas Eve program practice will be held today as well at 11:30am.

Southern California Worship and Bible Study – NEXT Sunday 12/11 @ 6:30pm –

Our next in-person Southern California Worship Service and Bible Study will be held **next Sunday, December 11th @ 6:30pm**. We will be meeting at Seth and Alyssa Hamblin’s residence in Huntington Beach. Their address is:

**9842 Hamilton Ave. Apt. 11
Huntington Beach, CA 92646**

CLC News - Pastor Bruce Naumann of Messiah Lutheran, Eau Claire, WI, *has accepted* the call to serve as the CLC’s Third Foreign Missionary.

Health Update from CLC President Eichstadt –

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for all the prayers over the past few days. As my brother Wayne [Pastor Wayne Eichstadt] reported, I collapsed Friday night and was unconscious for several minutes. Thankfully, Sue [his wife] was there to call the paramedics. I was taken by ambulance to the hospital with an extremely high heart rate, called ventricular tachycardia. After numerous tests, the cardiologists are convinced the root cause is a congenital disease of the right ventricle (ARVC) which makes recurrence of the heart arrhythmia a danger. The plan is have an internal cardiac defibrillator (ICD) surgically implanted to act as a safety net in case of another incident. ...It's been a few hard, discouraging, and humbling days. My Thanksgiving sermon text included Phil. 4:12-13: "I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation...I can do all this through him who gives me strength." Praying for that all-sufficient strength made perfect in weakness.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Mike Eichstadt, CLC President

CLC Cooperative Budget Plan Video 2023 – An updated three minute CLC Cooperative Budget Plan (CBP) video from the CLC Board of Trustees can be found by clicking here: <https://youtu.be/N9lgw04SFnU> Please keep the needs of our congregation and our church body in mind in both your prayers and your offerings as we approach the New Year.