

Wednesday Advent Worship & Christmas Cookies (Mt. View) – THIS Wed. (12/14) -7pm



Please make plans to join us this **Wednesday evening (12/14) at 7pm** for our Advent Worship. We'll gather in the church sanctuary for Christmas songs, Scripture readings, and candle lighting as we prepare our hearts for our coming Savior. After the service we will gather in the fellowship hall for Christmas cookies and fellowship. If you'd like to bring cookies or treats to share please do so!

Flooring Update – At our church council meeting on Wednesday we decided to accept the bid from Peninsula Flooring. We met with a rep from Peninsula Flooring on Saturday and discussed some details. The plan is to have the flooring installed during the week of **Feb. 20-24** while SSLS school is off for winter break. This will also give us time to paint and make the necessary moves and changes in the rooms that will be getting the new flooring (fellowship hall, entryway, School Admin office/Sacristy, and Pastor's Office). We will keep you posted when volunteers are needed for various tasks in connection with the flooring project. We praise God for providing the means for this project, and we ask Him to bless it!

Food & Gift Card Donations / Volunteer Opportunities for Thanksgiving and Christmas

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

Scrip School Fundraising Info Pamphlets on the Entryway Table – Just a friendly reminder for Christmas gift card ideas! Don't forget about our online version of the scrip program to help raise funds for St. Stephen Lutheran School (now called "Raise Right."). There are printed pamphlets with info on the program on the table in the entryway. Please speak with Leslie if you have any questions.

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)



St. Stephen Lutheran Church

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

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

School Office: (650) 961-2071

School Website: ssls.org

December 11, 2022 ☩ Advent 3

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.

☩ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 146 (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: 332 Savior of the Nations, Come (please stand for last verse)



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
God was there up - on His throne.
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

**5. God the Father was His source, Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down, Back then to His throne and crown.**

**6. For You are the Father's Son Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole All our ills of flesh and soul.**

**7. From the manger newborn light Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides; In this light faith now abides.**

**△ 8. Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.**

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (sts. 3, 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4–5, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobier, 1973
Tune: Geistliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter
Text (sts. 3, 6–7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (sts. 4–5, 8): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862
Text (sts. 1–2) and tune: Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **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

This Week: **Tuesday – Board of Education (Zoom) (Mt. View) – 6pm**
(Note: The church calendar incorrectly says 7pm for the meeting.)
Wednesday – Advent Worship – Candlelight, Carols, & Scripture
Cookie Exchange and Fellowship Time Afterwards

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Class – 9am**
Worship – 10am
Choir – 11:15am / Children’s Christmas Eve Practice – 11:30am
St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): Worship – 1pm
Bible Class – 2pm
Online Worship Services - <https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html>

Southern California Worship and Bible Study – TONIGHT Sunday 12/11 @ 6:30pm –
Our next in-person Southern California Worship Service and Bible Study will be held **TONIGHT, 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

Note from Alyssa & Seth Regarding Parking: "Park on the street around the corner on St. John Lane to the west of our apartment to avoid having to walk across 4 lanes of traffic."
Our service will be Advent/Christmas-themed and will include the singing of some familiar Christmas hymns (as well as Christmas cookies!).

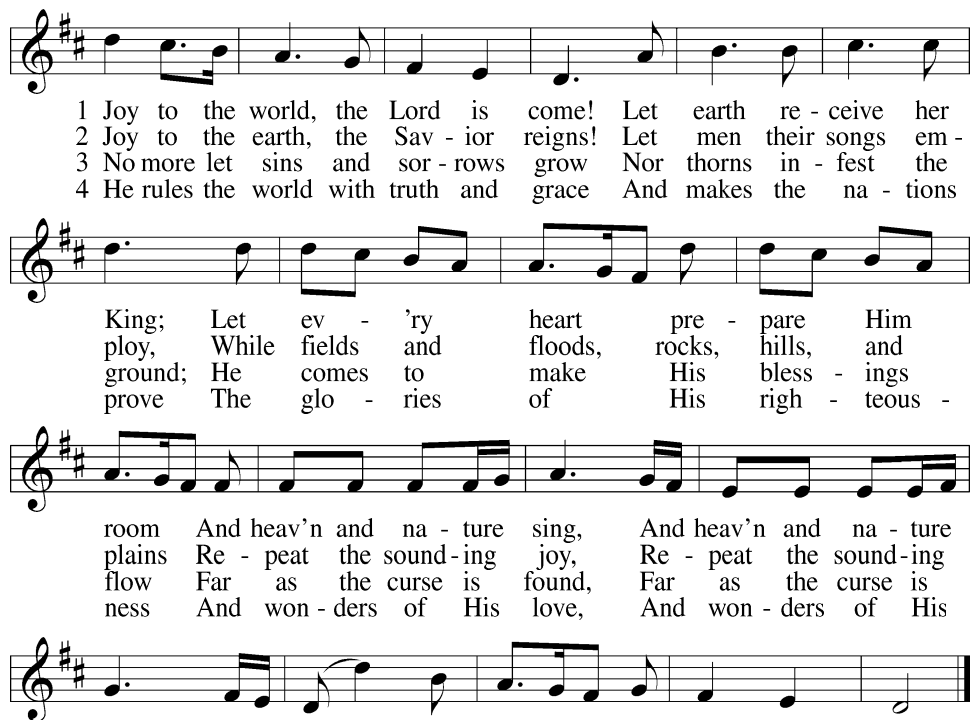
Benediction *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

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: 387 Joy to the World *(please stand for last verse)* LSB 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions

King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -

room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound-ing joy, Re - peat the sound-ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.
Text and tune: 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.* W.S. p. 13

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

“The Magnificat”
 Mary’s song of praise after the annunciation
 Latin for “Magnifies” (a word of praise)
 LSB 935

1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!
 2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of His name!
 3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of His might!
 4 Tell out, my soul, the glo-ries of His Word!

Un - num - bered bless - ings, give my spir - it voice;
 Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
 Pow’rs and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.
 Firm is His prom - ise, and His mer - cy sure.

Ten - der to me the prom - ise of His Word;
 His mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;
 Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,
 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord

In God my Sav - ior shall my heart re - joice.
 His ho - ly name, the Lord, the Might - y One.
 The hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.
 To chil - dren’s chil - dren and for - ev - er - more!

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926
 Tune: Walter Greatorex, 1877–1949
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Prayer of the Day

[P] We pray:
 Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C] Amen.

Sermon Hymn: 934
 My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord

LSB 934

1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it
 2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -
 3 His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scat - ters
 4 He feeds the hun - gry as His own; The wealth - y

leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -
 maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like
 those of proud in - tent And casts them down from high es -
 leave with emp - ty hands. He gives His help to Is - ra -

gard, And I am blest for time to come.
 light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.
 tate, Then gives the low His nour - ish - ment.
 el; His gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.

Text: Luke 1:46–55; adapt. Stephanie K. Frey, 1952
 Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1535, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug
 Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862
 Tune: Public domain

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

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.

Sermon Text: Luke 1:46-55 (NKJV)

⁴⁶ And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. ⁴⁸ For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. ⁴⁹ For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name. ⁵⁰ And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. ⁵² He has put down the mighty from their thrones, And exalted the lowly. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of His mercy, ⁵⁵ As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever."

Sermon Theme: “Christmas Traditions” – Christmas Carols

✝ What is your favorite Christmas carol/Christmas hymn? What are some reasons it is it your favorite?

✝ In what way(s) is Mary’s “song” also our “song”? (see especially **v. 46-49**)

Offertory

W.S. p. 16

♪ *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.

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-17 (NKJV) (Responsive)

- P** Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel!
- C** Be glad and rejoice with all *your* heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!
- P** The LORD has taken away your judgments, He has cast out your enemy.
- C** The King of Israel, the LORD, *is* in your midst; You shall see disaster no more.
- P** In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
- C** "Do not fear; Zion, let not your hands be weak.
- P** The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save;
- C** He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet *you* with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

Second Reading

Luke 1:26-45 (NKJV)

- P** The second reading is from Luke 1:26-45.
- C** Sanctify us by Your truth, O LORD. Your Word is truth!

²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" ²⁹ But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. ³⁰ Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" ³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ "Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. ³⁷ "For with God nothing will be impossible." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

(reading continues on next page ->)

³⁹ Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, ⁴⁰ and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ "But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ "For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. ⁴⁵ "Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord."

P 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 "Allelujah!"—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.*

W.S. p. 15

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: 356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

LSB 356

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born
With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,
"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924
Text and tune: Basque, c. 18th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain