

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

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

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School Website: ssls.org

April 16, 2023 † Easter 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.

† Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 16 (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>



1 He's ris - en, He's ris - en, Christ Je - sus, the Lord;
2 The foe was tri - um - phant when on Cal - va - ry
3 But short was their tri - umph; the Sav - ior a - rose,
4 O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
△ 5 Then sing your ho - san - nas and raise your glad voice;



He o - pened death's pris - on, the in - car - nate, true Word.
The Lord of cre - a - tion was nailed to the tree.
And death, hell, and Sa - tan He van - quished, His foes.
Christ rose, and now o - pen is fair E - den's door.
Pro - claim the blest tid - ings that all may re - joice.



Break forth, hosts of heav - en, in ju - bi - lant song
In Sa - tan's do - main did the hosts shout and jeer,
The con - quer - ing Lord lifts His ban - ner on high;
For all our trans - gres - sions His blood does a - tone;
Laud, hon - or, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:



And earth, sea, and moun - tain their prais - es pro - long.
For Je - sus was slain, whom the e - vil ones fear.
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nev - er - more die.
Re - deemed and for - giv - en, we now are His own.
With Fa - ther and Spir - it He ev - er shall reign.

Text: C. F. W. Walther, 1811-87, abr.; tr. Anna M. Meyer, 1867-1941, alt.
Tune: C. F. W. Walther, 1811-87
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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.

Gloria in Excelsis *Latin for "Glory to God in the highest."* W.S. p. 13

**♪ 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

Acts 2:14a, 22-32 (EHV)

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and spoke loudly and clearly to them:... ²² "Men of Israel, hear these words! Jesus the Nazarene was a man recommended to you by God with miracles, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know. ²³ This man, who was handed over by God's set plan and foreknowledge, you killed by having lawless men nail him to a cross. ²⁴ He is the one God raised up by freeing him from the agony of death, because death was not able to hold him in its grip.

²⁵ "Indeed, David says concerning him:

I saw the Lord always before me.

Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

²⁶ Therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced.

My flesh also will rest in hope, ²⁷ because you will not abandon my life to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life.

You will fill me with joy in your presence.

²⁹ "Gentlemen, brothers, I can speak confidently to you about the patriarch David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath that he would seat one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹ he saw what was coming and spoke about the resurrection of Christ, saying that he was neither abandoned to the grave nor did his flesh see decay.

³² "This Jesus is the one God has raised up. We are all witnesses of that.

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-31 (EHV)

P The Gospel reading is from John 20:19-31.

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

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together behind locked doors because of their fear of the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you! Just as the Father has sent me, I am also sending you." ²² After saying this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ Whenever you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴ But Thomas, one of the Twelve, the one called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples kept telling him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶ After eight days, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands. Take your hand and put it into my side. Do not continue to doubt, but believe."

²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰ Jesus, in the presence of his disciples, did many other miraculous signs that 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 by believing you may have life in his name.

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!***

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 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, 4-9 O Sons and Daughters...

LSB 470 v. 1, 4-9



1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King, Whom heav'n - ly
4 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear; A - mong them
5 When Thom - as first the tid - ings heard That they had
6 "My pierc - ed side, O Thom - as, see, And look up -



hosts in glo - ry sing, To - day the grave has lost its sting!
came their mas - ter dear And said, "My peace be with you here."
seen the ris - en Lord, He doubt - ed the dis - ci - ples' word.
on My hands, My feet; Not faith - less but be - liev - ing be."



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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

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

**9. On this most holy day of days Be laud and jubilee and praise:
To God your hearts and voices raise.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**


Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: 1 Peter 1:3-9 (ESV)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Sermon Theme: Resurrection Reaction - Peter

- † What would you expect Peter's reaction to be to Jesus' resurrection?
- † What blessings do we have because of **"the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (v. 3)?**
- † What miraculous blessings do we share with the original readers of this letter? **(v. 8-9)**

 **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.
(† If you have an offering to give today, please place it in the plate in the church entryway. †)*

Sermon Hymn: 741 v. 1-5 *Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense*

LSB 741 v. 1-5



1 Je - sus Christ, my sure de - fense And my Sav - ior, now is
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, lives; Like - wise I to life shall
3 No, too close - ly I am bound By my hope to Christ for -
4 I am flesh and must re - turn To the dust, whence I am
5 Glo - ri - fied, I shall a - new With this flesh then be en -



liv - ing! Know - ing this, my con - fi - dence
wak - en. He will bring me where He is;
ev - er; Faith's strong hand the Rock has found,
tak - en; But by faith I now dis - cern
shroud - ed; In this bod - y I shall view



Rests up - on the hope here giv - en, Though the
Shall my cour - age then be shak - en? Shall I
Grasped it, and will leave it nev - er; E - ven
That from death I shall a - wak - en With my
God, my Lord, with eyes un - cloud - ed; In this



night of death be fraught Still with man - y an anx - ious thought.
fear, or could the Head Rise and leave His mem - bers dead?
death now can - not part From its Lord the trust - ing heart.
Sav - ior to a - bide In His glo - ry, at His side.
flesh I then shall see Je - sus Christ e - ter - nal - ly.

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.

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.



Closing Hymn: 720 (tune of LSB 524) ***We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight*** LSB 720

***1. We walk by faith and not by sight, No gracious words we hear
From Him who spoke as none e'er spoke, But we believe Him near.***

***2. We may not touch His hands and side, Nor follow where He trod;
But in His promise we rejoice And cry "My Lord and God!"***

***3. We may not see His blessed face, Nor view His loving smile,
But through God's Word our eyes of faith Have seen Him all the while.***

***4. Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; And may our faith abound
To call on You when You are near And seek where You are found.***

***5. For You, O resurrected Lord, Are found in means divine:
Beneath the water and the Word, Beneath the bread and wine.***

***6. Lord, when our life of faith is done, In realms of clearer light
We may behold You as You are, With full and endless sight.***

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-71, alt.; v. 3 - Luke Bernthal
Text: Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Worship – 10am**
 St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): Worship – 1pm
 Southern California Worship (Ontario) - 6:30pm

This Week: Monday – **School Resumes at SSSL – 8:15am**
 Wednesday – **Zoom Online Bible Class – 7pm**

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West** (Mt. View): **Bible Class – 9am**
4/23/23 **Worship – 10am**
Women’s Auxiliary – 11:15am

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

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

In Your Mailbox – St. Stephen and CLC Financial report - *March*

Southern California Worship and Bible Study – TONIGHT Sun. 4/16 @ 6:30pm

Our Southern California Worship Service and Bible Study will be held **TONIGHT, Sunday, April 16th @ 6:30pm**. We will be meeting in the conference room at Kevin Fossum's workplace. The location is near the Ontario airport. Here is the address and parking info:

Total Transportation & Distribution
9278 Charles Smith Ave.
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

Parking & Entrance - Enter off of Charles Smith Ave. and park near the 1st set of doors you come to off of Charles Smith Ave. (this is the entrance to the Total Transportation offices).

Wednesday Zoom Bible Class this Week - 7pm – Please make plans to join us this Wednesday at 7pm for our online Bible Study. Pastor Luke's Zoom link:
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8729663333>

CLC News - The dual parish of Redemption Lutheran of Lynnwood, WA and Ascension Lutheran of Tacoma, WA *is requesting* a graduate from Immanuel Lutheran Seminary to be their pastor.

Weekly Sermon Podcast - For nearly 65 years, the CLC's Ministry by Mail has been producing print sermons for distribution. Originally this was done by postal mail, especially for members living at a distance from their home church or serving in the military. With the arrival of the internet, sermons began being sent by email and posted online (www.lutheransermons.org). This past Advent, Ministry by Mail began offering audio versions of their sermons through weekly Podcast services. You can find these sermons on most major podcast platforms such as Google, Apple Podcasts, and Spotify by searching "CLC Ministry by Mail." Hit "subscribe" or "follow" to receive notifications of weekly uploads.

