

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

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

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May 21, 2023 ✝ Ascension Sunday

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 47 (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: 493 v. 1-4 *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing*

LSB 493 v. 1-4



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New
2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band Up -
3 To them the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why
4 "You see Him now, as - cend - ing high Up



hymns through - out the world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia,
on the Mount of Ol - ives stand. Al - le - lu - ia,
stand and gaze up - on the sky?" Al - le - lu - ia,
to the por - tals of the sky." Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -
al - le - lu - ia! And with His faith - ful fol - l'wers
al - le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav - ior," thus they
al - le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall



trod, As - cends un - to the throne of
see Their Lord as - cend in maj - es -
say; "This is His glo - rious tri - umph
see Re - turn - ing in great maj - es -



God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
ty. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
day!" Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
ty." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



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

Text: Bede, 673-735; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623, Köln

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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 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 God is light 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 His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** (1 John 1:5, 7-9)

P Let us pray...

C **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer:**

We confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.

P Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven! With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the joy and peace of forgiveness let us praise the Lord...

(LSB 493 v. 5)

***Be now our joy on earth, O Lord,
And be our future great reward.***

Alleluia, alleluia!

***Then, throned with You forever, we
Shall praise Your name eternally.***

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Prayer of the Day

P We pray:

Lord Jesus, King of glory, this day we celebrate Your ascension far above the heavens. At God's right hand You rule the nations. As our Intercessor, plead our cause before the throne of God when we come with our prayers and petitions. Do not leave us alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that at Your command and by Your power we may be Your witnesses in all the world; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11 (EHV)

I wrote my first book, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began doing and teaching² until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.³ After he had suffered, he presented himself alive to the apostles with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and told them things about the kingdom of God.

⁴ Once, when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for what the Father promised, which you heard from me.⁵ For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶ So when they were together with him, they asked, "Lord, is this the time when you are going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority.⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹ After he said these things, he was taken up while they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight.¹⁰ They were looking intently into the sky as he went away. Suddenly, two men in white clothes stood beside them.¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing here looking up into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Second Reading

Luke 24:44-53 (EHV)

P The second reading is from Luke 24:44-53.

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

⁴⁴ He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms."

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He said to them, "This is what is written and so it must be: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ Look, I am sending you what my Father promised. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰ He led them out as far as the vicinity of Bethany. He lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ And while he was blessing them, he parted from them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² So they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ They were continually in the temple courts, praising and blessing God. Amen.

P Here ends our Scripture readings.

C Praise to You, O Christ!

(LSB 493 v. 6)

**O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All praise to You let earth accord:
Alleluia, alleluia!
You are, while endless ages run,
With Father and with Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

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Tune: Public domain


**☐ 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: 494 *See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph*

LSB 494



1 See, the Lord as - cends in tri - umph; Con - qu'ring King in
2 Who is this that comes in glo - ry With the trump of
3 While He lifts His hands in bless - ing, He is part - ed
4 Now our heav'n - ly Aar - on en - ters With His blood with -
5 He has raised our hu - man na - ture On the clouds to

roy - al state, Rid - ing on the clouds, His char - iot, To His
ju - bi - lee? Lord of bat - tles, God of ar - mies, He has
from His friends; While their ea - ger eyes be - hold Him, He up -
in the veil; Josh - ua now is come to Ca - naan, And the
God's right hand; There we sit in heav'n - ly plac - es, There with



heav'n-ly pal - ace gate. Hark! The choirs of an - gel voic - es
gained the vic - to - ry. He who on the cross did suf - fer,
on the clouds as - cends. He who walked with God and pleased Him,
kings be - fore Him quail. Now He plants the tribes of Is - rael
Him in glo - ry stand. Je - sus reigns, a - dored by an - gels;
Joy - ful al - le - lu - ias sing, And the por - tals
He who from the grave a - rose, He has van - quished
Preach - ing truth and doom to come, He, our E - noch,
In their prom - ised rest - ing place; Now our great E -
Man with God is on the throne. By our might - y
high are lift - ed To re - ceive their heav'n - ly King.
sin and Sa - tan; He by death has crushed His foes.
is trans - lat - ed To His ev - er - last - ing home.
li - jah of - fers Dou - ble por - tion of His grace.
Lord's as - cen - sion We by faith be - hold our own.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, abr., alt.
Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–79
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: Ephesians 1:16-23 (EHV)


¹⁶I never stop giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷I keep praying that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, will give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in knowing Christ fully. ¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know the hope to which he has called you, just how rich his glorious inheritance among the saints is, ¹⁹and just how surpassingly great his power is for us who believe. ²⁰It is as great as the working of his mighty strength, which God worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule, authority, power, and dominion, and above every name that is given, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²God also placed all things under his feet and made him head over everything for the church. ²³The church is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Sermon Theme: Essential Ascension

- † Jesus' Ascension may not be one of the most popular or well-understood church festivals or "holidays," but it is important—in fact, it is an essential part of Christ's work for our salvation.
- † In our text the Apostle Paul prays that we would recognize three great blessings from God in particular in **v. 18-19**:
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
- † What is the ascended Jesus now doing with His supreme authority and power at God's "**right hand in the heavenly places**" (**v. 20**), and why is this such good news for us? (**v. 22-23**)

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.

Offering *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

(† **The offering plate will not be passed around during the service to reduce contact.**

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

☩ 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: 492 *On Christ's Ascension I Now Build*

LSB 492



1 On Christ's as - cen - sion I now build The hope of my as -
2 Since Christ re - turned to claim His throne, Great gifts for me ob -
3 O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Re - call - ing Your as -



cen - sion; This hope a - lone has al - ways stilled All doubt and
tain - ing, My heart will rest in Him a - lone, No oth - er
cen - sion, That I may serve You faith - ful - ly In thanks for



ap - pre - hen - sion; For where the Head is, there as well I
rest re - main - ing; For where my trea - sure went be - fore, There
my re - demp - tion; And then, when all my days will cease, Let



know His mem - bers are to dwell When Christ will come and call them.
all my thoughts will ev - er soar To still their deep - est yearn - ing.
me de - part in joy and peace In an - swer to my plead - ing.

Text: Josua Wegelin, 1604–40; tr. William M. Czamanske, 1873–1964, alt.

Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, 1524, Wittenberg

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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: 757 (Worship Supplement) *Christ Triumphant, Ever Reigning*

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

This Week: Friday – **Run-a-Thon at SSLS – 11am-12noon** (see announcement below)

Next Sunday: *Pentecost Sunday*

5/28/21

St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): **Bible Class – 9am**

Worship – 10am

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

Bible Class – 2pm

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

In Your Mailbox – *Daily Rest* Daily Devotional

St. Stephen & CLC Financial Summary - April

Run-a-Thon Fundraiser for SSLS – This Friday, May 26th – 11am -12pm –

This yearly tradition is a fundraiser to raise money for the school, usually aimed at getting something useful and fun- such as the play structure which we were able to purchase with last year's Run-a-Thon funds. The kids raise money by collecting pledges to donate, based on the number of times they can do certain athletic activities (Traditionally running, hence the name). Pledgers either choose to donate a flat amount or to donate a certain amount per activity performed (i.e. donating \$2 dollars for each lap that a student runs). If you wish to participate by giving a donation, feel free to donate directly to the school or seek out a student. Regardless of whether you wish to donate, we invite you to join us at 11am-12pm on Friday, May 26th to cheer on the students as they do their Run-a-thon activities!

– Mikkela Hammond, SSLS Pripical

VBS – Registration is Open! July 24th-28th – Ages 4-13 – Registration can be done online

COME JOIN US
Vacation Bible School
July 24 - July 28
Monday through Friday
9 am to 11:30 am

Activities include Bible stories,
games, crafts, music, playground
time, and snacks.

Ages
4-13

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH
320 Moorpark Way
Mountain View

For information or to register
WWW.SSLS.ORG | 650-282-5752 | pastor@sslwest.org

Safe Church policies: our congregation commits to safeguarding all the children and
nurtures good conduct consistent with our Christian values.



through our school's website (**ssls.org**). Flyers are also available in the entryway if you know of anyone who would be interested in sending their children to our **VBS**. It will be held **Mon.-Fri., July 24th-28th from 9am-11:30am**. The CLC's TVBS program is planning on sending us up to 2 teachers to assist us as well. If you would like to volunteer to help with our VBS please speak with Pastor Luke or Mikkela Hammond.

CLC News - Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI *has extended a call* to Pastor Sam Naumann of Resurrection Lutheran, Corpus Christi, TX.

Lutheran Spokesman Subscriptions - If you are interested in renewing or starting a new subscription to the Lutheran Spokesman devotional magazine please see the sign-up sheet in the entryway. Please sign up by **June 25th** to receive the reduced congregational subscription rate of only **\$14 per year**. Please mark your offering "Lutheran Spokesman." Please speak with Pastor Luke for more info.

Daily Rest Subscription Renewal – Our congregation provides each family with a subscription to the *Daily Rest* daily devotions. If you would like an additional subscription for yourself or someone else, please speak with Pastor Luke. Subscriptions are **\$15 per year**.



I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. -John 15:5

"**The Branches**" is a Christian Women's magazine which is published quarterly by women of the CLC. Subscriptions are available for the 2023-2024 subscription year (July through June). The Branches staff prays that, through this publication, we serve:

- to encourage you in your personal and family Bible study
- to edify you in your daily walk with Christ
- to provide a means to use and share your God-given gifts
- to celebrate and reflect upon God's gift of Christian sisters, near and far

Consider a subscription for yourself and/or gift subscriptions for women in your life! The cost is \$15.00/year for 4 issues. Checks are payable to, "The Branches," and should be sent to: Sandy Hulke, Subscription Manager, 29985 Norway Ave, Lindstrom, MN 55045. Online payments are also available via PayPal - you may contact Sandy Hulke at thebranchesmagazine@gmail.com.