

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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August 27, 2023 ✝ Mission Festival Sunday

✝ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 67 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) ✝

Welcome

Welcome to our worship service on this Mission Festival Sunday. We have 'Good News' to share with you today! 'Good News' from God Himself for you, for me, for all people: God loves you! He proved that love for you once and for all in sending His Son Jesus to save us from our sins by dying on the cross. Jesus rose from the dead the third day to guarantee that you will rise to eternal life with Him in heaven on the Last Day.

We gather together here in God's house each Sunday, not as a gathering of "perfect" people who "have it all together," but as a family of flawed, but forgiven sinners who cherish this 'Good News' Gospel message of salvation through the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior, God's Son, Jesus Christ. We come to have our faith strengthened by God's Word, to praise Him in songs and hymns, and to encourage and draw closer to each other as God's family through our fellowship.

We are so glad to have you with us today!

We pray that you will be blessed and encouraged by the Word and worship today.

Opening Prayer: (Pastor)

Opening Hymn: 825 v. 1-3 *Rise, Shine, You People*

LSB 825 v. 1-3

1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
2 See how He sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
3 Come, cel - e - brate, your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
Our hu - man sto - ry; God in Him is cen - tered.
He brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing.
Your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark-ness hurl - ing.
He comes to us, by death and sin sur -
All men and wom - en, who by guilt are
To all the world go out and tell the
round - ed, With grace un - bound - ed.
driv - en, Now are for - giv - en.
sto - ry Of Je - sus' glo - ry.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, 1939, alt.

Tune: Dale Wood, 1934–2003

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Invocation

*We begin our worship services by calling upon (“invoking”) 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

*In every one of our worship services we come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful
and daily need His forgiveness. We are then assured and reminded of God’s forgiveness—
a message we cannot hear often enough!*

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...

825 v. 4 "Tell How the Father Sent His Son to Save Us" LSB 825 v. 4

4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent His Son to save us.

Tell of the Son, who life and free-dom gave us.

Tell how the Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry

na - tion His new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, 1939, alt. Tune: Dale Wood, 1934-2003

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Prayer of the Day

P We pray:

Almighty God our heavenly Father, through Your dear Son You have made us all Your witnesses. Enlighten by Your Holy Spirit all who speak to others the message of salvation through Jesus' blood and merit. Grant Your blessing upon all of us so that Your Word may reach out and bear much fruit for the growth of Your Church. 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

2 Corinthians 5:14-20 (EHV)

¹⁴ For the love of Christ compels us, because we came to this conclusion: One died for all; therefore, all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, so that those who live would no longer live for themselves but for him, who died in their place and was raised again.

¹⁶ As a result, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we knew Christ according to the flesh, we no longer know him that way. ¹⁷ So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. The new has come! ¹⁸ And all these things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. ¹⁹ That is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them. And he has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, inasmuch as God is making an appeal through us. We urge you, on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Responsive Psalm

Psalms 67 (NKJV)

P God be merciful to us and bless us,

C And cause His face to shine upon us.

P That Your way may be known on earth,

C Your salvation among all nations.

P Let the peoples praise You, O God;

C Let all the peoples praise You.

P Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy!

C **For You shall judge the people righteously, And govern the nations on earth.**

P Let the peoples praise You, O God;

C **Let all the peoples praise You.**

P Then the earth shall yield her increase; God, our own God, shall bless us.

C **God shall bless us, And all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 28:16-20 (EHV)

P The Gospel reading is from Matthew 28:16-20.

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

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. ¹⁷ When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

P Here ends our Scripture readings.

847 v. 3-4 (tune of hymn 924) **"Christ, in Every Congregation"** *LSB 847 v. 3-4*

**♪ Christ, in ev'ry congregation Build Your temple, stone by stone,
With Your word as firm foundation For a faith matured and grown:
Christ the Savior, Christ the Servant, Make in us Your Gospel known.**

**Come, O living Christ, renew us, As of old in wind and flame;
With the Spirit's pow'r endue us, Servants of Your saving name:
Christ the Savior, Christ the Servant, Christ whose kingdom we proclaim.**

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926

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Apostles' Creed

A "creed" is a statement of what a person believes. We boldly confess what we believe each Sunday with the words of one of the historic Christian Creeds. Today we confess our faith in the One, True, Triune God with the words of the Apostle's Creed:

**☐ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

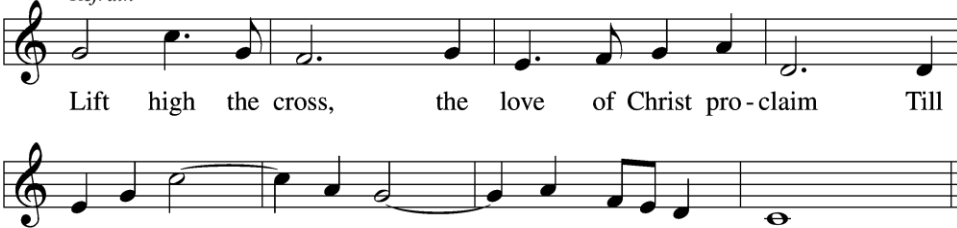
**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God 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: 837 Lift High the Cross

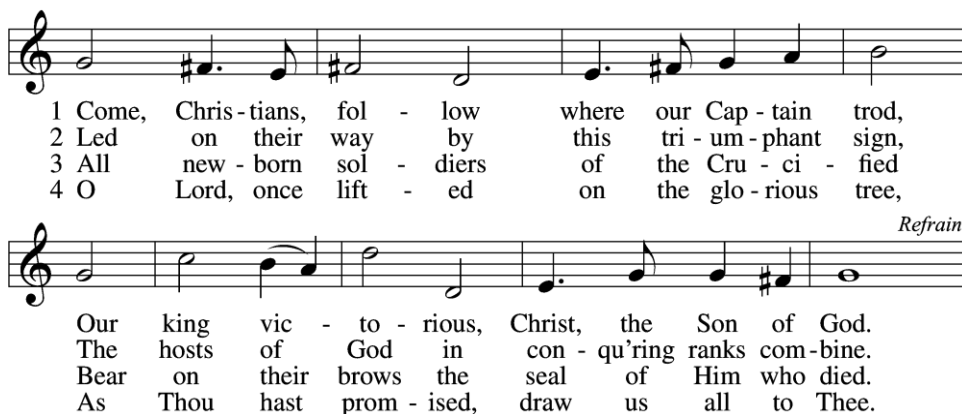
LSB 837

Refrain



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till
all the world a-dore His sa-cred name.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the refrain, with notes corresponding to the lyrics 'Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with notes corresponding to the lyrics 'all the world a-dore His sa-cred name.' The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for congregational singing.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Cap - tain trod,
 2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
 3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied
 4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,

Refrain

Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.
 Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.
 As Thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to Thee.

5. Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain

6. So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt.
 Tune: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947
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Sermon Text: Isaiah 6:1-8 (NKJV)

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. ² Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!"

⁴ And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵ So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts."

⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. ⁷ And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged." ⁸ Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

Guest Preacher: Missionary Todd Ohlmann – Faith Lutheran, Manchester, MO

Sinners...Saved and Sent Isaiah 6:1-8

Introduction

- What qualities would you expect to find in an ambassador?
- Does anyone on their own, have the necessary qualifications to be God's ambassador?

Part I — Sinners...

- What does Isaiah do when he steps into God's presence? Why is this the only reasonable response for a sinner
- What would you expect God's response to be when a sinner steps into His presence?

Part II — Sinners Saved...

- What Does God do for Isaiah that he could never do for himself?
- In what way or ways did Isaiah's vision foreshadow the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

Part III — Sinners Sent...

- Isaiah responded boldly to God's call for an ambassador. What was the source of his boldness?
- How did God prepare Isaiah to be His ambassador?
- How has God prepared YOU to be His ambassador?

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.

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

Note: Half of our "loose" offering from our service this Sunday will be designated to the CLC's Mission Development Fund (MDF) which funds mission projects in our overseas missions, including supporting our newest overseas missionary (and former St. Stephen pastor), Pastor Bruce Naumann. Church members using offering envelopes, if you would like to give an offering directly to this fund please mark your envelope "MDF."

**1. Hark, the voice of Jesus crying, "Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting— Who will bear the sheaves away?"
Loud and long the Master calleth; Rich reward He offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying, "Here am I, send me, send me"?"**

**2. If you cannot speak like angels, If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus, You can say He died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked With the judgment's dread alarms,
You can lead the little children To the Savior's waiting arms.**

**3. If you cannot be a watchman, Standing high on Zion's wall,
Pointing out the path to heaven, Off'ring life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with your off'rings You can do what God commands;
You can be like faithful Aaron, Holding up the prophet's hands.**

**4. Let none hear you idly saying, "There is nothing I can do,"
While the multitudes are dying And the Master calls for you.
Take the task He gives you gladly, Let His work your pleasure be;
Answer quickly when He calleth, "Here am I, send me, send me!"**

Text (sts. 1–2, 4): Daniel March, 1816–1909, alt.; (st. 3): unknown, alt.
Text: Public domain

Prayer Requests *We bring our prayers to God.*

PRAYER FOR MISSIONS

(responsive)

P Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for the many blessings you have given us through Your Word: the blessings of faith, and fellowship, comfort and hope, and the assurance of eternal life in heaven with You. We also thank you for the privilege of sharing that saving Word with others.

C **Open our hearts and give us the desire and the courage to share Your Gospel with others. Open our mouths to speak Your Word in truth and love.**

P We pray for our own personal evangelism efforts:

☞ Holy Spirit, help us to be witnesses to those around us; to our friends, our family members, and our neighbors. Move us to love them as You have loved us. Help us to always give a reason for the hope that is in us, and grant us grace to do so with gentleness and respect. Let all our words and actions be a light that reflects Christ's love to those around us.

☞ Lord of the Church, we pray for our church's mission efforts in this country:

☞ Open doors for your saving Gospel message to be preached. Open hearts to receive that message with faith in Jesus Christ. Give our pastors and laypeople boldness to spread your Word to our fellow citizens that they too may become citizens of God's heavenly kingdom with us.

☞ Lord of the Harvest, we pray for our church's mission efforts overseas:

☞ Send forth willing laborers into the harvest of souls You have prepared for us in far off lands. Bless and keep safely those who spread Your Gospel into places where we cannot go. Encourage and strengthen them through Your Word, and through the power of that Word grant their efforts success. Move us to support their work with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.

☞ Savior of all, we also pray that you would bless, strengthen, provide for, and encourage the pastors, teachers, and members of our sister congregations overseas:

☞ Protect them from harm and danger to both body and soul. Draw them, and us, closer to You through Your Word and closer to each other through our shared faith in Jesus Christ our Savior.

☞ Lord of all creation, wherever Your Word is preached grant it success. Let Your kingdom come to us and many others as well so that many more may join us when You come again to take Your harvest home to heaven. Hear our prayer and help us for Jesus' sake, in whose name we also pray...

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.**

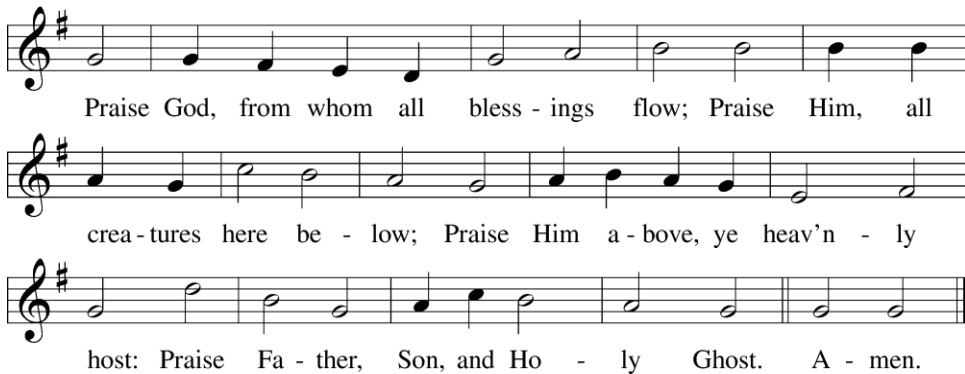
Benediction

We close our services with 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

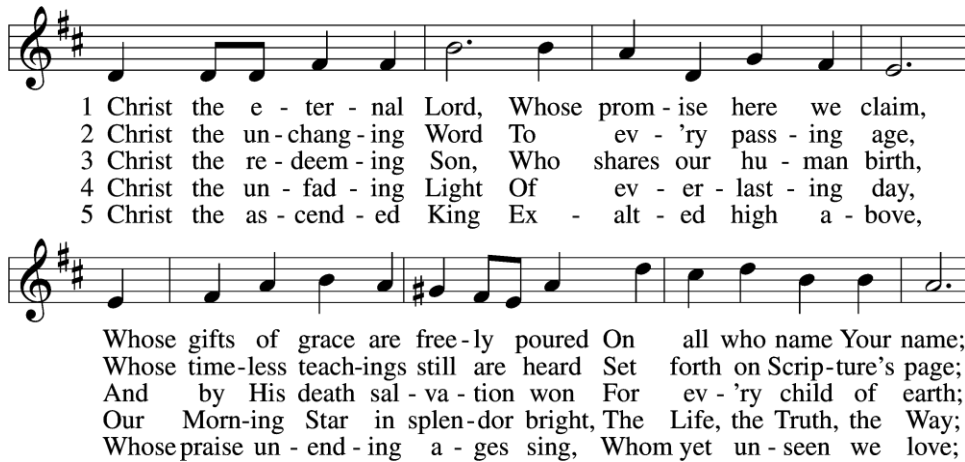


Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

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Closing Hymn: 829 *Christ the Eternal Lord* (please stand for last verse)

LSB 829



1 Christ the e - ter - nal Lord, Whose prom - ise here we claim,
2 Christ the un - chang - ing Word To ev - 'ry pass - ing age,
3 Christ the re - deem - ing Son, Who shares our hu - man birth,
4 Christ the un - fad - ing Light Of ev - er - last - ing day,
5 Christ the as - cend - ed King Ex - alt - ed high a - bove,
Whose gifts of grace are free - ly poured On all who name Your name;
Whose time - less teach - ings still are heard Set forth on Scrip - ture's page;
And by His death sal - va - tion won For ev - 'ry child of earth;
Our Morn - ing Star in splen - dor bright, The Life, the Truth, the Way;
Whose praise un - end - ing a - ges sing, Whom yet un - seen we love;



With thank - ful - ness and praise We stand be - fore Your throne,
Trans - form our thought and mind, En - light - en all who read,
In - spire our hearts, we pray, To tell Your love a - broad,
That light of truth You give To ser - vants as to friends,
When mor - tal life is past Your voice from heav - en's throne



In - tent to serve You all our days And make Your glo - ry known.
With - in Your Word by faith to find The bread of life in - deed.
That all may hon - or Christ to - day And fol - low Him as Lord.
Your way to walk, Your life to live, Till earth's brief jour - ney ends.
Shall call Your chil - dren home at last To know as we are known.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **Fellowship Meal – 11:15am**
Mission Presentation by Missionary Ohlmann (fellowship hall) – **12noon**
(No East Bay worship service today)

This Week: Tuesday – **Stockton Worship** (Oakmont) – **2pm**
Friday – **No School at SSLS** (in service day / Labor Day weekend)

Next Sunday:
9/3/23 **St. Stephen – West** (Mt. View): **Bible Class – 9am**
Worship w/ communion – 10am
St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): **Worship w/ communion – 1pm**
Bible Class – 2pm

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

In Your Mailbox & Church Entryway – St. Stephen Church Calendar – *September*
Daily Rest daily devotional book (Sept. – Dec.)

Thank You – to Missionary Todd Ohlmann for bringing us the Gospel message this morning! A warm welcome also to his wife, Beth, who is with him. Missionary Ohlmann serves as one of our church body's "travelling missionary," and when not traveling, lives in St. Charles, MO (St. Louis area). We pray that your time with us in the Bay Area is blessed and may the Lord give you safe travels home this week!

Fellowship Meal and Mission Presentation Following Worship Service Today – Please join us for a fellowship meal after our worship service today, beginning at approximately 11:15am. Missionary Ohlmann will be giving us a presentation on our mission work overseas. The presentation will take place in the fellowship hall starting at approximately 12noon. Please stay and join us!



Our Offerings for our Mission Festival Today - Half of our "loose" offering from our service this Sunday will be designated to the CLC's Mission Development Fund (MDF) which funds mission projects in our overseas missions, including supporting our newest overseas missionary (and former St. Stephen pastor), Pastor Bruce Naumann. Church members using offering envelopes, if you would like to give an offering directly to this fund please mark your envelope "MDF."