

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

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

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September 10, 2023 ✝ Pentecost 15



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 121 (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: 646 Church of God, Elect and Glorious

LSB 646



1 Church of God, e - lect and glo - rious, Ho - ly
 2 God has called you out of dark - ness In - to
 3 Once you were an al - ien peo - ple, Strang - ers
 4 Church of God, e - lect and ho - ly, Be the

na - tion, cho - sen race; Called as God's own
 His most mar - v'ulous light; Brought His truth to
 to God's heart of love; But He brought you
 peo - ple He in - tends; Strong in faith and

spe - cial peo - ple, Roy - al priests and heirs of
 life with - in you, Turned your blind - ness in - to
 home in mer - cy, Cit - i - zens of heav'n a -
 swift to an - swer Each com - mand your Mas - ter

grace: Know the pur - pose of your call - ing,
 sight. Let your light so shine a - round you
 bove. Let His love flow out to oth - ers,
 sends: Roy - al priests, ful - fill your call - ing

Show to all His might - y deeds; Tell of love that
 That God's name is glo - ri - fied And all find fresh
 Let them feel a Fa - ther's care; That they too may
 Through your sac - ri - fice and prayer; Give your lives in

knows no lim - its, Grace that meets all hu - man needs.
 hope and pur - pose In Christ Je - sus cru - ci - fied.
 know His wel - come And His count - less bless - ings share.
 joy - ful ser - vice— Sing His praise, His love de - clare.

Text: James Edward Seddon, 1915-83

Tune: Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-92

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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.

G 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.

G **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.

G 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.**

(song continues on next page->)

***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:

O God, whose strength is made perfect in weakness, grant us humility and childlike faith that all our thoughts, words, and actions may be pleasing to You. 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.

G Amen.

First Reading

Jeremiah 15:15-21 (EHV)

¹⁵ O LORD, you understand. Remember me and care for me.

Take vengeance for me on those who persecute me.

You are slow to anger. Do not take me away.

Keep in mind that for your sake I bear disgrace.

¹⁶ Your words came to me, and I devoured them.

Your words became my joy, the delight of my heart,

because I bear your name, O LORD God of Armies.

¹⁷ I did not sit with the band of partygoers, nor did I celebrate with them.

I sat alone, because your hand was upon me. You filled me with indignation.

¹⁸ Why is my pain unending?

Why is my wound incurable, refusing to heal?

Will you be as deceptive as an intermittent stream to me,

like a source of water that a person can't depend on?

¹⁹ Therefore this is what the LORD says.

***If you repent, I will take you back, so that you may stand before me.
If what you say is worthwhile and not worthless, you will be my spokesman.***

They must turn to you, but you must not turn to them.

²⁰ I will make you like a bronze wall to this people.

***They will fight against you, but they will not overcome you,
because I am with you to save you and to rescue you, declares the LORD.***

**²¹ I will rescue you from the hand of the wicked,
and I will deliver you from the grasp of the ruthless.**

Second Reading

Matthew 16:21-26 (EHV)

[P] The second reading is from Matthew 16:21-26.

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

²¹ From that time, Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and experts in the law, and be killed, and on the third day be raised again.

²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "May you receive mercy, Lord! This will never happen to you."

²³ But Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a snare to me because you are not thinking the things of God, but the things of men."

Take Up the Cross

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵ In fact whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ After all, what will it benefit a person if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul? Or what can a person give in exchange for his soul?"

[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: 685 *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*

LSB 685

1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus And with pa - tience
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death He
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en

am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to
bear our cross. Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; Where He
con - quered death, He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to
from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,

sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot - steps tread - ing,
is, there is no loss. Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter,
us im - mor - tal breath. Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion
You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;

Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and
 We shall reap ce - les - tial joy; All dis - com - forts
 That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that
 Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence

hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful
 that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. Je - sus,
 shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,
 con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,

Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.
 here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.
 here with You I die, There to live with You on high.
 let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.
 Tune: Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.
 Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862
 Tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: Romans 12:1-8 (EHV)

Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice—holy and pleasing to God—which is your appropriate worship.

² Also, do not continue to conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you test and approve what is the will of God—what is good, pleasing, and perfect. ³ So by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought, but think in a way that results in sound judgment, as God distributed a measure of faith to each of you. ⁴ For we have many members in one body, and not all the members have the same function. ⁵ In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace God has given us. If the gift is prophecy, do it in complete agreement with the faith. ⁷ If it is serving, then serve. If it is teaching, then teach. ⁸ If it is encouraging, then encourage. If it is contributing, be generous. If it is leadership, be diligent. If it is showing mercy, do it cheerfully.

Sermon Theme: Living Sacrifices

✝ What does Paul mean by the term **“living sacrifice”** (v. 1)

✝ In other words, our worship is more than just...

✝ In what ways can we be **“living sacrifices”** to God?

○ **v. 2 –**

○ **v. 3 –**

○ **v. 6-8 -**

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

Sermon Hymn: 783 *Take My Life and Let it Be*

LSB 783



- 1 Take my life and let it be Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to Thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse of Thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing Al-ways, on - ly for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with - hold;



Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them flow in cease - less praise.
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
Take my lips and let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.
Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

**5. Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne.**

**6. Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee.**

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79 Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870 Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer / Prayer Requests *We bring our prayers to God.*

Lord's Prayer

- Q** 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.



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

Closing Hymn: 965 *God Bless Our Native Land* (please stand for our closing hymn)



1 God bless our na - tive land; Firm may she ev - er stand
2 So shall our prayers a - rise To God a - bove the skies;

Through storm and night. When the wild tem - pests rave, Rul - er of
On Him we wait. Thou who art ev - er nigh, Guard - ing with

wind and wave, Do Thou our coun - try save By Thy great might.
watch - ful eye, To Thee a - loud we cry: God save the state!

Text (st. 1): Charles T. Brooks, 1813–83, alt.; (st. 2): John S. Dwight, 1813–93, alt.
Tune: Thesaurus Musicus, c. 1740, London
Text and tune: Public domain

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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 – West (Mt. View): Bible Class – 9am**
Worship – 10am

St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): Worship – 1pm
Church Council – 2pm

This Week: Wednesday – **Confirmation Class (Lang) (Mt. View) – 4pm**
Thursday – **Board of Education Meeting (Zoom) (Mt. View) – 6pm**

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Class – 9am**
9/17/23 Worship – 10am

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

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

Private Communion – Communicant members of St. Stephen who would like to take private communion after our worship service today, please speak with Pastor Luke after the worship service.

Pacific Coast Women's Retreat -- Grow in Grace - October 6-8, 2023 | Cusick, WA



We welcome all girls and women to our retreat in the beautiful Pacific Northwest! Planes, trains, and automobiles will bring you to Spokane, and then we'll lead you an hour-ish north to the Ponderosa Lodge. "Stay in the Know" by signing up on the Gethsemane Lutheran Church website for periodic updates.

<https://gethsemanelc.org/events/pacific-coast-womens-retreat/>

Questions? Contact Tina Eichstadt, teichstadt@gmail.com or 651-398-2386.