

# ***St. Stephen Lutheran Church***

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

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**School Office: (650) 961-2071**

**School Website: ssls.org**

**September 17, 2023 ✝ Pentecost 16**

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**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. Please sign our guestbook in the entry.

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✝ 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: 814 *O Bless the Lord My Soul!*

LSB 814



1 O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all with - in me join  
2 O bless the Lord, my soul, Nor let His mer - cies lie  
3 'Tis He for - gives thy sins; 'Tis He re - lieves thy pain;  
4 He crowns thy life with love When ran - somed from the grave;



And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose fa - vors are di - vine.  
For - got - ten in un - thank - ful - ness And with - out prais - es die!  
'Tis He that heals thy sick - ness - es And makes thee young a - gain.  
He that re - deemed my soul from hell Hath sov - 'reign pow'r to save.

***5. He fills the poor with good; He gives the suff'ers rest.  
The Lord hath judgments for the proud And justice for th'oppressed.***

***6. His wondrous works and ways He made by Moses known,  
But sent the world His truth and grace By His beloved Son.***

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748    Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–76  
Text and 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 849 v. 1)

1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -  
at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,  
Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the  
Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing  
storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955  
Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia  
Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862  
Tune: Public domain

## Prayer of the Day

**P** We pray:

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain. 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

**Isaiah 35:4-7 (EHV)**

***<sup>4</sup> Tell those who have a fearful heart:  
Be strong. Do not be afraid.***

***Look! Your God will come with vengeance.***

***With God's own retribution, he will come and save you.***

***<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf will be unplugged.***

***<sup>6</sup> The crippled will leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy.***

***Waters will flow in the wilderness,  
and streams in the wasteland.***

***<sup>7</sup> The burning sand will become a pool,  
and in the thirsty ground there will be springs of water.***

## Second Reading

**Mark 7:31-37 (EHV)**

**P** The second reading is from Mark 7:31-37.

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

***<sup>31</sup> Jesus left the region of Tyre again and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, within the region of the Decapolis.***

***<sup>32</sup> They brought a man to him who was deaf and had a speech impediment. They pleaded with Jesus to place his hand on him. <sup>33</sup> Jesus took him aside in private, away from the crowd. He put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. <sup>34</sup> After he looked up to heaven, he sighed and said, "Ephphatha!" (which means "Be opened!") <sup>35</sup> Immediately the man's ears were opened, his tongue was set free, and he began to speak plainly. <sup>36</sup> Jesus gave the people strict orders to tell no one,***

**but the more he did so, the more they kept proclaiming it. <sup>37</sup> They were amazed beyond measure and said, "He has done everything well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak!"**

**P** Here ends our Scripture readings.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ!**

(LSB 849 v. 3)

3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered  
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious  
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and  
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us  
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955 Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia  
Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862  
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**Apostles' Creed** *We boldly confess what we believe.*

W.S. p. 15

**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.**

*(Creed continues on next page ->)*

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: 979 God, Whose Almighty Word** (please stand for last verse) LSB 979



1 God, whose al - might - y word Cha - os and  
2 Lord, who once came to bring, On Your re -  
3 Spir - it of truth and love, Life - giv - ing,  
Δ 4 Ho - ly and bless - ed Three, Glo - ri - ous

dark - ness heard And took their flight: Hear us, we  
deem - ing wing, Heal - ing and sight, Health to the  
ho - ly dove, Speed forth Your flight; Move on the  
Trin - i - ty, Wis - dom, love, might! Bound - less as

hum - bly pray, And where the Gos - pel day  
sick in mind, Sight to the in - ly blind:  
wa - ter's face, Bear - ing the lamp of grace,  
o - cean's tide, Roll - ing in full - est pride,

Sheds not its glo - rious ray, Let there be light!  
Oh, now to hu - man-kind Let there be light!  
And in earth's dark - est place Let there be light!  
Through the earth, far and wide, Let there be light!

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825  
Tune: Felice de Giardini, 1716–96  
Text and tune: Public domain

## **Sermon Text: James 1:21-27 (EHV)**

<sup>21</sup> So after getting rid of all moral filthiness and overflowing wickedness, receive with humility the word planted in you. It is able to save your souls. <sup>22</sup> Be people who do what the word says, not people who only hear it. Such people are deceiving themselves. <sup>23</sup> In fact, if anyone hears the word and does not do what it says, he is like a man who carefully looks at his own natural face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> Indeed, he carefully looks at himself; then, he goes away and immediately forgets what he looked like. <sup>25</sup> But the one who looks carefully into the perfect law, the law of freedom, and continues to do so—since he does not hear and forget but actually does what it says—that person will be blessed in what he does. <sup>26</sup> If anyone considers himself to be religious but deceives his own heart because he does not bridle his tongue, this person's religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup> Religion that is pure and undefiled in the sight of God the Father is this: to take care of orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

## **Sermon Theme: Hear and Do the Word of God**

✠ Why is it so important to be a “doer” of the Word of God and not just a “hearer”?

**v. 21 –**

**v. 22 –**

**v. 23-24 –**

**v. 25 –**

✠ What examples of being a “doer” of our faith does James point to? **(v. 26-27)**

Application: What is one thing from today's sermon or worship service that you can put into practice during your upcoming week? Pray that the Lord would help you to be a “doer” of His Word this week, as well as a “hearer.”

## 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.

Public domain

**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.* †)

**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: 851 *Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us*

LSB 851



1 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your  
2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Glad - ly,  
3 Won - drous hon - or You have giv - en To our  
4 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your



life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the  
free - ly of Your own. With the sun - shine of Your  
hum - blest char - i - ty In Your own mys - te - rious  
life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the



lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;  
good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone  
sen - tence, "You have done it all to Me."  
lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.



And with that have free - ly giv - en Bless - ings  
Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by  
Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, That You  
Give us faith to trust You bold - ly, Hope, to



count - less as the sand To the un - thank - ful  
You, at length be - lieve That more hap - py  
deign for alms to sue, Say - ing by Your  
stay our souls on You; But, oh, best of



and the e - vil With Your own un - spar - ing hand.  
and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.  
poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?  
all Your grac - es, With Your love our love re - new.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818-89, alt.  
Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-87  
Text and tune: Public domain

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

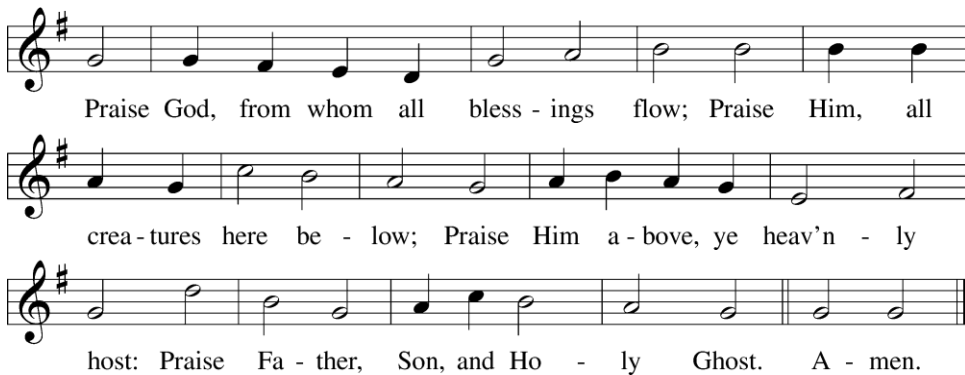
**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

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: 848 Lord, Whose Love...** *(please stand for last verse)*



1 Lord, whose love through hum - ble ser - vice Bore the weight of  
2 Still Your chil - dren wan - der home - less; Still the hun - gry  
3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, Till Your love's re -  
4 Called by wor - ship to Your ser - vice, Forth in Your dear  
hu - man need, Who up - on the cross, for - sak - en,  
cry for bread; Still the cap - tives long for free - dom;  
veal - ing light In its height and depth and great - ness,  
name we go, To the child, the youth, the a - ged,  
Of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed, We, Your ser - vants, bring the  
Still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, Your deep com -  
Dawns up - on our quick - ened sight, Mak - ing known the needs and  
Love in liv - ing deeds to show; Hope and health, good - will and



wor - ship Not of voice a - lone, but heart, Con - se -  
 pas - sion Healed the sick and freed the soul, Use the  
 bur - dens Your com - pas - sion bids us bear, Stir - ring  
 com - fort, Coun - sel, aid, and peace we give, That Your



crat - ing to Your pur - pose Ev - 'ry gift that You im - part.  
 love Your Spir - it kin - dles Still to save and make us whole.  
 us to tire - less striv - ing, Your a - bun - dant life to share.  
 ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom May Your mer - cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–84, alt.  
 Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia  
 Text: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862  
 Tune: Public domain

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

This Week: Wednesday – **Confirmation Class (Lang) (Mt. View) – 4pm**

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

**East Bay Potluck & Creation Video – Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> @ 2pm (Hayward)** - On

Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 2pm the East Bay congregation will be hosting a potluck and video presentation of the creation documentary, "Is Genesis History?" We'll be watching part one on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, and part two of the video on Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. You are invited to join us. Please RSVP with either Pastor Luke or Timothy Blank (East Bay congregation president. Email: [tblank@reagan.com](mailto:tblank@reagan.com)) if you plan to attend so we know how many will be coming for the meal. The location of our East Bay worship service and Bible Study is: Grace Lutheran Church – 1836 B St. – Hayward, CA.

**CLC News** - Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Lutheran in West Columbia, SC *has returned the call* to be the third pastor at Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI. <> Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI *has sent a call* to Pastor Frank Gantt of Zion Lutheran in the Atlanta, GA area. <> Professor Mark Kranz *will be retiring* as of the end of the current school year due to health issues.

**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://gethsemaneccl.org/events/pacific-coast-womens-retreat/>

Questions? Contact Tina Eichstadt, [teichstadt@gmail.com](mailto:teichstadt@gmail.com) or 651-398-2386.