

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

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

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September 24, 2023 ✝ Pentecost 17



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 103 (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: 915 *Today Your Mercy Calls Us*

LSB 915

1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.
2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,
How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,
Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin.
His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav'n - ly gates.
What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o'er?
How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,
The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n,
No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;
When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,
Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.
A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav'n.
Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.
We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816–78, alt.
Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–after 1857
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 Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore we stand in awe of You.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, and call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Confession and Absolution

We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and gives them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

Kyrie *Latin for "O Lord." We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life.*

LSB 204



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.



- C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation ("Greeting") and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P We pray:

Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who crucified Him.
Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, or fail to forgive others as you have forgiven us. Wash us clean of all our sins, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation.
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

Psalm 103 (RESPONSIVE – selected verses) (ESV)

- P** Bless the LORD, O my soul,
C **and all that is within me, bless his holy name!**
- P** Bless the LORD, O my soul,
C **and forget not all his benefits,**
- P** who forgives all your iniquity,
C **who heals all your diseases,**
- P** who redeems your life from the pit,
C **who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**
- P** who satisfies you with good
C **so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**
- P** The LORD works righteousness
C **and justice for all who are oppressed.**
- P** The LORD is merciful and gracious,
C **slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**
- P** He will not always chide,
C **nor will he keep his anger forever.**
- P** He does not deal with us according to our sins,
C **nor repay us according to our iniquities.**
- P** For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
C **so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;**
- P** as far as the east is from the west,
C **so far does he remove our transgressions from us.**
- P** As a father shows compassion to his children,
C **so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.**
- P** Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion.
C **Bless the LORD, O my soul!**

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Genesis 50:15-21 (EHV)

P The second reading is from Genesis 50:15-21.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁵ *When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and will pay us back in full for all of the evil that we did to him."*

¹⁶ *They sent the following message to Joseph: "Before he died your father commanded us, ¹⁷ 'You are to tell Joseph, "Please forgive the offense of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" Now, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.*

¹⁸ *His brothers also came and fell down in front of him, and they said, "See now, we are your servants."*

¹⁹ *Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring this to pass and to keep many people alive, as it is this day. ²¹ Now therefore, do not be afraid. I will nourish you and your little ones." He comforted them and spoke to them in a kind way.*

P Here ends our second reading.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 205

When God speaks to us in His Word it is natural for us to respond. We sing "Allelujah!"—meaning, "Praise the Lord!"

C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Apostles' Creed *We boldly confess what we believe.*

LSB 207

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 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: 779 (Worship Supplement) ***Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven***

Sermon Text: Matthew 18:21-35 (EHV)

²¹ Then Peter came up and asked Jesus, "Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother when he sins against me? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but I tell you as many as seventy-seven times. ²³ For this reason the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle them, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵ Because the man was not able to pay the debt, his master ordered that he be sold, along with his wife, children, and all that he owned to repay the debt. ²⁶ "Then the servant fell down on his knees in front of him, saying, 'Master, be patient with me, and I will pay you everything!' ²⁷ The master of that servant had pity on him, released him, and forgave him the debt.

²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began choking him, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ ²⁹ “So his fellow servant fell down and begged him, saying, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!’ ³⁰ But he refused. Instead he went off and threw the man into prison until he could pay back what he owed. ³¹ “When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were very distressed. They went and reported to their master everything that had taken place. ³² “Then his master called him in and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt when you begged me to.’ ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ His master was angry and handed him over to the jailers until he could pay back everything he owed. ³⁵ “This is what my heavenly Father will also do to you unless each one of you forgives his brother from his heart.”

Sermon Theme: Forgiveness

1. God’s

- ✠ What point is Jesus making about God’s forgiveness toward us in this parable? (see **v. 24-27**)

2. Ours

- ✠ What point is Jesus making about God’s forgiveness toward others in this parable? (**v. 22, 32-35**)

Application: What great comfort do we—who are all-too-often like the unforgiving servant in the parable— have in Jesus?

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.* †)

Sermon Hymn: "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive" (tune of LSB 707)

LSB 843

- 1 "Forgive our sins as we forgive," You taught us, Lord, to pray;
But You alone can grant us grace To live the words we say.**
- 2 How can Your pardon reach and bless The unforgiving heart
That broods on wrongs and will not let Old bitterness depart?**
- 3 In blazing light Your cross reveals The truth we dimly knew:
What trivial debts are owed to us, How great our debt to You!**
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls And bid resentment cease;
Then, bound to all in bonds of love, Our lives will spread Your peace.**

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–87, alt.

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Prayer of the Church / Prayer Requests *We bring our prayers to God.*

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

- 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).*

LSB 202

- 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.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

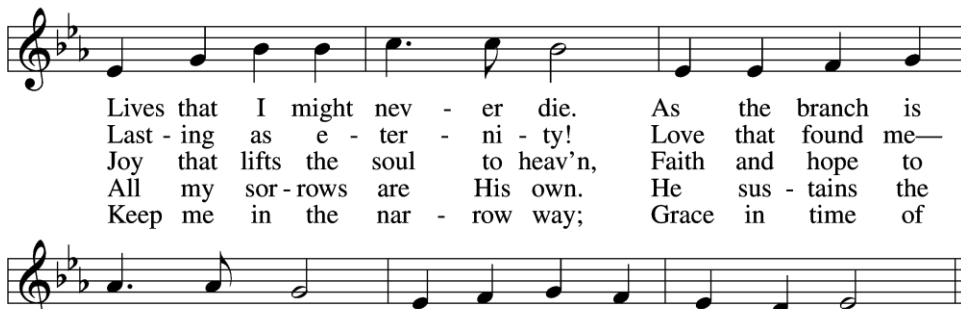
Closing Hymn: 611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be *(please stand for last verse)*



- 1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His
- 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the
- 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the
- 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in
- 5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,
wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
all to me; All my wants to Him are known,
and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
 Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—
 Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to
 All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the
 Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of

to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
 won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.
 walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.
 hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.
 need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt. Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901
 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
Brief Choir Meeting – 11am
Women’s Auxiliary Meeting – 11:15am

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

This Week: Tuesday – **Stockton Worship (Oakmont) – 2pm**
Sacramento Worship (Forever Easter House) – 4pm
Wednesday – **Confirmation Class (Lang) (Mt. View) – 4pm**
Thursday – **Church Council / Elders Meeting (Zoom) (Mt. View) – 7pm**

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Study – 9am**
10/1/23 **Worship – 10am**

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

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

Coming Up:



Joint Reformation Worship & Fellowship Meal (Mt. View) @ 10am – 10/29

East Bay Potluck & Creation Video – NEXT Sunday, October 1st @ 2pm (Hayward) –

Next Sunday, October 1st 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 1st, and part two of the video on Sunday, October 8th. You are invited to join us. Please RSVP with either Pastor Luke or Timothy Blank (East Bay congregation president. Email: 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 - Messiah Lutheran of Eau Claire, WI *has called* Neal Radichel of Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN to be their third pastor. <> Pastor Frank Gantt of Zion Lutheran in the Atlanta, GA area *has returned the call* from Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI. <> For personal reasons Teacher Nathan Buck has resigned his call to Messiah Lutheran School of Eau Claire WI. Please keep Nathan and his family, as well as Messiah Church and School, in your prayers.

MDF (Mission Development Fund) Shortage - When the convention approved the calling of our third foreign missionary, it determined that the funding of that missionary would come fully from the MDF for the first year. The cost of funding that missionary is about \$80,000. Currently the MDF balance is enough to cover the cost of our third foreign missionary for the rest of this fiscal year and a few other essential projects, but without additional funds, we will not be able to fund other planned projects. The Board of Missions has already put a hold on all other projects including all funding of Bibles and other Christian literature, church building assistance, and many planned outreach projects. We pray that the members of the CLC will remember this work in their prayers and their offerings.