

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

West & East Bay, Central Valley, and Southern California

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

320 Moorpark Way - Mountain View, California 94041-1600



Pastor: Luke Bernthal

Email: lbernthal@live.com ✝ Cell: (402) 389-2147

Home: (650) 282-5752

Online Video Production: Chris Holt, Julia Bernthal, Scott Mueller

Websites: ststephenclc.org (East Bay) - sslcwest.org (West)

Church Office: (650) 964-5915

St. Stephen Lutheran School Staff: Isaac & Mikkela Schmitt (Teachers),
Julia Bernthal (Administrator), Pastor Luke Bernthal (Principal)

School Office: (650) 961-2071

School Website: ssls.org

October 29, 2023 ✝ Reformation Sunday



✠ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 46 (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>

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.

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn: 566 *By Grace I'm Saved*

LSB 566



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; My soul, be-lieve and
2 By grace! None dare lay claim to mer - it; Our works and con - duct
3 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, Came down to earth to
4 By grace! This ground of faith is cer - tain; As long as God is



doubt it not. Why stag - ger at this word of prom - ise?
have no worth. God in His love sent our Re - deem - er,
bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own mer - it
true, it stands. What saints have penned by in - spi - ra - tion,



Has Scrip-ture ev - er false-hood taught? No! Then this word must
Christ Je - sus, to this sin - ful earth; His death did for our
That Je - sus died your soul to win? No, it was grace, and
What in His Word our God com - mands, Our faith in what our



true re - main: By grace you too will life ob - tain.
sins a - tone, And we are saved by grace a - lone.
grace a - lone, That brought Him from His heav'n - ly throne.
God has done De - pends on grace— grace through His Son.

***5. By grace to timid hearts that tremble, In tribulation's furnace tried,
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble, The Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help and strength secure If grace were not my anchor sure?***

***6. By grace! On this I'll rest when dying; In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's condition, I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown Since I am saved by grace alone.***

Text: Christian Ludwig Scheidt, 1709–61; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: Cornelius Heinrich Dretzel, 1697–1775
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.

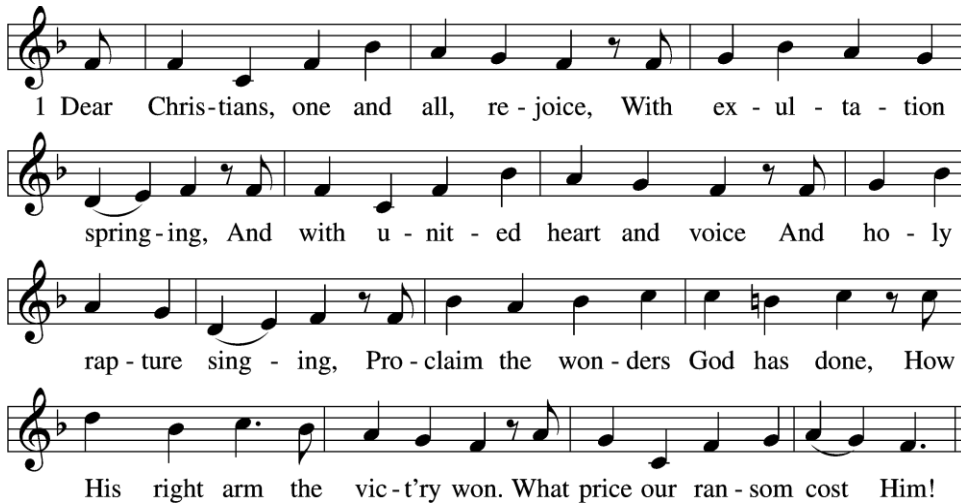
Confession and Absolution

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...

“Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice” - v. 1

LSB 556 v. 1



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re - joi-ce, With ex - ul - ta - tion
spring-ing, And with u - nit - ed heart and voice And ho - ly
rap - ture sing - ing, Pro - claim the won - ders God has done, How
His right arm the vic-t'ry won. What price our ran - som cost Him!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt. Tune: Etlich Cristlich liden, 1524, Wittenberg Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P We pray:

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace. 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.

The “Reformation” Psalm

*The responsive reading of **Psalm 46** and singing of “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” (Hymn 774 W.S.)*

P God is our refuge and strength,

C A very present help in trouble.

P Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed,

C And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.

P Though its waters roar and be troubled,

C Though the mountains shake with its swelling.

♪ *A mighty Fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from every need That has us now o'er taken.
The old evil foe Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.*

P There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God,
C The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High.

P God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved;
C God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.

P The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved;
C He uttered His voice, the earth melted.

P The LORD of hosts is with us;
C The God of Jacob is our refuge.

♪ *With might of ours can naught be done; Soon were our loss effected.
But for us fights the valiant One Whom God Himself elected.
You ask, "Who is this?" Jesus Christ it is, The Almighty Lord.
And there's no other God; He holds the field forever.*

P Come, behold the works of the LORD,
C Who has made desolations in the earth.

P He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
C He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariot in the fire.

♪ *Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not over pow'r us.
This world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none. He's judged the deed is done!
One little word can fell him.*

P Be still, and know that I am God;
C I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

- P** The LORD of hosts is with us;
C The God of Jacob is our refuge.

♪ *The word they still shall let remain, Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain With His good gifts and Spirit.
And do what they will—Hate, steal, hurt, or kill—
Though all may be gone, Our victory is won;
The Kingdom's ours forever!*

Second Reading

Romans 3:19-28 (EHV)

- P** The second reading is from Romans 3:19-28.
C Sanctify us by Your truth, O LORD. Your Word is truth!

¹⁹ *Now we know that whatever the law says is addressed to those who are under the law, so that every mouth will be silenced and the whole world will be subject to God's judgment.* ²⁰ *For this reason, no one will be declared righteous in his sight by works of the law, for through the law we become aware of sin.*

²¹ *But now, completely apart from the law, a righteousness from God has been made known. The Law and the Prophets testify to it.* ²² *This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all and over all who believe.*

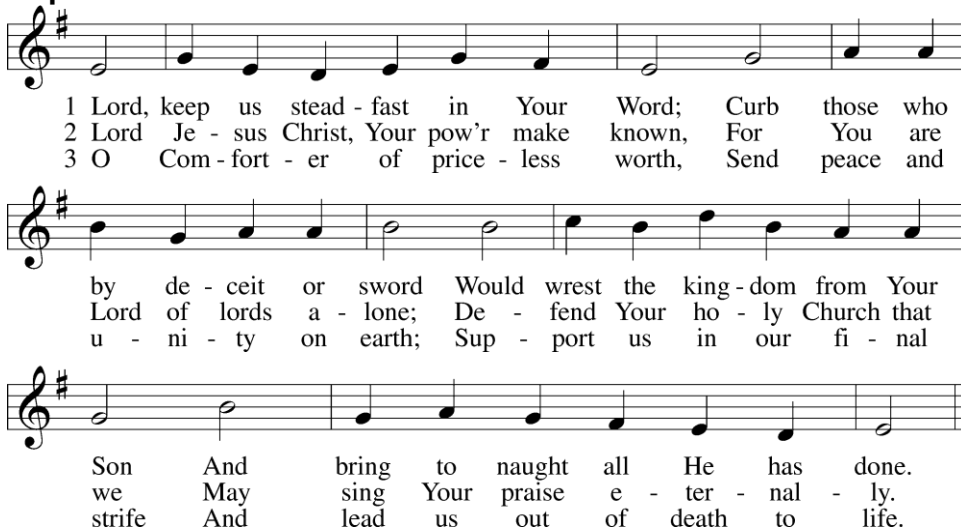
In fact, there is no difference, ²³ *because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God* ²⁴ *and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,* ²⁵ *whom God publicly displayed as the atonement seat through faith in his blood. God did this to demonstrate his justice, since, in his divine restraint, he had left the sins that were committed earlier unpunished.* ²⁶ *He did this to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so that he would be both just and the one who justifies the person who has faith in Jesus.*

²⁷ *What happens to boasting then? It has been eliminated. By what principle—by the principle of works? No, but by the principle of faith.* ²⁸ *For we conclude that a person is justified by faith without the works of the law.*

- P** Here ends our Scripture readings.

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

LSB 655



1 Lord, keep us stead-fast in Your Word; Curb those who
 2 Lord Je-sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
 3 O Com-fort-er of price-less worth, Send peace and
 by de- ceit or sword Would wrest the king-dom from Your
 Lord of lords a-lone; De-fend Your ho-ly Church that
 u-ni-ty on earth; Sup-port us in our fi-nal
 Son And bring to naught all He has done.
 we May sing Your praise e-ter-nal-ly.
 strife And lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1543, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug
 Text and tune: Public domain

Confession of Faith - 2nd Article of the Apostles' Creed *Luther's Catechism (Sydow, p. 87)*

I believe 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, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.

He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity. This is most certainly true!

Hymn of the Day: 555 v. 1, 5-10 *Salvation Unto Us Has Come* LSB 555 v. 1, 5-10



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come By God's free grace and
5 Yet as the Law must be ful - filled Or we must die de -
6 Since Christ has full a - tone-ment made And brought to us sal -
7 Let me not doubt, but tru - ly see Your Word can - not be



fa - vor; Good works can - not a - vert our doom, They
spair - ing, Christ came and has God's an - ger stilled, Our
va - tion, Each Chris - tian there - fore may be glad And
bro - ken; Your call rings out, "Come un - to Me!" No



help and save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus
hu - man na - ture shar - ing. He has for us the
build on this foun - da - tion. Your grace a - lone, dear
false - hood have You spo - ken. Bap - tized in - to Your



Christ a - lone, Who did for all the
Law o - beyed And thus the Fa - ther's
Lord, I plead, Your death is now my
pre - cious name, My faith can - not be



world a - tone; He is our one Re - deem - er.
ven - geance stayed Which o - ver us im - pend - ed.
life in - deed, For You have paid my ran - som.
put to shame, And I shall nev - er per - ish.

**8. The Law reveals the guilt of sin And makes us conscience-stricken;
But then the Gospel enters in The sinful soul to quicken.
Come to the cross, trust Christ, and live; The Law no peace can ever give,
No comfort and no blessing.**

***9. Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone And rests in Him unceasing;
And by its fruits true faith is known, With love and hope increasing.
For faith alone can justify; Works serve our neighbor and supply
The proof that faith is living.***

***△ 10. All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God who saved us by His grace; All glory to His merit.
O triune God in heav'n above, You have revealed Your saving love;
Your blessed name we hallow.***

Text: Paul Speratus, 1484–1551; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: Etlich Cristlich liden, 1524, Wittenberg
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: John 8:31-36 (EHV)

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples. ³² You will also know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³ "We are Abraham's descendants," they answered, "and we have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say, 'You will be set free'?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Amen, Amen, I tell you: Everyone who keeps committing sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ But a slave does not remain in the family forever. A son does remain forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free.

Sermon Theme: Your Reformation

✝ When did the Reformation begin? (When did it actually begin?)

✝ When and how did your "reformation" begin?

Application: Are there some areas in your life that need a "reformation" right now? Pray for the Lord's help and remember to turn to His Word each day and be strengthened by its "re-forming" power!

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.*

Choir Hymn (Congregation joins in verse 3): ***"Speak, O, Lord"***

(Choir - v. 1-2)

- 1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of Your Holy Word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory.*

2. *Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility;
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail—
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.*

(Congregation & Choir – v. 3)

**3. *Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us—
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises,
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory.***

Copyright © 2005 Thankyou Music/Adm. By worshiptogether.com songs
Used by permission.

Prayer Requests *We bring our prayers to God.*

Reformation Prayer (RESPONSIVE)

- P** Let us pray to the Lord for the Church on earth and for all people everywhere.
For all who gather here today and for our congregations, that through the Gospel the
Lord would give us growth in faith and increase our love:
- C We ask You to bless us, O Lord.**
- P** For the spreading of the Gospel throughout the world; for all pastors, missionaries,
and their families, that they may boldly proclaim Christ to the nations:
- C We ask You to hear us, O Lord.**

P For the comforting, absolute truth of the Gospel, that salvation is found in Christ alone, in His work, and not in anything we might have to produce or provide:

C We glorify Your name, O Lord.

P For the people of our country; for the Lord's blessings on our work; for those seeking employment; for good health; for good weather; for sufficient rain during the rainy season and for protection from wild fires throughout our state and region:

C We ask You to help them according to your will, O Lord.

P For all who are sick in body or mind; for the hungry and the homeless; for those who are in prison; for those who are dying; for those who are recovering from the flooding and devastation from the deadly hurricane in Mexico; for Israel and the people in that region of the Middle East who are at war; and for those who are mourning the loss of loved ones in the recent mass shooting in Maine:

C We ask You to help them, protect them, comfort them, and turn their hearts to You, according to your grace and mercy, O Lord.

P All this we ask, O Father, through your Son, Jesus Christ, who has taught us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

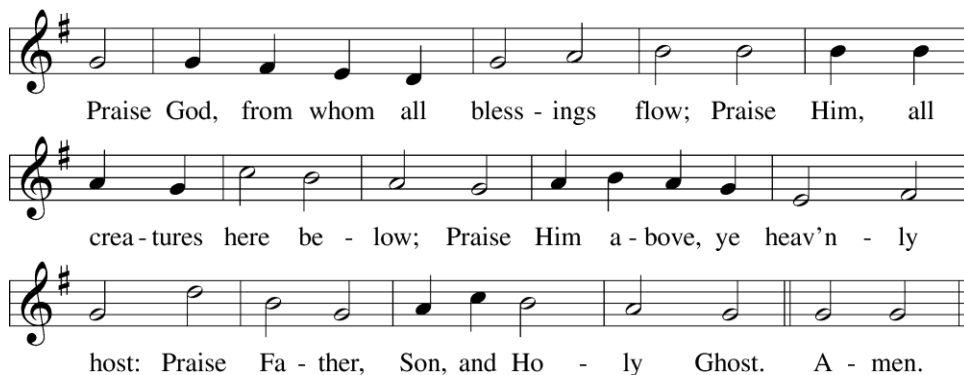
**C Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is 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).*

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: 582 *God's Word Is Our Great Heritage*

LSB 582



God's Word is our great her - i - tage And shall be ours for -
ev - er; To spread its light from age to age Shall be our
chief en - deav - or. Through life it guides our way, In death it
is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds en - dure, We keep its
teach - ings pure Through - out all gen - er - a - tions.

Text: Nikolai Fredrik Severin Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Ole G. Belsheim, 1861–1925, alt.
Tune: Friedrich O. Reuter, 1863–1924
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments - Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.
Scripture quotations marked EHV are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®)
© 2019 Wartburg Project, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission.
All rights reserved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **Fellowship Meal & Short Reformation Video – After Worship Service**
(Fellowship Hall)

This Week: Tuesday – *Reformation Day*
Stockton Worship Service – (Oakmont) – 2pm
Wednesday – **Bible Instruction Class** (Fenton) – 11:30am
Confirmation Class (Lang) – 4pm
Saturday - 🕒 **Daylight Savings Time Ends – Turn Clocks Back One Hour** 🕒

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West** (Mt. View): **Bible Class – 9am**
11/5/23 **Worship w/ communion– 10am**

St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): **Worship w/ communion – 1pm**
Church Council Meeting – 2pm

Coming Up: **St. Stephen – West** (Mt. View) **Voter's Meeting w/ Elections – Sun. 11/12**
St. Stephen-East Bay (Hayward) **Voter's Meeting w/ Elections–Sun. 11/19**



Welcome! – We welcome our members from both West and East Bay congregations, and all our visitors and guests who are with us today. We pray that you have been blessed through the Gospel message! Everyone is invited to join us for a fellowship meal after the worship service. We hope you can join us!



In Your Mailbox – St. Stephen Church Calendar – *November*

Thank You! – Thank you to all who helped decorate, set up, and provide food for our Reformation worship service and meal. The church and fellowship hall look great and very festive! Your willing service is very much appreciated.

Also, a special thank you to Scott Mueller who fixed a very troublesome irrigation leak issue beneath our church sign/rock bed area. We thank Scott for his tireless efforts in accomplishing a very difficult task and for all the work he does on our church & school property!

CLC News - Pastor Terrel Kesterson of Ascension Lutheran of Batavia, IL *has returned* the call to Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI, and St. Peter's Lutheran of Iron River, MI. <> Pastor David Reim of St. Paul Lutheran of Vernon, British Columbia, *has received* the call to Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI, and St. Peter's Lutheran of Iron River, MI. <> Pastor Luke is still considering the call to serve as co-pastor at Immanuel Lutheran, Mankato, MN. Please continue to keep him and Jewels in your prayers and share any thoughts or advice you might have with him.