

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

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

320 Moorpark Way - Mountain View, California 94041-1600



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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**

**November 19, 2023 † Pentecost 25**

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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 92 (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: 665 *Be Strong in the Lord*

LSB 665



1 Be strong in the Lord In ar - mor of light,  
2 In - teg - ri - ty gird You round to im - part  
3 With ea - ger - ness shod Stand firm in your place,  
4 Though Sa - tan pre - sume To test you and try,  
5 So wield well your blade, Re - joice in its pow'rs,  
With hel - met and sword, With shield for the fight;  
The truth of His Word As truth in your heart;  
Or go forth for God With news of His grace;  
In hel - met and plume Your head shall be high;  
Fight on un - dis - mayed For Je - sus is ours!  
On prayer be de - pen - dent, Be belt - ed and shod,  
His righ - teous - ness wear - ing As breast - plate of mail,  
No foe shall dis - arm you Nor force you to yield,  
Be - set by temp - ta - tion Be true to your Lord,  
Then in Him vic - to - rious Your ar - mor lay down,  
In breast - plate re - splen - dent: The ar - mor of God.  
His vic - to - ry shar - ing, Be strong to pre - vail.  
No ar - row can harm you With faith as your shield.  
Your hel - met sal - va - tion And Scrip - ture your sword.  
To praise, ev - er glo - rious, His cross and His crown.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926

Tune: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

Text: © 1984 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862

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...

**"Now Let All the Heavens Adore Thee"** (LSB 516 v. 3)

3 Now let all the heav'ns a - dore Thee, Let saints and an - gels  
sing be - fore Thee With harp and cym - bals' clear - est tone.  
Of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, Where, join - ing with the  
choir im - mor - tal, We gath - er round Thy ra - diant throne. →



Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text and tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Prayer of the Day

**P** We pray:

Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found lacking. 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

## Malachi 3:14-18 (EHV)

**<sup>14</sup> You say, "Serving God is pointless. What have we gained by carefully keeping his requirements and by walking around like mourners before the LORD of Armies? <sup>15</sup> Now we will call the arrogant blessed. Even evildoers are built up. They even test God and get away with it."**

**<sup>16</sup> Then those who fear the LORD spoke with each other. The LORD gave them his attention and listened. A book of remembrance was written in front of him for those who fear the LORD and have regard for his name.**

**<sup>17</sup> They will be mine, says the LORD of Armies, on the day I make them my treasured possession. I will spare them just as a man spares his son who serves him. <sup>18</sup> Then you will again see the distinction between a righteous person and a wicked person, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.**

## Second Reading

**Matthew 25:1-13 (EHV)**

**P** The second reading is from Matthew 25:1-13.

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

*"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> When the foolish ones took their lamps, they did not take any oil with them; <sup>4</sup> but the wise took oil in their containers with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> While the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. <sup>6</sup> But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' <sup>7</sup> Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.' <sup>9</sup> But the wise answered, 'No, there may not be enough for us and for you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' <sup>10</sup> But while they were away buying oil, the bridegroom came. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup> Later, the other virgins also came and said, 'Lord, Lord, let us in.' <sup>12</sup> But he answered, 'Amen I tell you: I do not know you.' <sup>13</sup> Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.*

**P** Here ends our Scripture readings.

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

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

*W.S. p. 15*

**G** 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.

*(Creed continues on next page ->)*

**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: 515 *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers***

LSB 515



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride-groom near;  
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'ring bore,  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.  
Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.  
Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.  
A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.  
A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.  
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride-groom is at hand.  
In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.  
The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt. Tune: Swedish  
Text and tune: Public domain

## **Sermon Text: Matthew 25:14-30 (EHV)**

<sup>14</sup> “You see, the kingdom of heaven is like a man going on a journey. He called his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five talents, to another two talents, and to still another one talent, each according to his own ability. Then he went on his journey. <sup>16</sup> The servant who had received the five talents immediately put them to work and gained five more talents. <sup>17</sup> In the same way, the servant who had received the two talents gained two more. <sup>18</sup> But the servant who had received one talent went away, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master’s money.

<sup>19</sup> “After a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> The servant who received the five talents came and brought five more talents. He said, ‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.’

<sup>21</sup> “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master.’

<sup>22</sup> “The servant who received the two talents came and said, ‘Master, you entrusted me with two talents. See, I have gained two more talents.’

<sup>23</sup> “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master.’

<sup>24</sup> “Then the servant who received one talent came and said, ‘Master, I knew that you are a hard man, reaping where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter seed. <sup>25</sup> Since I was afraid, I went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.’

<sup>26</sup> “His master answered him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! You knew that I reap where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter seed? <sup>27</sup> Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers so that when I came I would get my money back with interest. <sup>28</sup> Take the talent away from him and give it to the servant who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup> Because everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. But the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. <sup>30</sup> Throw that worthless servant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

## **Sermon Theme: What Would You Do...?**

✝ If you were given the gift of a million dollars, what would you do with it?

✝ What are some of the gifts and **“talents”** Jesus has given to each one of us?

What does He want us to do with them? Is He unreasonable in expecting us to use them? (see **v. 15** & **v. 27**)

Application: How can you use the gifts and **“talents”** God has given you to His glory and for the good of His Kingdom?

## 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: 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.*

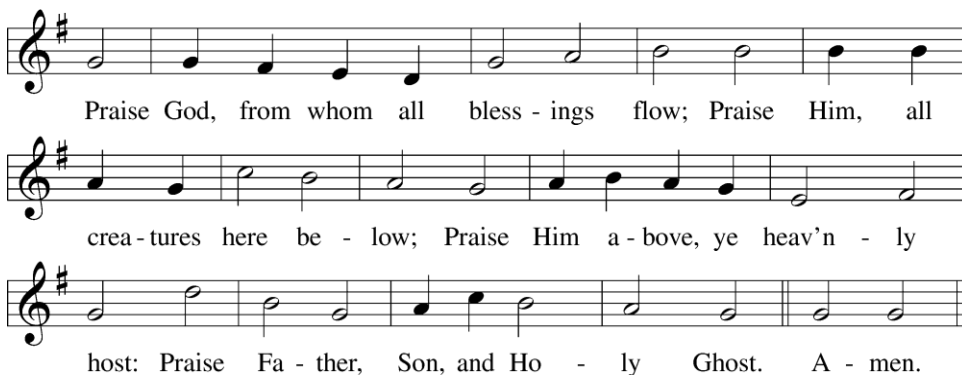
Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79  
Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870  
Text and tune: Public domain

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

- ☐** 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

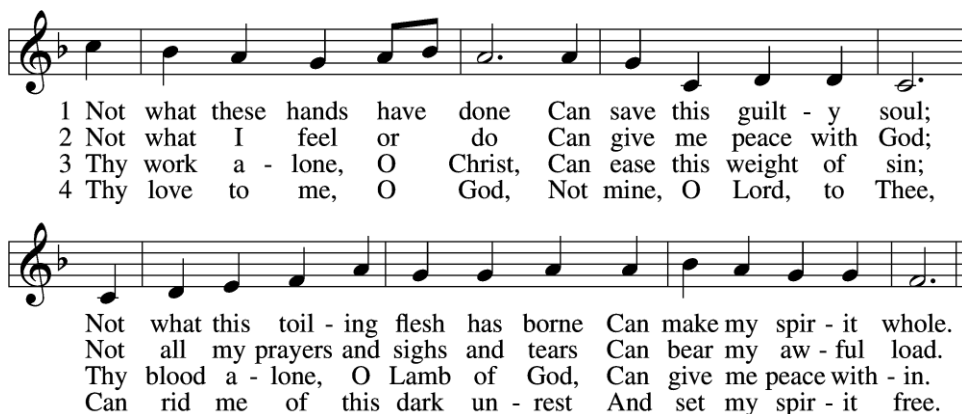
LSB 805



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: 567 *Not What These Hands Have Done* (please stand for last verse)**



1 Not what these hands have done Can save this guilt - y soul;  
2 Not what I feel or do Can give me peace with God;  
3 Thy work a - lone, O Christ, Can ease this weight of sin;  
4 Thy love to me, O God, Not mine, O Lord, to Thee,  
Not what this toil - ing flesh has borne Can make my spir - it whole.  
Not all my prayers and sighs and tears Can bear my aw - ful load.  
Thy blood a - lone, O Lamb of God, Can give me peace with - in.  
Can rid me of this dark un - rest And set my spir - it free.

**5 *Thy grace alone, O God, To me can pardon speak;  
Thy pow'r alone, O Son of God, Can this sore bondage break.***

**6 *I bless the Christ of God, I rest on love divine,  
And with unfalt'ring lip and heart I call this Savior mine.***

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-89 Tune: William H. Monk, 1823-89 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:  
11/19/23

**St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Study – 9am**  
**Worship – 10am**  
**Choir – 11am**  
**Crafting Bee – 11:15am**

**St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): Worship – 1pm**  
**Voter's Meeting w/ Elections – 2pm**

This Week:



Mon. – Friday – **NO School at SSLS – Thanksgiving Break**  
Tuesday – **Bible Instruction Class (Fenton) (Mt. View) – 11:30am**  
Thursday – **Thanksgiving Day Joint Worship Service (Mt. View) – 10am**  
(Choir please arrive for practice at 9:30am)

Next Sunday:  
11/26/23

**St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Study – 9am**  
**Worship – 10am**  
**Children's Christmas Practice – 11:15am**

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

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

**In Your Mailbox** – *Daily Rest* Daily Devotional – *December - February*

### **Coming Up:**



**Church Christmas Decorating – Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 11am** - Please join us after our worship service on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> for our Christmas church decorating. The more the merrier!

**Thanksgiving Day Joint Worship Service – Thurs. 11/23 @ 10am in Mt. View**  
Please make plans to join us for our **Thanksgiving Day Joint Worship Service** this **Thursday 11/23 @ 10am** in Mountain View.



### **Church Council 2024 Election Results – St. Stephen-West (Mountain View) –**

Our voters had their meeting last Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> with elections for the Church Council in 2024. Here are the results from the election. We pray for the Lord's blessings on their continued work for our congregation and we thank these men for their willing service! (Note: Installation of officers will take place during the 1/7/24 worship service).

**President & Board of Education Chairman** – Michael Slattengren

**V.P. / Board of Elders Chair & Property Committee Chairman** – Scott Mueller

**Secretary & Financial Secretary** – Mark Gullerud

**Treasurer / Finance Committee Chairman** – Brenton Horrillo

**Mission Committee Chairman** – Isaac Schmitt

### **Food & Gift Card Donations / Volunteer Opportunities for Thanksgiving and Christmas**

We are collecting non-perishable food items to deliver to the Community Service Agency (CSA) in Mountain View for Thanksgiving and Christmas. There is a large box in the church entry marked "Food Drive." Also, this information comes from the CSA's volunteer coordinator:

"Community Services Agency (CSA) is seeking volunteers and donations of gift cards for their Holiday Sharing Program. This program provides Safeway and Target gift cards to community members struggling to get by so they can purchase what they most need to have a joyful holiday season. ...You can make a donation [online](#) or drop gift cards off at the office during business hours: **204 Stierlin Rd, Mountain View, CA 94043**. To volunteer, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Maria Ferreira at [mferreira@csacares.org](mailto:mferreira@csacares.org)."

**Scrip School Fundraising Gift Cards Info Pamphlets on the Entryway Table** – As the Christmas shopping season approaches, just a friendly reminder about our online version of the scrip gift cards program to help raise funds for St. Stephen Lutheran School (now called "Raise Right."). There are printed pamphlets with info on the program on the table in the entryway. Please speak with Leslie Horrillo if you have any questions.

**CLC News** - Pastor David Reim of St. Paul Lutheran of Vernon, British Columbia, *has returned* the calls from Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI, and St. Peter's Lutheran of Iron River, MI.