

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

West & East Bay, Central Valley, and Southern California

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

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Julia Bernthal (Administrator), Pastor Luke Bernthal (Principal)

School Office: (650) 961-2071

School Website: ssls.org

January 7, 2024 ☩ Epiphany Sunday

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 72 (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: 409 *Hail, O Source of Every Blessing*

LSB 409



1 Hail, O Source of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Fa - ther of our
2 Once far off but now in - vit - ed, We ap - proach Your
3 Hail, O all - in - vit - ing Sav - ior! Gen - tiles now their

hu - man race! Gen - tiles now, Your grace pos - sess - ing, In Your
sa - cred throne, In Your cov - e - nant u - nit - ed, Rec - on -
of - f'ings bring, In Your tem - ples seek Your fa - vor, Je - sus

courts ob - tain a place. Grate - ful now, we fall be - fore You,
ciled, re - deemed, made one. Now re - vealed to east - ern sa - ges,
Christ, our Lord and King. May we, bod - y, soul, and spir - it,

In Your Church re - joice to live, See Your glo - ry
See the Star of Mer - cy shine, Mys - t'ry hid in
Live de - vot - ed to Your praise, Glo - rious realms of

and a - dore You, Thank - ful for the grace You give.
for - mer a - ges, Mys - t'ry great of love di - vine.
bliss in - her - it, Grate - ful an - thems ev - er raise.

Text: Basil Woodd, 1760-1831, alt.

Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen

Text and tune: Public domain

THE INVOCATION

We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

(TLH, page 15)

[P] In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[C] Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

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

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord.
- C** **Who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.
- C** **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**
- C** **O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and by the authority and command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

THE GLORIA PATRI

Latin for "Glory to the Father" (TLH, page 16)

C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;

as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

THE SALUTATION *(Greeting)*

P The Lord be with you.

G And with thy spirit.

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

The main thoughts for the day are “collected” together in this prayer.

P O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence. We pray this in Jesus’ name, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

God speaks to us.

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6 (EHV)

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD is dawning upon you.

***² Look, darkness covers the earth, and deep darkness covers the peoples,
but the LORD will dawn upon you, and his glory will be seen over you.***

³ Nations [Gentiles] will walk to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Look up. Look all around and see!

All of them have been gathered. They are coming to you.

Your sons will come from far away, and people will carry your daughters on their side.

⁵ Then you will look and be radiant.

Your heart will race with excitement and burst with joy.

For great riches from the sea will be delivered to you.

The wealth of the nations will come to you.

***⁶ Caravans of camels will cover your land,
young camels from Midian and Ephah.***

All those from Sheba will come.

They will carry gold and incense,

and they will announce the good news of the praise of the LORD.

THE GRADUAL

When God speaks to us in His Word it is natural for us to respond. We sing “Hallelujah!”—meaning “Praise the Lord!”

P Blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it. Allelujah!



P The second reading is from Ephesians 3:2-12.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-12 (EHV)

² Surely you have heard of the administration of God's grace given to me for you, ³ namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation (as I have already written briefly). ⁴ When you read this, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ. ⁵ This mystery was not made known to people in past generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ This mystery is that in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and people who also share in the promise through the gospel.

⁷ I became a servant of this gospel, in keeping with the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. ⁸ To me—even though I am the very least of all the saints—was given this grace: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ ⁹ and to enlighten everyone about the administration of this mystery. In past ages this mystery remained hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰ He did this so that, through the church, the multifaceted wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was done according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In him we can freely approach God with confidence through faith in him.

P Here ends our second reading.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

(Mountain View)

President & Board of Education Chairman – Michael Slattengren

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

Secretary & Financial Secretary – Mark Gullerud

Treasurer / Finance Committee Chairman – Brenton Horrillo

Mission Committee Chairman – Isaac Schmitt

(Hayward)

President / Property Committee Chairman – Timothy Blank

V.P. / Board of Elders Chairman / Financial Secretary – Jan Messerschmidt

Treasurer / Secretary – Roy Cameron

Board of Education Chairman – Jim Niblett

Mission Committee Chairman – Jerry Dimpel

THE NICENE CREED

We boldly confess what we believe. (TLH, p. 22)

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: 396 *Arise and Shine in Splendor*

LSB 396



1 A - rise and shine in splen - dor; Let night to day sur -
2 See earth in dark - ness ly - ing; The hea - then na - tions
3 The world's re - mot - est rac - es, Up - on whose wea - ry
4 Lift up your eyes in won - der— See, na - tions gath - er
5 Your heart will leap for glad - ness When from the realms of



ren - der. Your light is draw - ing near. A - bove, the
dy - ing In hope - less gloom and night. To you the
fac - es The sun looks from the sky, Shall run with
yon - der From sin to be set free. The world has
sad - ness They come from near and far. Your eyes will



day is beam - ing, In match - less beau - ty
Lord of heav - en— Your life, your hope— has
zeal un - tir - ing, With joy Your light de -
heard Your sto - ry; Her sons come to Your
wake from slum - ber As peo - ple with - out



gleam - ing; The glo - ry of the Lord is here.
giv - en Great glo - ry, hon - or, and de - light.
sir - ing That breaks up - on them from on high.
glo - ry; Her daugh - ters haste Your light to see.
num - ber Re - joice to see the Morn - ing Star.

Text: Martin Opitz, 1597–1639; tr. Gerhard Gieschen, 1899–1987, alt. Tune: Heinrich Isaac, c. 1450–1517
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THE SERMON

Matthew 2:1-12 (EHV)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, ²“Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴He gathered together all the people’s chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet:

⁶ You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel."

⁷ Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him."

⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. ¹¹ After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

Sermon Theme: How to Celebrate Epiphany

1. Seek Jesus
2. Worship Jesus
3. Present Our Gifts to Jesus

THE OFFERTORY

(TLH, p. 22-23)

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



THE OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS

In tangible evidence of our gratitude, we offer the Lord the gift of our money, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.

THE GENERAL PRAYER

(Pastor)

Sermon Hymn: 397 As with Gladness Men of Old

LSB 397



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to Thy low - ly bed,
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare At Thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day Keep us in the nar - row way;
5 In the heav'n-ly coun - try bright Need they no cre - at - ed light;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;
There to bend the knee be - fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
So may we with ho - ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al - loy,
And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev - er - more be led by Thee.
So may we with will - ing feet Ev - er seek Thy mer - cy seat.
All our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo - ry hide.
There for - ev - er may we sing Al - le - lu - ias to our King.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, alt. Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872 Text and tune: Public domain

THE PREFACE/ PROPER PREFACE

Now we approach the Sacrament, the Lord's Supper, in which the Lord comes to bless us with His very body and blood. We move toward the Sacrament with prayers of thanksgiving and songs of adoration. (TLH, p. 24-25)

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly fitting, right, and spiritually beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lived among us as a human being and revealed His glory as Your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

THE SANCTUS

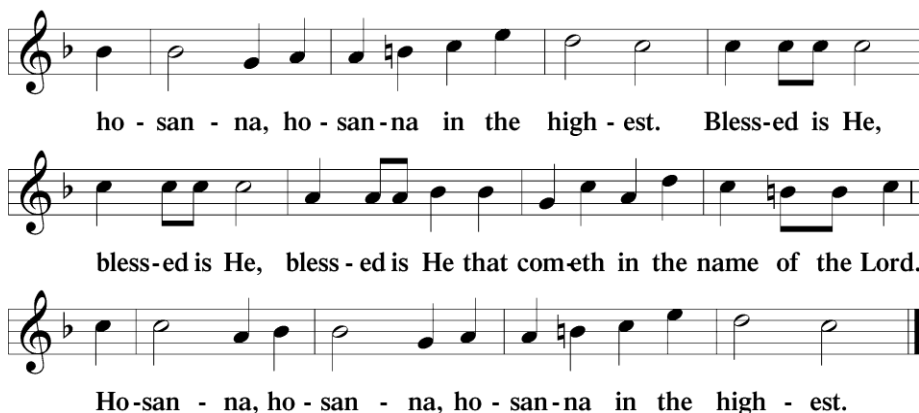
Latin: "Holy." We join our voices to the angels who sing, "Holy, Holy, Holy" round about His throne and we welcome Him with the Palm Sunday multitude who sang, "Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest!" (TLH, p. 26)



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,
 bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.
 Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE 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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

(Pastor)

The words spoken by Jesus the night He instituted the Lord's Supper by which our Lord assured to His Church the real presence of His sacramental body and blood for all time.

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always!



C A - men.

THE AGNUS DEI

Latin: "Lamb of God." As we approach the Table of Forgiveness, we want to think only of that Lamb of God who was sacrificed for us on Calvary's cross. (TLH, page 28)

Q O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the
world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.


THE DISTRIBUTION

Note to our Guests: We are so glad you are worshiping with us today!

The Word of God treats the Lord's Supper with great care. The Word of God considers the Lord's Supper to be a wonderful Means of Grace – a way in which Christ forgives and blesses. It is also considered an opportunity for congregations to express unity and oneness (1 Corinthians 10:16-17) – that is, to say to the world "This is what we believe!" But God's Word also warns against taking the Sacrament to our judgment (1 Corinthians 11:27-30). For these reasons our congregation asks that you fully understand our teachings before partaking. We respectfully ask that those who have joined this congregation through public confession of faith, or who are members of another congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) approach the altar at the usher's direction. Speak to our pastor anytime and he will be glad to provide the information you would need – and want. We look forward to communing together, Lord willing, in the future.

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

Latin: "Now Dismiss." Simeon's words after seeing the Christ Child. (Luke 2:29-32)
(TLH, p. 29)



C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

THE 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 upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



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

Closing Hymn: 399 *The Star Proclaims...* (please stand for last verse)

LSB 399



1 The star pro - claims the King is here; But, Her - od,
2 The east - ern sa - ges saw from far And fol - lowed
3 With - in the Jor - dan's sa - cred flood The heav'n - ly
4 And oh, what mir - a - cle di - vine, When wa - ter
△ 5 For this Thy glad e - piph - a - ny All glo - ry,



why this sense - less fear? For He who of - fers heav'n - ly
on His guid - ing star; And, led by light, to light they
Lamb in meek - ness stood That He, of whom no sin was
red - dened in - to wine! He spoke the word, and forth it
Je - sus, be to Thee, Whom with the Fa - ther we a -



birth Seeks not the king - doms of this earth.
trod And by their gifts con - fessed their God.
known, Might cleanse His peo - ple from their own.
flowed In streams that na - ture ne'er be - stowed.
dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Coelius Sedulius, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1535, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug
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:
1/7/24

St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Class – 9am

Worship w/ Communion & Church Council Installation – 10am

Church Christmas Un-decorating (Mt. View) – 11am

(Lunch provided by Women's Auxiliary afterwards)

St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward):

Worship w/ Communion & Church Council Installation – 1pm

"Annual Reports" Congr. Meeting – 2pm

This Week: Monday – **SSLS – School Resumes – 8:15am**
Tuesday - **Bible Instruction Class** (Fenton) (Mt. View) – **11:30am**
Wednesday – **Confirmation Class** (Lang) (Mt. View) – **4pm**

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West** (Mt. View): **Bible Class – 9am**
Worship / Wayne Bliss Memorial Victory Service – 10am
Fellowship Luncheon – 11am
Women's Auxiliary – (after luncheon)

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

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

In Your Mailboxes and in the Church Entry – St. Stephen Church Calendar – *January*

Church Christmas Un-Decorating – After Worship in Mountain View Today – 11am

Epiphany Sunday marks the end of the Christmas season. We will be taking down the Christmas decorations after our worship service in Mountain View today at **11am**. The Women's Auxiliary will be providing lunch afterwards. Please stay and help us if you are able. Thank you!

Memorial Victory Service For Wayne Bliss – Sunday, January 14th @ 10am (Mt. View) –

The memorial/victory service for Wayne will take place during the worship service next **Sunday, January 14th @ 10am**. The Women's Auxiliary will be providing a light luncheon afterwards.

Jesus said... "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.

Do you believe this?" – John 11:25-26

"Annual Reports" Congregational Meeting – East Bay @ 2pm Today – The East Bay congregation will be having an "Annual Reports" congregational meeting after the worship service today at 2pm. During the meeting the annual reports from the church council and pastor will be read. NOTE: We will meet in Room 5 for the meeting, since Grace congregation is having their "Good Bye" worship service at 3pm in the sanctuary.

CLC News – Pastor Thomas Schuetze of St. Paul Lutheran of Lakewood, CO *has received* the calls from Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI and St. Peter's Lutheran of Iron River, MI. < > Pastor Aaron Ude of Good Shepherd Lutheran in Rapid City, SD *has received* the call from Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN.

Kinship Aid / Overseas Mission News - BELC Cyclone Aid - In early December, Cyclone Michaung struck the eastern coast of India and damaged and flooded churches of the BELC, as well as the Martin Luther Bible School (MLBS) pastor training center. Eleven of the fourteen districts of the BELC were affected. A total of 55 churches, as well as the MLBS, were damaged by the cyclone and are in need of repair. The Board of Missions has approved \$12,000 of disaster relief to be sent from Kinship to assist with building repair and reconstruction. In addition to the above aid, \$2000.00 from Kinship was sent to Tanzania to help with the flooding there. Please remember our brethren of the BELC and Tanzania in your prayers, and consider supporting this effort through offerings to Kinship.

2024 CLC Mission Helper Trip – Applications are still being accepted for the 2024 CLC Mission Helper Trip to Africa. Participants will have the privilege of helping to spread the Gospel to children in Kenya/Uganda, Tanzania, or Zambia in July. The application period will end on January 16th. Find more information and apply online at www.mht.lutheranmissions.org.