

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

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

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January 28, 2024 † Epiphany 4



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 29 (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: 528 *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

LSB 528

1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing My
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, As -
3 Je - sus! The name that charms our fears, That
4 He breaks the pow'r of can - celed sin; He

great Re - deem - er's praise, The glo - ries of my
sist me to pro - claim, To spread through all the
bids our sor - rows cease; 'Tis mu - sic in the
sets the pris - 'ner free. His blood can make the

God and King, The tri - umphs of His grace!
earth a - broad, The hon - ors of Thy name.
sin - ner's ears, 'Tis life and health and peace.
foul - est clean; His blood a - vails for me.

***5. Look unto Him, ye nations; own Your God, ye fallen race.
Look and be saved through faith alone, Be justified by grace.***

***6. See all your sins on Jesus laid; The Lamb of God was slain.
His soul was once an off'ring made For ev'ry soul of man.***

***7. To God all glory, praise, and love Be now and ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above, The Church in earth and heav'n.***

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt. Tune: Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829 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.

G Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

G 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:

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations. 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

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 (EHV)

¹⁵ *The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brother Israelites. Listen to him.*

¹⁶ *That is exactly what you asked from the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly. You said, "Do not let me hear the voice of the LORD my God anymore, and do not let me see this great fire again, or I will die."*

¹⁷ *Then the LORD said to me, "They have done well by saying what they said. ¹⁸ I will raise up a prophet for them from among their brothers, like you, and I will put my words in his mouth, and he will speak to them everything that I command him.*

¹⁹ *Anyone who will not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account. ²⁰ Any prophet who presumes to speak something in my name that I have not commanded him to speak or who speaks something in the name of other gods—that prophet shall die."*

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 6:1-6 (EHV)

P The second reading is from Romans 6:1-6.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

What shall we say then? Shall we keep on sinning so that grace may increase?

² *Absolutely not! We died to sin. How can we go on living in it any longer? ³ Or do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him by this baptism into his death, so that just as he was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too would also walk in a new life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be united with him in the likeness of his resurrection. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him, to make our sinful body powerless, so that we would not continue to serve sin.*

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!"



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

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

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

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

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

LSB 207

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: 842 *Son of God, Eternal Savior*

LSB 842

1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and
2 As You, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, So may we for
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and

truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us
oth - ers live. Free - ly have Your gifts been grant - ed;
Prince of Peace; Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion,
truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us

Hal - lows all our hu - man race, You our Head, who, throned in
Free - ly may Your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and Yours the
Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease. By Your pa - tient years of
Hal - lows all our hu - man race: By Your pray - ing, by Your

glo - ry, For Your own will ev - er plead: Fill us with Your
sil - ver, Yours the wealth of land and sea; We but stew - ards
toil - ing, By Your si - lent hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered
will - ing That Your peo - ple should be one, Grant, O grant our

love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.
of Your boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.
thirst of plea - sure, Stem our self - ish greed of gain.
hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth Your will be done.

Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855–1932, alt.

Tune: Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse . . . Contradanseu, c. 1710, Amsterdam

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: Mark 1:21-28 (EHV)

²¹ Then they went into Capernaum. On the next Sabbath day, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²² They were amazed at his teaching, because he was teaching them as one who has authority and not as the experts in the law. ²³ Just then there was a man with an unclean spirit in their synagogue. It cried out, ²⁴ “What do we have to do with you, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” ²⁵ Jesus rebuked the spirit, saying, “Be quiet! Come out of him!” ²⁶ The unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions, and after crying out with a loud voice, it came out of him. ²⁷ Everyone was so amazed that they began to discuss this with each other. They said, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands the unclean spirits, and they obey him!” ²⁸ News about him spread quickly through all the region of Galilee.

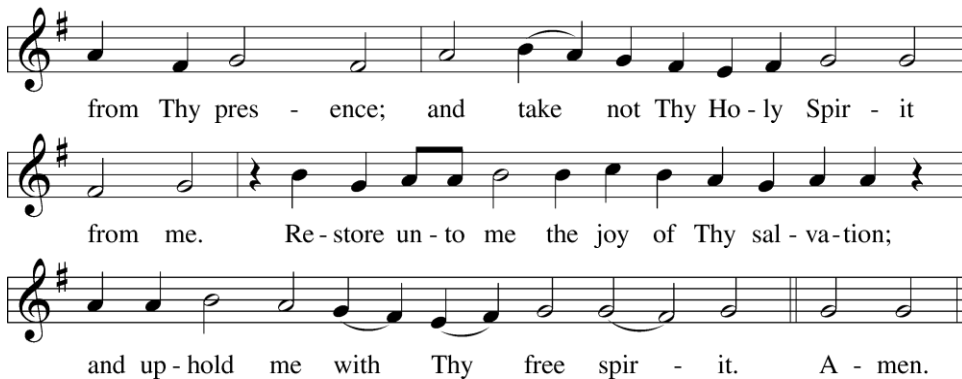
Sermon Theme: Powerful Words

- † Words are powerful. How does the person speaking the words also affect their power and effectiveness?
- † How were Jesus’ words very different from the words of the “**experts in the law**” of His day? (v. 22, 27)
- † How can you use Jesus’ powerful words in your life this week?

Offertory

LSB 956





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: 523 O Word of God Incarnate

LSB 523

1 O Word of God in - car-nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
2 The Church from You, dear Mas-ter, Re-ceived the gift di - vine;
3 O make Your Church, dear Sav-ior, A lamp of bur - nished gold
O Truth un - changed, un-chang-ing, O Light of our dark sky:
And still that light is lift - ed O'er all the earth to shine.
To bear be - fore the na - tions Your true light as of old!
We praise You for the ra - diance That from the hal-lowed page,
It is the chart and com - pass That, all life's voy - age through,
O teach Your wan-d'ring pil - grims By this their path to trace
A lan - tern to our foot-steps, Shines on from age to age.
Mid mists and rocks and quick-sands Still guides, O Christ, to You.
Till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, They see You face to face!

Text: William W. How, 1823–97, alt.

Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen

Text and tune: Public domain

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: 849 *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* (Please stand for last verse)




1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



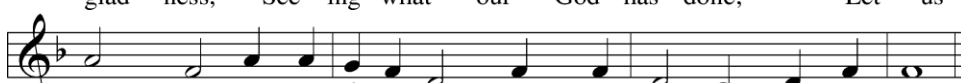
at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
With the pierc - ing, two-edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
 wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
 glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
 Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 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
 Tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments - Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

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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**
 1/28/24 **Worship – 10am**
Voter's Annual Reports Meeting – 11am

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

This Week: Tuesday – **Bible Instruction Class** (Fenton) (Mt. View) – **12:15pm**
Wednesday – **Confirmation Class** (Lang) (Mt. View) – **4pm**

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Study – 9am**
 2/4/24 **Worship w/ communion – 10am**
Choir – 11am

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

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

Voter's Annual Reports Meeting (Mountain View) – TODAY @ 11am –

Our voter's annual reports meeting will be held **TODAY at 11am**. The committee chairmen of our church council & school will be delivering their annual reports next Sunday, along with the pastor's annual report. The congregation is invited and encouraged to join us for this annual meeting in the fellowship hall.

New 2024 Church Directories UPDATES Needed – Due by February 11th – We plan to print and distribute new church directories by mid-February. Please check your contact information in the directory on the table in the church entryway to make sure everything is correct. Please write in the necessary changes. If everything is correct please put a check mark by your family's entry. **Please let me know of any changes by February 11th.**

Thank you! – Pastor Luke

Baptism in our East Bay Worship Service Today - Lexi Williams, daughter of one of our members, Deanna Williams (Deanna is BJ Lillo's sister), is having her baby boy, Jaelen, baptized in our East Bay worship service this afternoon, since it is closer to where they are living now (San Rafael). We praise God for brining Jaelen into His family through the water and the word of baptism today!

***"Indeed, as many of you as were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ."
– Galatians 3:27 (EHV)***

Choir Practices for Good Friday and Easter Begin Next Sunday – Feb. 4th at 11am –

If you would like to join our choir we will be starting our practices for our Good Friday and Easter songs next Sunday (2/4) after the worship service at 11am.

CLC News – Pastor David Baker *has been called* by Resurrection Lutheran in Corpus Christi, TX. <> Pastor Tim Daub of Prince of Peace Lutheran in Hecla, South Dakota *has been called* by Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN to be their second pastor. <> Mr. Ross Kok of Holy Cross Lutheran School in Phoenix, AZ *has been called* by Gethsemane Lutheran in Saginaw, MI. <> Pastor Thomas Schuetze of St. Paul Lutheran of Lakewood, CO *has returned* the calls from Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI and St. Peter's Lutheran of Iron River, MI.