

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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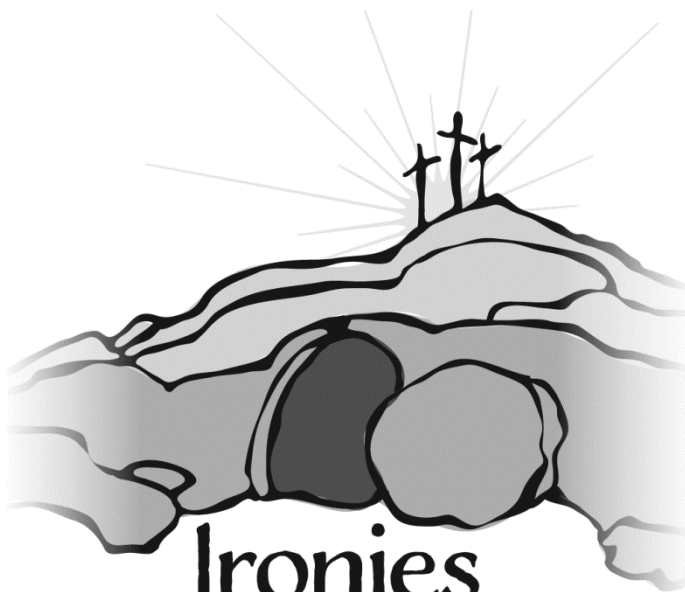
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Ash Wednesday Worship – February 14th, 2024



**Ironies
of the Passion**

Opening Hymn: 440 *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*

LSB 440



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now On Your ho - ly pas - sion;
2 Make me see Your great dis - tress, An - guish, and af - flic - tion,
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone Make me see Your pas - sion,
4 Grant that I Your pas - sion view With re - pen - tant griev - ing.



With Your Spir - it me en - dow For such med - i - ta - tion.
Bonds and stripes and wretch - ed - ness And Your cru - ci - fix - ion;
But its cause to me make known And its ter - mi - na - tion.
Let me not bring shame to You By un - ho - ly liv - ing.



Grant that I in love and faith May the im - age cher - ish
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,
Ah! I al - so and my sin Wrought Your deep af - flic - tion;
How could I re - fuse to shun Ev - 'ry sin - ful plea - sure



Of Your suf - f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per - ish.
How for them You died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned You.
This in - deed the cause has been Of Your cru - ci - fix - ion.
Since for me God's on - ly Son Suf - fered with - out mea - sure?

***5. If my sins give me alarm And my conscience grieve me,
Let Your cross my fear disarm; Peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won By Your holy passion.
If for me He slays His Son, God must have compassion!***

***6. Graciously my faith renew; Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from You, Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above Sing Your praise forever.***

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.**

Confession and Absolution

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

P Beloved of God: Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him, in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

C **Almighty God, Merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our sins and pray that You would be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.**

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 peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!


P O Lord, open my lips,

C **And my mouth will declare Your praise!**

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C **Make haste, to help me, O Lord!**

(tune of "The Doxology")

 **Lord Jesus Christ, You set us free—
Accept our thanks eternally!
Forgiven through Your precious blood,
We now are reconciled to God. Amen.**

Psalm (Responsive) - *Psalm 51:1-12 (NKJV)*

P Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness;

C **According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions.**

P Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

C **And cleanse me from my sin.**

P For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me.

C **Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight –**

P That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.

C **Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.**

P Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts,

C **And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.**

P Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

C **Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

P Make me hear joy and gladness,

C **That the bones You have broken may rejoice.**

P Hide Your face from my sins,

C **And blot out all my iniquities.**

P Create in me a clean heart, O God,

C **And renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

P Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

C **Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.**

Prayer of the Day / Psalm Prayer

P We pray:

Almighty and merciful Father, you freely forgive those who, as David of old, acknowledge and confess their sins. Create in us pure hearts, and wash away all our sins in the blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. We pray this through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Scripture Reading

THE PASSION HISTORY OF CHRIST - Part 1

When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out to the Mount of Olives as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him. And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee."

But Peter answered and said to Him, "Even though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away."

And Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you that today, even this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times."

But Peter spoke more vehemently: "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You." And so said all the disciples.

They went over the brook Kidron, and they came to a garden named Gethsemane. When He came to the place, Jesus said to His disciples: "Sit here while I go and pray over there. Pray that you may not enter into temptation."

And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, James and John, and He was withdrawn from the others about a stone's throw. And He began to be sorrowful, troubled, and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."

And He went a little farther, and He knelt down. He fell to the ground on His face and prayed, that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And He said: "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me. Nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will. Not My will, but Yours, be done."

Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony He prayed more fervently; and His sweat became like great drops of blood, falling down to the ground.

When He rose up from prayer, He came to His disciples and found them sleeping from sorrow. He said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? What, could you not watch with Me one hour?" He said

to them, "Why do you sleep? Rise, watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing and ready, but the flesh is weak."

He went away again a second time and prayed, saying the same words, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done."

And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him. So He left them and went away again and prayed the third time, saying the same words once more. Then He came to His disciples the third time, and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough. Behold, the hour has come; it is at hand. Behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise up, let us be going. Behold, he who betrays Me is at hand."

Now Judas, one of the twelve, who betrayed Jesus, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples. Then Judas, having received a detachment of troops and officers from the chief priests and the scribes and the Pharisees and elders of the people, came there with lanterns and torches, and weapons: swords and clubs. And immediately, while Jesus was still speaking, a great multitude came, and the one called Judas went before them. Now he who betrayed Jesus had given them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the one; take Him, and lead Him away safely."

Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, "Whom are you seeking?"

They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus said to them, "I am He." And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them. Then, when He said to them, "I am He," they went backward and fell to the ground.

Then He asked them again, "Whom are you seeking?"

And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus answered, "I told you that I am He; therefore if you seek Me, let these go their way," that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, "Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none."

Judas drew near to Jesus to kiss Him. He went up to Him, and said to Him, "Hail, Master!" and kissed Him. And Jesus said to him, "Friend, why have you come? Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

When those who were around Jesus saw what was going to happen, they said to Him, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him. And suddenly Simon Peter, one of those who stood by with Jesus, stretched out his hand and drew out his sword, and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

But Jesus answered and said, "Permit even this!" And He touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into the sheath; for all who take the sword will die by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? But how then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus? Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given me?"

In that hour Jesus said to the chief priests and captains of the temple and elders who had come to Him, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you in the temple, teaching, and you did not lay hands on Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness. All this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. The Scriptures must be fulfilled.

Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled. Now a certain young man followed Him, having a linen cloth thrown around his naked body; and the young men laid hold of him. And he left the linen cloth and fled from them naked.

P Here ends our Passion History reading.

C **All we like sheep have gone astray,
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
By his wounds we are healed.**

Confession of Faith: 2nd Article of the Apostle's Creed (Luther's Catechism, Sydow p. 87)

C **"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: “Enslaved By Sin and Bound in Chains”

TLH 141

***1 Enslaved by sin and bound in chains, Beneath its dreadful tyrant sway,
And doomed to everlasting pains, We wretched, guilty captives lay.***

***2 Nor gold nor gems could buy our peace, Nor all the world’s collected store
Suffice to purchase our release; A thousand worlds were all too poor.***

***3 Jesus, the Lord, the mighty God, An all-sufficient ransom paid.
O matchless price! His precious blood For vile, rebellious traitors shed.***

***4 Jesus the Sacrifice became To rescue guilty souls from hell;
The spotless, bleeding, dying Lamb Beneath avenging Justice fell.***

***5 Amazing goodness! Love divine! Oh, may our grateful hearts adore
The matchless grace nor yield to sin Nor wear its cruel fetters more!***

Text: Public domain

Sermon Text: Luke 18:9-14 (EHV)

⁹ Jesus told this parable to certain people who trusted in themselves (that they were righteous) and looked down on others: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple courts to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed about himself like this: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people, robbers, evildoers, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week. I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³ “However the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even lift his eyes up to heaven, but was beating his chest and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ “I tell you, this man went home justified rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Sermon Theme: Ironies of the Passion – “This Man Went Home Justified”

† *irony* = “a combination of circumstances or a result that is the opposite of what might be expected.”

† What is the irony, the unexpected result, in this parable?

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.

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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

LSB 209

☐ **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: 433 *Glory Be to Jesus*

LSB 433



1 Glo - ry be to Je - sus, Who in bit - ter pains
2 Grace and life e - ter - nal In that blood I find;
3 Blest through end - less a - ges Be the pre - cious stream
4 A - bel's blood for ven - geance Plead - ed to the skies;

Poured for me the life - blood From His sa - cred veins!
Blest be His com - pas - sion, In - fi - nite - ly kind!
Which from end - less tor - ment Did the world re - deem!
But the blood of Je - sus For our par - don cries.

***5. Oft as earth exulting Wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing Make their glad reply.***

***6. Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood!***

Text: Italian, c. 18th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt. Tune: Friedrich Filitz, 1804–76
Text and tune: Public domain

Salutation (“Greeting”) and Prayer for Grace

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from You. Give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to live by Your Word. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness. We pray this through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus *Latin: “We bless.” We praise our LORD and Savior.*

LSB 202

P Bless we the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!



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

Closing Hymn: 423 *Jesus, Refuge of the Weary* (please stand for last verse)

LSB 423



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,
2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent



whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior
pen - tant vow, Though we see You wound - ed, bleed - ing, See Your
love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -



from the world a - bove: Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,
thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Yet Your sin - less death has brought us
hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



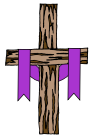
Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; Yet up - on the
Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest; On - ly what Your
From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en in our



cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.
grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: Girolamo Savonarola, 1452–98; tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826–96, alt.
Tune: Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz, 1745, Basel
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friday – **No School at SSLS** (Winter Break begins) /

Pacific Coast Teachers Conf. (Spokane, WA) – **Fri. 2/16 – Sun. 2/18**

This Sunday: **St. Stephen – West** (Mt. View): **NO Bible Class**

2/18/24

Worship – 10am

Choir - 11am

Move Classroom Furniture for floor cleaning – 11:30am

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

NO Bible Class

St. Stephen South (Huntington Beach): **Worship – 7pm**

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



May our Savior Jesus richly bless your worship and personal meditations on His Word during this season of Lent. Please continue to join us as we remember Christ's suffering and death for our sins in our worship services.