

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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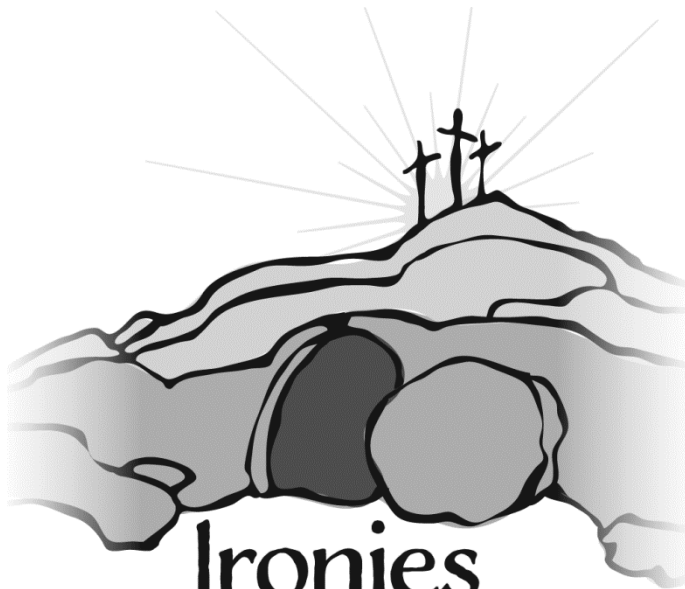
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First Sunday in Lent – February 18th, 2024



**Ironies
of the Passion**

✠ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 32 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) ✠

Opening Hymn: 418 (tune of LSB 526) *O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days*

♪ **1. *O Lord, throughout these forty days You prayed and kept the fast;
Inspire repentance for our sin, And free us from our past.***

**2. *You strove with Satan, and You won; Your faithfulness endured;
Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust In God's eternal Word.***

**3. *Though parched and hungry, yet You prayed And fixed Your mind above;
So teach us to deny ourselves, Since we have known God's love.***

**4. *Be with us through this season, Lord, And all our earthly days,
That when the final Easter dawns, We join in heaven's praise.***

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–98; para. Gilbert E. Doan, 1930
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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.**

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.

G **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 32 (NKJV)

P Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered.

C **Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity,
And in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

P When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long.

C **For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;
My vitality was turned into the drought of summer.**

P I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden.

C **I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You
In a time when You may be found;

C **Surely in a flood of great waters They shall not come near him.**

P You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble;

C **You shall surround me with songs of deliverance.**

P I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;

G I will guide you with My eye.

P Do not be like the horse or like the mule, Which have no understanding,

G Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you.

P Many sorrows shall be to the wicked;

G But he who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him.

G Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous;

P And shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Prayer of the Day / Psalm Prayer

P We pray:

Gracious Father in heaven, in countless ways we have transgressed against you.

But you have been merciful to us and have forgiven the guilt of our sin. Surround us with your unfailing love that we may rejoice in your great goodness now and forever.

We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Scripture Reading

THE PASSION HISTORY OF CHRIST - Part 2

Then the detachment of troops and the captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. And they led Him away and brought Him into the high priest's house. They led Him to Annas first; for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. Now it was Caiaphas who gave counsel to the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

And Simon Peter followed Jesus at a distance, and so did the other disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest. But Peter stood at the door outside. Then the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to her who kept the door and brought Peter in, right into the courtyard of the high priest.

And the servants and officers, who had made a fire of coals in the midst of the courtyard, stood there; for it was cold. And they warmed themselves. And Peter stood with them and warmed himself at the fire. And after they had sat down together, Peter sat down with the servants to see the end.

The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine. Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world; I always taught in synagogues, and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing. Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them; indeed they know what I said."

And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, "Do You answer the high priest like that?"

Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?"

Then Annas sent Jesus bound to Caiaphas the high priest; and with him were assembled all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes. And the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death; and found none, even though many false witnesses came forward. For many bore false witness against Him, but their testimonies did not agree.

But at last two false witnesses came forward and bore false witness against Him, saying, "This Fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.' We heard Him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.'" But not even then did their testimony agree.

And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, saying, "Do You answer nothing? What is it that these men testify against You?"

But Jesus kept silent and answered nothing.

And the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, "I adjure You by the living God that You tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God, the Son of the Blessed?"

And Jesus said, "I am. It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Behold, now you have heard His blasphemy. What do you think?"

And they all condemned Him to be worthy of death. They answered and said, "He is deserving of death!"

Then some began to spit in His face. And the men who held Jesus mocked Him. They blindfolded Him and struck Him in the face and asked Him, "Prophecy to us, Christ; who is the one that struck You?" And many other things they blasphemously spoke against Him. And the officers struck Him with the palms of their hands.

Now Peter was sitting outside, below in the courtyard. And a certain servant-girl, one of the servant-girls of the high priest, the one who kept the door, saw Peter warming himself as he sat by the fire. She came to him and said, "You are not also one of this Man's disciples, are you?"

He said, "I am not."

She said, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee." She looked intently at him and said, "This man was also with Him."

But Peter denied it before them all, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him; I neither know nor understand what you are saying."

And he went out on the porch. And a rooster crowed.

And after a little while, when he had gone out to the gateway, another servant-girl saw him and began to say to those who stood by, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth. This is one of them."

Now Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. Therefore they said to him, "You are not also one of His disciples, are you?" One saw him and said, "You also are of them."

And again he denied it with an oath. He said, "Man, I am not. I do not know the Man."

Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, "Surely this fellow also was with Him; for he is a Galilean." Those who stood by said to Peter: "Surely you are one of them; for you are a Galilean, and your speech shows it." One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of him whose ear Peter cut off, said, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?"

Peter therefore denied it again. He said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying." He began to curse and swear, "I do not know the Man. I do not know this Man of whom you speak."

And immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed a second time. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter called to mind the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times."

And when Peter thought about it, he went out and wept bitterly.

Immediately in the morning, as soon as it was day, the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, came together. They took counsel against Jesus to put Him to death. They held a consultation with the elders and the scribes and the whole council.

They led Jesus into their council, saying, "If You are the Christ, tell us."

But He said to them, "If I tell you, you will by no means believe; and if I also ask you, you will by no means answer Me or let Me go. Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God."

Then they all said, "Are You then the Son of God?"

And He said to them, "You rightly say that I am."

And they said, "What further testimony do we need? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth."

L 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)

**☐ "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: 453 v. 1-5 *Upon the Cross Extended*

LSB 453 v. 1-5



1 Up - on the cross ex - tend - ed See, world, your
2 Come, see these things and pon - der, Your soul will
3 Who is it, Lord, that bruised You? Who has so
4 I caused Your grief and sigh - ing By e - vils
5 Your soul in griefs un - bound - ed, Your head with



Lord sus - pend - ed. Your Sav - ior yields His breath.
fill with won - der As blood streams from each pore.
sore a - bused You And caused You all Your woe?
mul - ti - ply - ing As count - less as the sands.
thorns sur - round - ed, You died to ran - som me.



The Prince of Life from heav - en Him - self has free - ly
Through grief be - yond all know - ing From His great heart came
We all must make con - fes - sion Of sin and dire trans -
I caused the woes un - num - bered With which Your soul is
The cross for me en - dur - ing, The crown for me se -



giv - en To shame and blows and bit - ter death.
flow - ing Sighs well - ing from its deep - est core.
gres - sion While You no ways of e - vil know.
cum - bered, Your sor - rows raised by wick - ed hands.
cur - ing, You healed my wounds and set me free.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. John Kelly, 1833–90, alt. Tune: Heinrich Isaac, c. 1450–1517
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: John 11:45-53 (EHV)

⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary and saw what Jesus did believed in him. ⁴⁶ But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷ So the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin. They asked, “What are we going to do, because this man is doing many miraculous signs?” ⁴⁸ If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him. Then the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.”

⁴⁹ But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰ You do not even consider that it is better for us that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish." ⁵¹ He did not say this on his own, but, as high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, ⁵² and not only for that nation, but also in order to gather into one the scattered children of God. ⁵³ So from that day on they plotted to kill him.

Sermon Theme: Ironies of the Passion –
"It is Better that One Man Die for the People!"

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

† What was "unintentionally ironic" about Caiaphas' statement about Jesus in **v. 50**?

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

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: 439 v. 1-5, 12, 15 *O Dearest Jesus...*

LSB 439 v. 1-5, 12, 15



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law hast Thou bro - ken
 2 They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;
 3 Whence come these sor - rows, whence this mor - tal an - guish?
 4 What pun - ish - ment so strange is suf - fered yon - der!



That such sharp sen - tence should on Thee be spo - ken?
 With cru - el mock - ings to the cross they urge Thee;
 It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must lan - guish;
 The Shep - herd dies for sheep that loved to wan - der;



Of what great crime hast Thou to make con -
 They give Thee gall to drink, they still de -
 Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost in -
 The Mas - ter pays the debt His ser - vants



fes - sion, What dark trans - gres - sion?
 cry Thee; They cru - ci - fy Thee.
 her - it, This I do mer - it.
 owe Him, Who would not know Him.

***5. The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;
The sinful child of man may live in gladness;
Man forfeited his life and is acquitted;
God is committed.***

***12. I'll think upon Thy mercy without ceasing,
That earth's vain joys to me no more be pleasing;
To do Thy will shall be my sole endeavor
Henceforth forever.***

***15. And when, dear Lord, before Thy throne in heaven
To me the crown of joy at last is given,
Where sweetest hymns Thy saints forever raise Thee,
I, too, shall praise Thee.***

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
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.

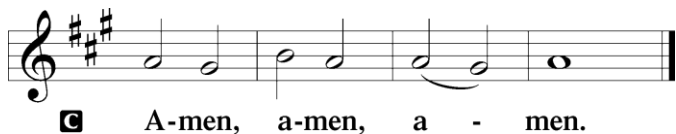
Benedicamus *Latin: "We bless." We praise our LORD and Savior.*

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!



Closing Hymn: 453 v. 6-7 *Upon the Cross Extended*

LSB 453 v. 6-7

6 Your cords of love, my Sav - ior, Bind me to
7 Your cross I place my be - fore me; Its sav - ing

You for - ev - er, I am no long - er mine.
pow'r re - store me, Sus - tain me in the test.

To You I glad - ly ten - der All that my life can
It will, when life is end - ing, Be guid - ing and at -

ren - der And all I have to You re - sign.
tend - ing My way to Your e - ter - nal rest.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. John Kelly, 1833–90, alt. Tune: Heinrich Isaac, c. 1450–1517 Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Adapted from the Lutheran Service Book.

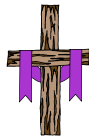
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<https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today:
2/18/24

St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): No Bible Class

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

Mon. - Friday – **No School at SSLS** (Winter Break)

Tuesday – **Church Council** (Zoom) (Mt. View) – **7pm**

Wednesday – **Bible Instruction Class** (Fenton) (Mt. View) – **11:30am**

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

2/25/24

Worship – 10am

Choir - 11am

Women's Auxiliary – 11:30am

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

Bible Class – 2pm



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.

Help Needed – Move Remaining Furniture from Back Classroom into Fellowship Hall –

After choir practice today we will be moving the remaining furniture out of the back classroom into the fellowship hall in preparation for the cleaning and waxing of the classroom floor this week. The students and teachers moved most of the furniture out, but there are still a few large items of furniture remaining. If you are able to stay and help it would be greatly appreciated. Any questions? Please speak with Scott Mueller. Thank you!

Southern California Worship and Bible Study – TONIGHT Sun. 2/18 @ 7pm

Our Southern California Worship Service and Bible Study will be held **TONIGHT Sunday, February 18th @ 7pm.** (NOTE the start time change to **7pm**). Seth and Alyssa Hamblin will be hosting our service again this time at their residence in Huntington Beach. Their address is:

**9842 Hamilton Ave. Apt. 11
Huntington Beach, CA 92646**

Note from Alyssa & Seth Regarding Parking: "Park on the street around the corner on St. John Lane to the west of our apartment to avoid having to walk across 4 lanes of traffic."

Weekly Sermon Podcast from the CLC's Ministry By Mail - For 65 years, the CLC's

"Ministry by Mail" has been producing print sermons for distribution. Originally this was done by postal mail, especially for members living at a distance from their home church or serving in the military. With the arrival of the internet, sermons began being sent by email and posted online (www.lutheransermons.org). Ministry by Mail now offers audio versions of their sermons through weekly Podcast services. You can find these sermons on most major podcast platforms such as Google, Apple Podcasts, and Spotify by searching "*CLC Ministry by Mail*." Hit "subscribe" or "follow" to receive notifications of weekly uploads. Contact Ministry by Mail editor, Nathan Pfeiffer, for more information – editor@lutheransermons.org

CLC News - Immanuel Lutheran Church and School, Mankato, MN *has called* Pastor Michael Gurath of Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church and School, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor Paul Krause of Zion Lutheran in Hidewood and Trinity Lutheran in Watertown, SD *has returned* the calls from Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI and St. Peter's Lutheran of Iron River, MI.