

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

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

320 Moorpark Way - Mountain View, California 94041-1600



Pastor: Luke Bernthal

Email: lbernthal@live.com ✝ Cell: (402) 389-2147

Home: (650) 282-5752

Online Video Production: Chris Holt, Julia Bernthal & Scott Mueller

Organist: Barb Gullerud

Website: sslcwest.org

Church Office: (650) 964-5915

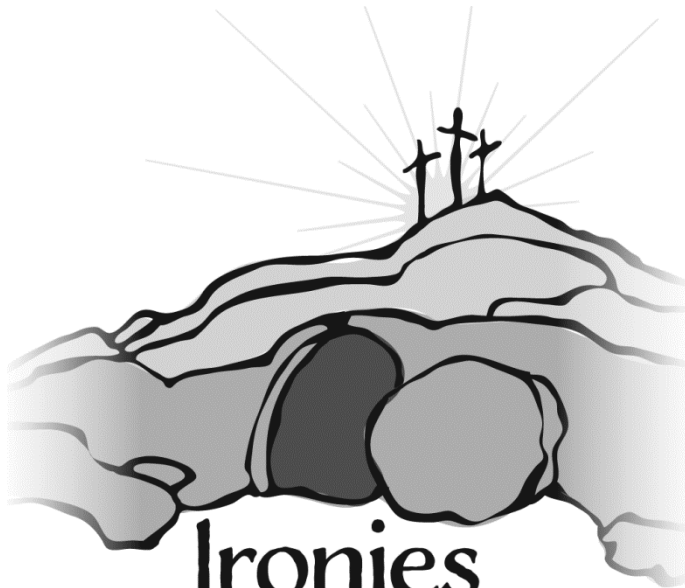
St. Stephen Lutheran School Staff: Isaac & Mikkela Schmitt (Teachers),
Julia Bernthal (Administrator), Pastor Luke Bernthal (Principal)

School Office: (650) 961-2071

School Website: ssls.org



Second Sunday in Lent – February 25th, 2024

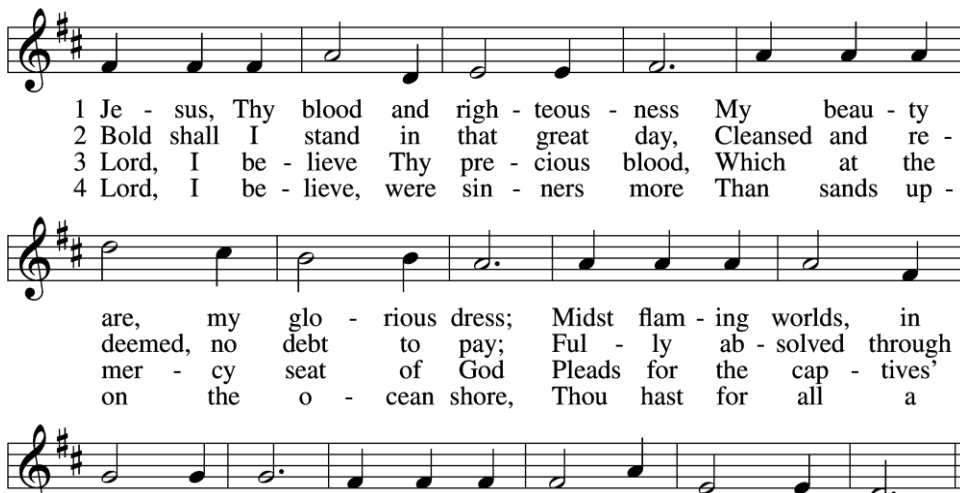


**Ironies
of the Passion**

✠ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 38 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) ✠

Opening Hymn: 563 *Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness*

LSB 563



1 Je - sus, Thy blood and righ - teous - ness My beau - ty
2 Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and re -
3 Lord, I be - lieve Thy pre - cious blood, Which at the
4 Lord, I be - lieve, were sin - ners more Than sands up -

are, my glo - rious dress; Midst flam - ing worlds, in
deemed, no debt to pay; Ful - ly ab - solved through
mer - cy seat of God Pleads for the cap - tives'
on the o - cean shore, Thou hast for all a

these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
lib - er - ty, Was al - so shed in love for me.
ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.

**5. When from the dust of death I rise To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea: Jesus hath lived and died for me.**

**6. Jesus, be endless praise to Thee, Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made, An everlasting ransom paid.**

Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700–60; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703–91, alt. Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93
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.

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C 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:

Lord our God, You did not forget the pierced body of Your Son and His sighing was not hidden from You. In Your kindness look also on us, Your children, weighed down with sins, and give us the fullness of Your mercy. 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.

Scripture Reading

THE PASSION HISTORY OF CHRIST - Part 3

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."

Then the whole multitude of them arose, bound Jesus, and led Him away from Caiaphas to the Praetorium and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate, the governor; and it was early morning.

Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that Jesus had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."

And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!"

Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed and went and hanged himself. And falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out.

But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood." And they took counsel and bought with them the Potter's Field to bury strangers in. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.

Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, and gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me."

And the Jews themselves did not enter into the Praetorium lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover. Pilate then went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?"

They answered and said to him, "If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you."

Then Pilate said to them, "You take Him, and judge Him according to your law."

Therefore the Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death," that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die.

And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this Fellow perverting the nation and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King."

Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, and called Jesus. Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked Him, saying, "Are You the king of the Jews?"

Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself on this, or did others tell you this about me?"

Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me; what have you done?"

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?"

Jesus answered and said to him, "It is as you say. You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"

And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and said to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no fault in this Man. I find no fault in Him at all."

And the chief priests accused Him of many things. And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. Then Pilate asked Him again, saying, "Do You answer nothing? Do You not hear how many things they testify against You? See how many things they testify against You!"

But Jesus still answered nothing. He answered him not one word, so that Pilate, the governor, marveled greatly.

L Here ends our Passion History reading.

**G 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.**

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

LSB 207

**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 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: 454 *(tune of LSB 909)* ***Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle***
(please stand for last verse)

- 1. Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle; Sing the ending of the fray.
Now above the cross, the trophy, Sound the loud triumphant lay;
Tell how Christ, the world's redeemer, As a victim won the day.***
- 2. Tell how, when at length the fullness Of the appointed time was come,
He, the Word, was born of woman, Left for us His Father's home,
Blazed the path of true obedience, Shone as light amidst the gloom.***
- 3. Thus, with thirty years accomplished, He went forth from Nazareth,
Destined, dedicated, willing, Did His work, and met His death;
Like a lamb He humbly yielded On the cross His dying breath.***
- 4. Faithful cross, true sign of triumph, Be for all the noblest tree;
None in foliage, none in blossom, None in fruit thine equal be;
Symbol of the world's redemption, For the weight that hung on thee!***
- △ 5. Unto God be praise and glory; To the Father and the Son,
To the eternal Spirit honor Now and evermore be done;
Praise and glory in the highest While the timeless ages run.***

Text: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, c. 530–609; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Text: Public domain

Sermon Text: Matthew 26:1-5 (EHV)

When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, ²“You know that after two days it will be the Passover, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.” ³Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas. ⁴They plotted together how to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. ⁵But they said, “Not during the Festival, or else there might be a riot among the people.”

Sermon Theme: Ironies of the Passion – “Not During the Feast”

- ✠ *irony* = “a set of circumstances or a result that is the opposite of what might be expected.”
- ✠ Can you think of an event in your life where the timing was very important?
- ✠ What is the true irony of this account of Jesus’ enemies not wanting to kill Him during the Festival (the Passover)?

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.* †)

Sermon Hymn: 431 Not All the Blood of Beasts

LSB 431



1 Not all the blood of beasts On Jew - ish al - tars slain
2 But Christ, the heav'n - ly Lamb, Takes all our sins a - way;
3 My faith would lay its hand On that dear head of Thine,
4 My soul looks back to see The bur - den Thou didst bear
5 Be - liev - ing, we re - joice To see the curse re - move;



Could give the guilt - y con-science peace Or wash a - way the stain.
A sac - ri - fice of no - bler name And rich - er blood than they.
While as a pen - i - tent I stand, And there con - fess my sin.
When hang - ing on the curs - ed tree; I know my guilt was there.
We bless the Lamb with cheer - ful voice And sing His bleed - ing love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Tune: William Daman, c. 1540–1591
Text and tune: Public domain

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.**

- 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.



Closing Hymn: "Jesus My Great High Priest" (TLH 220 – tune of hymn LSB 565)
(please stand for last verse)

**1. Jesus, my great High Priest, Offered His Blood and died;
My guilty conscience seeks No sacrifice beside.
His pow'rful blood did once atone, And now it pleads before the Throne.**

**2. To this dear Surety's hand Will I commit my cause;
He answers and fulfils His Father's broken laws.
Behold my soul at freedom set; My Surety paid the dreadful debt.**

**3. My Advocate appears For my defense on high;
The Father bows His ears And lays His thunder by.
Not all that hell or sin can say Shall turn His heart, His love, away.**

**4. Should all the hosts of death And pow'rs of hell unknown
Put their most dreadful forms Of rage and mischief on,
I shall be safe, for Christ displays Superior pow'r and guardian grace.**

Acknowledgments - Adapted from the Lutheran Service Book.



Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.
Scripture quotations marked EHV are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®)
© 2019 Wartburg Project, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson.
Used by permission. All rights reserved.

The copyright to *The Ironies of the Passion* is held by Northwestern Publishing House.

© 2015 Northwestern Publishing House, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. All rights reserved.

Purchase of these resources gives the user permission to adapt and copy this material for use within a single congregation or organization.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **St. Stephen – West** (Mt. View): **Bible Class – 9am**
2/25/24 **Worship – 10am**
Choir – 11am
Women’s Auxiliary Meeting – 11:30am

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

This Week: Tuesday – **Board of Education Meeting** (Zoom) (Mt. View) – **6pm**
Wednesday - **Bible Instruction Class** (Fenton) (Mt. View) – **12:15pm**
Confirmation Class (Lang) (Mt. View) – **4pm**
Thursday – **Stockton Worship** (Oakmont) – **2pm**
SSLS Geography Fair & Open House (Mt. View) – **6:30pm**

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West** (Mt. View): **Bible Class – 9am**
3/3/24 **Worship w/ Communion– 10am**
Choir – 11am

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

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

*The
Season
of
Lent*



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 Sunday worship services.

In Your Mailboxes – *2024 St. Stephen Church Directory*

(if additional copies are needed, or if you’d like an electronic copy, please let Pastor Luke know).

Thank You! – A big thank you to all who helped move the items from the back classroom to the fellowship and back again this past week. It was a blessing to have so many willing helpers! And a HUGE thank you to Scott Mueller for doing the floor cleaning/polishing this week, and to Michael Horriilo for the use of his equipment. The classroom floor looks brand-new again! Thank you all for your support and help for our school and church!

CLC Convention in Eau Claire, WI – Thurs. June 20-Sun. June 23 - Delegate needed- We currently have one volunteer delegate (along with Pastor Luke and teacher Isaac Schmitt) as representatives for our congregation at this summer's CLC Convention in Eau Claire, WI (June 20-23). We are allowed one more delegate from our voting membership. If you are interested in attending as a delegate, or for more information, please speak with Pastor Luke.

CLC News – Teacher Josh Ohlmann Holy Trinity Lutheran School, West Columbia, SC *has received the call* to teach at Gethsemane Saginaw MI. <> Teacher Neil Bernthal of Immanuel Lutheran School, Winter Haven, FL, *has received* the call from Luther Memorial School, Fond du Lac, WI. <> Teacher Levi Schaller of Grace Lutheran School, Fridley, MN, *has received* the call from Messiah Lutheran School, Hales Corners, WI. — Teacher Levi *has also received* the call from Faith Lutheran School, Markesan, WI. <> Teacher Amy Osborne of Holy Trinity Lutheran School, West Columbia, SC, *has returned the call* from Faith Lutheran School, Markesan, WI. <> Teacher Kendra Rodebaugh of Gethsemane Lutheran School, Spokane, WA, *has returned the call* from Messiah Lutheran School, Hales Corners, WI.

Philippine Church Body in Fellowship with the CLC - After almost three years of correspondence, and several visits by our CLC missionary which included a representative of the CLC Board of Missions and a representative of the CLC Board of Doctrine, Pastor Jordan Palangyos of the "Lutheran Autonomous Mission of the Philippines" (LAMP) has successfully completed a colloquy and demonstrated unity with our confession. Based on this, CLC President Michael Wilke made the following announcement: "as President of the Church of the Lutheran Confession, it is my blessed privilege to declare that the Church of the Lutheran Confession is in fellowship with Pastor Palangyos and the Lutheran Autonomous Mission of the Philippines (LAMP). Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity! Psalm 133:1" "LAMP" consists of 2 congregations and 1 preaching station with about 60 souls, served by Pastor Palangyos along with four lay men who assist. May the LORD bless our joint church work together in spreading the Kingdom of Christ!



Open
HOUSE : *• tour our campus*
: *• meet the staff*
: *• view student displays*

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN SCHOOL INVITES YOU
TO OUR ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE/SPRING FAIR

February 29th @ 6:30pm

320 Moorpark Way
Mountain View, CA 94041