

# ***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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**Church Office: (650) 964-5915**

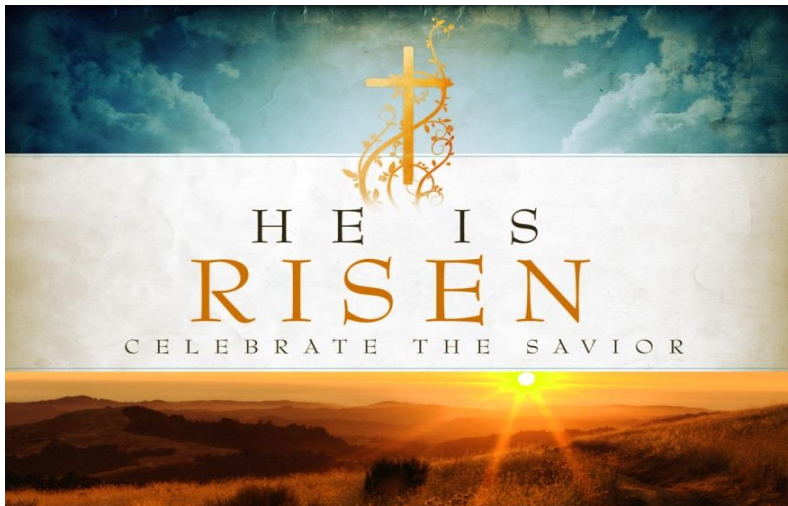
St. Stephen Lutheran School Staff: Isaac & Mikkela Schmitt (Teachers),  
Julia Bernthal (Administrator), Pastor Luke Bernthal (Principal)

**School Office: (650) 961-2071**

**School Website: [ssls.org](http://ssls.org)**

**March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

† Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 118 †



**Opening Hymn: 465 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds** (please stand for last verse)



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds In  
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift He brings, There -  
 3 O fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; Set  
 △ 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring And



praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed!  
 fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has tri - umphed!  
 heart and will on things a - bove That we con - quer  
 with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has tri - umphed!



He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and  
 He is liv - ing!" Now still He comes to give us  
 through Your tri - umph; Grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's  
 Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the Fa - ther and our



clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry  
 life And by His pres - ence stills all  
 day That by our lives we tru - ly  
 Lord, To Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!"  
 strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!  
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 God, All the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.  
 Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623, Köln  
 Text: © 1958 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862  
 Tune: Public domain

## Invocation

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

- P** Alleluia, Christ is risen!
- C** **He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**
- P** We celebrate this Resurrection day in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Upon the hill the cross stands empty. Morning light breaks upon the empty tomb!
- C** **Christ is risen, Alleluia!**
- P** New life is awakened! Our own resurrection is assured!  
God has given a living hope—an eternal hope—to a dying world!
- C** **Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia! Amen!**

## Confession and Absolution

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

- P** O Lord, prepare us for worship as we confess our sins.
- C** **Dear Heavenly Father, we have come together in Your presence, to hear Your Holy Word, and to worship You by celebrating the resurrection of Your Son.**
- P** O holy and righteous God, You alone can make us clean. Your mercies never end; they are new every morning. You have told us in Your Word, “We were buried with Him [Christ] through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4). With Your command and promise in mind, therefore, we come to You to confess our sins.
- C** **O holy and merciful Father, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But at Your gracious invitation I come to You, and for the sake of my Lord Jesus Christ and His suffering and death, I plead: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

**P** Having heard your confession, I as a called servant of Christ assure you that our gracious Father in heaven has heard your prayer, 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.

**G Amen.**

## “Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won”

LSB 490 v. 1–2



1 Je - sus lives! The vic - t'ry's won! Death no long - er can ap -  
2 Je - sus lives! To Him the throne High a - bove all things is



pall me; Je - sus lives! Death's reign is done!  
giv - en. I shall go where He is gone,



From the grave will Christ re - call me. Bright - er  
Live and reign with Him in heav - en. God is



scenes will then com-mence; This shall be my con - fi - dence.  
faith - ful; doubt-ings, hence! This shall be my con - fi - dence.

Text: Christian Fürchtegott Gellert, 1715–69; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, alt.  
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662  
Text and tune: Public domain

## The Easter Accounts

(A Compilation of some of the events of Jesus' Resurrection Day from the Four Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John)

### Jesus' Resurrection From the Dead

**Pastor:** Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. And now, as the first day of the week began to dawn, while it was still dark, they came to see the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared.

And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone from the door of the tomb and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow; and the guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men.

Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other women came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves,

**Congregation: "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?"**

**Pastor:** But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, for it was very large.

When Mary Magdalene saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb, she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them,

**Congregation: "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him."**

**Pastor:** The other women entered the tomb; but when they went in, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments, one young man clothed in a long white robe, sitting on the right side. And the women were alarmed and afraid and bowed their faces to the earth. And the angel answered and said to the women,

**Congregation: "Do not be afraid or alarmed; for I know that you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. Why do you seek the Living among the dead? He is not here, but He is risen, as He said. Behold, here is the place where they laid Him. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, "The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'"**

**Pastor:** And they remembered His words. And he said to them,

**Congregation: "But go quickly and tell His disciples and Peter that He is risen from the dead; and indeed, He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you. Behold, I have told you."**

**Pastor:** So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb with fear and great joy, for they trembled and were amazed; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. And they ran to report it to His disciples.

## The Visit of Peter and John

**Pastor:** Peter therefore arose and went out, and the other disciple, and they ran to the tomb. So they both ran together; and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first; and he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in.

Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. Stooping down and looking in, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and the handkerchief, that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself.

Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also, and he saw, and believed. For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again to their own homes, and Peter marveled to himself at what had happened.

### “The Day of Resurrection” *(Please stand for last verse)*

LSB 478



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,  
 2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil That we may see a - right  
 3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, Let earth its song be - gin,  
 △ 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, All praise to God the Son,



The pass - o - ver of glad - ness, The pass - o - ver of God.  
 The Lord in rays e - ter - nal Of res - ur - rec - tion light  
 Let all the world keep tri - umph And all that is there - in.  
 All praise to God the Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One!



From death to life e - ter - nal, From sin's do - min - ion free,  
 And, lis - t'ning to His ac - cents, May hear, so calm and plain,  
 Let all things, seen and un - seen, Their notes of glad - ness blend;  
 Let all the ran - somed num - ber Fall down be - fore the throne



Our Christ has brought us o - ver With hymns of vic - to - ry.  
 His own “All hail!” and, hear - ing, May raise the vic - tor strain.  
 For Christ the Lord has ris - en, Our joy that has no end!  
 And hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry As - cribe to God a - lone!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–79  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## **Jesus' Appearance to Mary Magdalene**

**Pastor:** Now when Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons. Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping; and, as she wept, she stooped down and looked into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. Then they said to her,

**Congregation:** "**Woman, why are you weeping?**"

**Pastor:** She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him."

Now when she had said this, she turned around, and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her,

**Congregation:** "**Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?**"

**Pastor:** She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him,

**Congregation:** "**Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.**"

**Pastor:** Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni," which is to say, Teacher.

**Congregation:** Jesus said to her, "**Do not cling to Me; for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren, and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'**"

**Pastor:** Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept, that she had seen the Lord, and He had spoken these things to her. And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe.

## **Jesus' Appearance to the Other Women**

**Pastor:** And as the other women went to tell the disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying,

**Congregation:** "**Rejoice.**"

**Pastor:** So they came and held Him by the feet and worshipped Him. Then Jesus said to them,

**Congregation:** "Do not be afraid; go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."

**Pastor:** And they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary, the mother of James, and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles. And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them.

**"Morning Breaks Upon the Tomb"**

TLH 203

♪ *Morning breaks upon the tomb; Jesus scatters all its gloom.  
Day of triumph through the skies, See the glorious Savior rise.*

*You who are of death afraid, Triumph in the scattered shade.  
Drive your anxious cares away; See the place where Jesus lay.*

*Christian, dry your flowing tears; Chase your unbelieving fears.  
Look on his deserted grave; Doubt no more his pow'r to save.*

Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

## **Jesus' Appearance to the Disciples Behind Closed Doors**

**Pastor:** Now as they said these things, when it was evening, on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus Himself came and stood in the midst of them, and said to them,

**Congregation:** "Peace be with you."

**Pastor:** He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table. But they were terrified and frightened and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And He said to them,

**Congregation:** "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."



**Pastor:** When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. But while they still did not believe for joy and marveled, He said to them,

**Congregation:** "Have you any food here?"

**Pastor:** So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb, and He took it and ate in their presence.

And He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. Then He said to them,

**Congregation:** "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms concerning Me."

**Pastor:** And He opened their understanding that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them,

**Congregation:** "Thus it is written and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day; and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things."

**Pastor:** So Jesus said to them again,

**Congregation:** "Peace be to you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

**Pastor:** And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them,

**Congregation:** "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

## “He Is Arisen! Glorious Word”

LSB 488

He is a - ris - en! Glo - rious Word! Now rec - on - ciled  
is God, my Lord; The gates of heav'n are o - pen.  
My Je - sus did tri - um - phant die, And Sa - tan's ar -  
rows bro - ken lie, De - stroyed hell's fierc - est weap - on.  
O hear what cheer! Christ vic - to - rious, Ris - ing glo - rious,  
Life is giv - ing. He was dead but now is liv - ing!

Text: Birgitte Katerine Boye, 1742–1824; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.  
Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608  
Text and tune: Public domain

## 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: 728** (Worship Supplement) ***Christ is Living***

W.S. 728

**Sermon Text: Luke 24:4-8 (EHV)**

**<sup>4</sup>While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men stood by them in dazzling clothing. <sup>5</sup>The women were terrified and bowed down with their faces to the ground. The men said to them, “Why are you looking for the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup>He is not here, but has been raised! Remember how he told you while he was still in Galilee <sup>7</sup>that the Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again?” <sup>8</sup>Then they remembered his words.**

**Sermon Theme: *Ironies of the Passion* –  
“Why Do You Look for the Living Among the Dead?”**

- † *irony* = “a result that is the opposite of what might be expected.”
- † What was “ironic” about where the women were looking for Jesus on Easter Sunday morning?
- † It was perfectly understandable why the women looked for Jesus at His tomb. But why should they have known better? (**v. 6-7**)
- † Where do we find Jesus today (Where should we “look for Him”)?
- † Application: What difference does Jesus’ resurrection make in your life—both now and in eternity?

## 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.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12  
Tune: Johann Georg Winer, 1583-1651, adapt.  
Text and tune: 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.* †)

**Easter Prayer / 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.**

**Benediction** *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

- ☐ 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.



☐ A-men, a-men, a - men.

### **Choir & Congregation Hymn: "I Know that My Redeemer Lives"**

**461 v. 1-4** (Choir), **v. 5-8** (Congregation & Choir) *(please stand for last verse)*

- (Choir) 1 I know that my Redeemer lives;  
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;  
He lives, my ever-living head.
- 2 He lives triumphant from the grave;  
He lives eternally to save;  
He lives all-glorious in the sky;  
He lives exalted there on high.
- 3 He lives to bless me with His love;  
He lives to plead for me above;  
He lives my hungry soul to feed;  
He lives to help in time of need.
- 4 He lives to grant me rich supply;  
He lives to guide me with His eye;  
He lives to comfort me when faint;  
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.

## (Congregation & Choir)



5 He lives to si - lence all my fears; He lives to  
6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'n - ly friend; He lives and  
7 He lives and grants me dai - ly breath; He lives, and  
8 He lives, all glo - ry to His name! He lives, my  
wipe a - way my tears; He lives to calm my  
loves me to the end; He lives, and while He  
I shall con - quer death; He lives my man - sion  
Je - sus, still the same; Oh, the sweet joy this  
trou - bled heart; He lives all bless - ings to im - part.  
lives, I'll sing; He lives, my Proph - et, Priest, and King.  
to pre - pare; He lives to bring me safe - ly there.  
sen - tence gives: I know that my Re - deem - er lives!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–99, abr.  
Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, d. 1793  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

Adapted from the Lutheran Service Book.

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**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>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today: **Children's Easter Egg Hunt** – After Worship Service  
**Easter Brunch** – (after Easter Egg Hunt) in Fellowship Hall

This Week: Mon. 4/1-Mon. 4/8- **No School at SSLS** (Easter Break)

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West** (Mt. View): **Bible Class – 9am**  
4/7/24 **Worship w/ communion – 10am**

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



**We Welcome Our Visitors** who are with us today. We hope that you are uplifted by the Gospel message of our Risen Savior Jesus at our Easter worship service. We invite you to join us every Sunday for worship. If you would like more information about our congregation, please contact Pastor Luke.

**In Your Mailbox & Church Entryway** – Church Calendar – *April*

**Thank You!** – to all who helped decorate and set up the church and fellowship hall for our Easter worship and brunch. Everything looks beautiful! Thank you to all who provided food for our Easter brunch as well. All of your efforts are very much appreciated!

**Children's Easter Egg Hunt & Easter Brunch** – Please join us for a children's Easter Egg Hunt (outside) and an Easter Brunch in the fellowship hall following our worship service.

**CLC News** – Caleb Noeldner *has returned the call* from Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI to be their 5th- 6th grade teacher and assistant principal. <> Teacher Josh Ohlmann Holy Trinity West Columbia, SC *has accepted the call* to teach at Gethsemane in Saginaw MI. <> Teacher Ross Kok of Holy Cross Lutheran in Phoenix, AZ *is still considering the call* to Berea Lutheran Church and School, Inver Grove Heights, MN. <> Mrs. Karen Swyter, a member of Peace with God Lutheran Church, Onalaska, WI, *has received the call* to be the 1st & 2nd grade teacher of Faith Lutheran School, Markesan, WI. <> Grace Lutheran Church and School in Valentine, NE *has extended a limited call* to Ms. Ann Sprengeler to teach the Grace lower grades from August through December 2024. Noah Ohlmann, *who earlier accepted the call* to teach in the lower grades, will graduate in December from ILC and will begin teaching at Grace in January 2025.