

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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Julia Bernthal (Administrator), Pastor Luke Bernthal (Principal)

School Office: (650) 961-2071

School Website: ssls.org

October 6, 2024 ✝ Pentecost 20

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. Please sign our guestbook in the entry.

✝ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 139 (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: 761 *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

LSB 761



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill Thy Law's de-mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; Sim - ply to Thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed,
Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to Thee for dress; Help - less, look to Thee for grace;
When I soar to worlds un-known, See Thee on Thy judg-ment throne,



Be of sin the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.
Foul, I to the foun-tain fly; Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–78
Tune: Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872
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, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, 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:

Merciful Father, Your patience and loving-kindness toward us have no end. Help us to fully trust in Your Son Jesus as our Rock and our Redeemer. Grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may always think and do those things that are pleasing in Your sight. 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.

First Reading

Romans 8:18-30 (EHV)

¹⁸ For I conclude that our sufferings at the present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ In fact, creation is waiting with eager longing for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in the hope ²¹ that even creation itself will be set free from slavery to corruption, in order to share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

²² For we know that all of creation is groaning with birth pains right up to the present time. ²³ And not only creation, but also we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we eagerly await our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. ²⁴ Indeed, it was for this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for something we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patient endurance.

²⁶ In the same way the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we should pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that are not expressed in words. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints, according to God's will.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose, ²⁹ because those God foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called. Those he called, he also justified. And those he justified, he also glorified.

[P] This is the Word of the Lord.

[C] Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 14:13-21 (EHV)

[P] The Gospel reading is from Matthew 14:13-21.

[C] Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³ When Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place to be alone. When the crowds heard this, they followed him on foot from the towns.

¹⁴ When Jesus got out of the boat, he saw a large crowd. He had compassion on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵ When evening came, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place and the hour is already late. Send the crowds away, so that they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

¹⁶ **But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”**

¹⁷ **They told him, “We have here only five loaves and two fish.”**

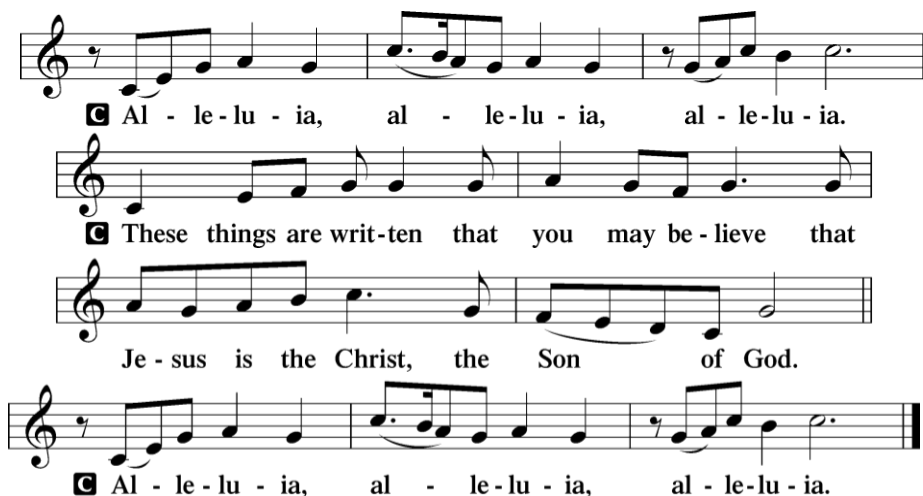
¹⁸ **“Bring them here to me,” he replied. ¹⁹ Then he instructed the people to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fish. After looking up to heaven, he blessed them. He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples. The disciples gave the food to the people. ²⁰ They all ate and were filled. They picked up twelve basketfuls of what was left over from the broken pieces. ²¹ Those who ate were about five thousand men, not even counting women and children.**

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Alleluia and Verse

When God speaks to us in His Word it is natural for us to respond. We sing “Allelujah!”—meaning, “Praise the Lord!”



The musical score is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the Alleluia: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The second staff contains the melody for the first line of the verse: "These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that". The third staff contains the melody for the second line of the verse: "Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God." The fourth staff contains the melody for the second line of the Alleluia: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." Each line of music is accompanied by a square icon with a letter (C or P) in the bottom left corner, indicating the type of response.

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

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

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

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


**☩ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day: 719 *I Leave All Things to God's Direction*

LSB 719



1 I leave all things to God's di - rec - tion; He loves me
2 God knows what must be done to save me; His love for
3 My God de - sires the soul's sal - va - tion; My soul He,
4 My God has all things in His keep - ing; He is the

both in joy and woe. His will is good, sure His af -
me will nev - er cease. Up - on His hands He did en -
too, de - sires to save. There - fore with Chris - tian res - ig -
ev - er faith - ful friend. He gives me laugh - ter af - ter

fec - tion; His ten - der love is true, I know. My for - tress
grave me With pur - est gold of lov - ing grace. His will su -
na - tion All earth - ly trou - bles I will brave. His will be
weep - ing, And all His ways in bless - ings end. His love en -

and my rock is He: What pleas - es God, that pleas - es me.
preme must ev - er be: What pleas - es God, that pleas - es me.
done e - ter - nal - ly: What pleas - es God, that pleas - es me.
dures e - ter - nal - ly: What pleas - es God, that pleas - es me.

Text: Salomo Franck, 1659–1725; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: Georg Neumark, 1621–81
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: Isaiah 44:6-8 (NKJV)

- ⁶ " Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
'I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God.**
- ⁷ And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me,
Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming
and shall come, Let them show these to them.**
- ⁸ Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it?
You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock;
I know not one.' "**

Sermon Theme: The LORD is Our Rock!

- 1. He is Rock-Solid in His Care for Us**
- 2. He is Rock-Solid in His Prophecies**
- 3. He is Rock-Solid in His Claim as the Only God**

Preaching Today: Pastor Emeritus Mark Bernthal
Eau Claire, WI

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.*

Prayer of the Church / Prayer Requests *We bring our prayers to God.*

Sermon Hymn: 575 *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

LSB 575



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'
2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on
3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me
4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I
blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my
His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and
in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly
then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -
own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.
prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!
Refrain
On Christ, the sol-id rock, I stand; All oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.
Tune: John Stainer, 1840–1901
Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Sacrament

*Now we approach the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in which Jesus comes to bless us with His very body and blood.
We move toward the Sacrament with prayers of thanksgiving and songs of adoration.*

Preface

LSB 208

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them up to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

- P** It is truly fitting, right, and spiritually beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus *Latin: "Holy."*

LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** We give You thanks, O Lord our God, for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ and His cross. Give us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. In His name we pray, as we now join in the prayer that He taught us:

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.

The Words of Institution

The words spoken by Jesus the night He instituted the Lord's Supper, by which our Lord assured to His Church the real presence of His body and blood in the Sacrament.

Pax Domini ("The Peace of the Lord")

LSB 209

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

Latin: "Lamb of God." Jesus is the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29)

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

The Distribution

- ✠ For the distribution we will start with those who would like to partake of the Lord's Supper from the pew. After that, those who would like to come up to the altar steps will partake as directed by our usher.

Note to our Guests: We are so glad you are worshiping with us this morning. The Word of God treats the Lord's Supper with great care. The Word of God considers the Lord's Supper to be a wonderful Means of Grace – a way in which Christ forgives and blesses. It is also considered an opportunity for congregations to express unity and oneness (1 Corinthians 10:16-17) – that is, to say to the world "This is what we believe!" But God's Word also warns against taking the Sacrament to our judgment (1 Corinthians 11:27-30). For these reasons our congregation asks that you fully understand our teachings before partaking. We respectfully ask that those who have joined this congregation through public confession of faith, or who are members of another congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) approach the altar at the usher's direction. By following this practice we do not make any judgment on your faith. Rather we do this out of love for you, as a public confession of our unity, and out of obedience to and love for God's Word. Speak to our pastor anytime and he will be glad to provide the information you would need – and want. We look forward to communing together, Lord willing, in the future.

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

Latin: "Now Dismiss." Simeon's words after seeing the Christ Child. (Luke 2:29-32)

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the the
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in lead the be - gin - ning, Is

(Song continues on next page →)

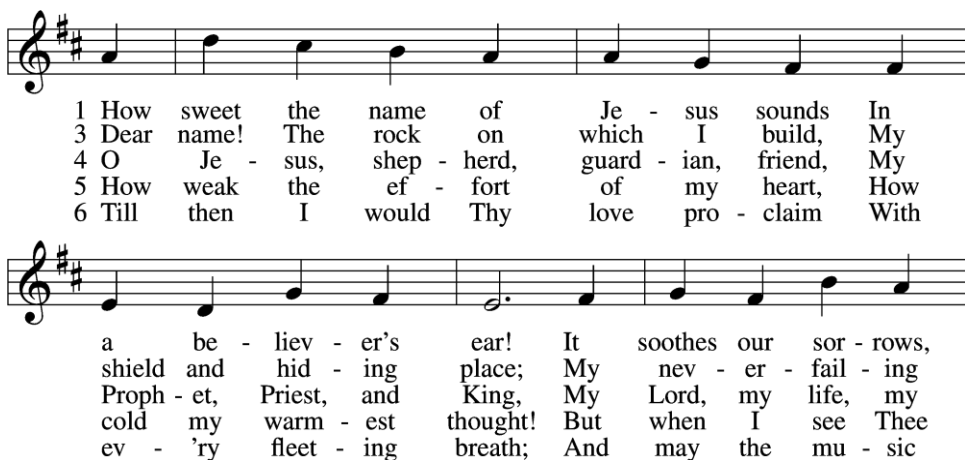


Benediction *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

- ☐ 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.



Closing Hymn: 524 v. 1, 3-6 *How Sweet the Name of Jesus...* (please stand for last verse)





heals our wounds, And drives a - way our fear.
treasure filled With boundless stores of grace.
way, my end, Accept the praise I bring.
as Thou art, I'll praise Thee as I ought.
of Thy name Refresh my soul in death!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.
Tune: Alexander R. Reinagle, 1799–1877
Text and tune: Public domain

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Adapted from Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today:
10/6/24

St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Study – 9am

Worship w/ Communion – 10am

Guest Preacher: Pastor Em. Mark Bernthal

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

Guest Preacher: Pastor Em. Mark Bernthal

East Bay “Farewell” – Refreshments & Fellowship Hour – 2pm

Next Sunday:
10/13/24

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

Pastor Luke’s “Farewell” Worship Service – 10am

“Farewell” Fellowship Meal for Pastor Luke & Jewels – 11:15am

No East Bay Worship

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

In Your Mailbox & Church Entryway – St. Stephen Church Calendar - *October*

Thank You! – to Pastor Emeritus Mark Bernthal for bringing us the Gospel message this morning. Pastor Bernthal and his wife Ruth are the parents of Pastor Luke, and are here helping him and Jewels pack up for their move to Wisconsin. We pray that you both enjoy your visit here in California and have a safe flight home.

Call Acknowledgement from Pastor Hanel – At our voters' meeting last Sunday we called Pastor Matthew Hanel of St. Matthew, Dallas, TX to serve as our next pastor here at St. Stephen. Here is his acknowledgement letter that he has received our call:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing to acknowledge that I received the Call from your congregation at St Stephen Lutheran to consider serving as your minister. I ask for your prayers as I consider this. Praise the Lord He knows what is right and best for His people and how to use them in beneficial ways in accordance to His Will.

Lord's Blessings,
Pastor Matthew Hanel

A short bio of Pastor Hanel: He is married to his wife, Julie (nee Schaller, daughter of Pastor/Professor Paul Schaller), and has a daughter (13) and a son (9). He graduated from Immanuel Lutheran Seminary in 2003 and has served Prince of Peace, Hecla, South Dakota, (2003-2005) and St Matthew in Dallas, Texas (2005 to present). Pastor Hanel is a very outgoing person who is a gifted preacher and very outreach-focused. He enjoys sports of all kinds and was a college and seminary classmate of Pastor Luke.

CLC News - Pastor Frank Gantt of Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Loganville, GA has **received** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.

Upcoming "Farewell" Schedule –

-East Bay "Farewell" Sunday – TODAY Sun. Oct. 6th @ 1pm (Grace Lutheran, 1836 B Street, Hayward). **Light refreshments and fellowship hour after worship service.**

-Loading Day for Pastor Luke and Jewels – Sat. October 12th – 9am (any help is very much appreciated!)

-Joint "Farewell" Worship Service – Mountain View - Sunday, October 13th @ 10am
Farewell Fellowship Meal for Pastor Luke and Jewels – 11am

-Moving Day for Pastor Luke & Jewels – Tues. October 15th