

**St. Stephen Lutheran Church of the East Bay & Central Valley**

(A Congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession)

www.ststephenclc.org

**Worshipping Every Sunday in the East Bay at 9 a.m. in  
Grace Lutheran Church**

**1836 B St., Hayward, CA 94541-3140**

Worshipping in the Central Valley at 2 p.m. - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of  
the Month

Atria Senior Living - Bayside Landing - 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Activity Room  
3318 Brookside Rd., Stockton, CA 95219

**Pastor: Steven Karp**

21290 Birch St. - Hayward, CA 94541-1538

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**Organist: Elizabeth Karp**

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**Laetare Sunday – The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday In Lent – 15 March 2015**

Liturgy — Page 5 in The Lutheran Hymnal

HYMNS: 148 Lord Jesus Christ, My Life, My Light (1 & 8-11)  
144 Jesus, Grant That Balm And Healing (1-3 & 4-5)  
391 Blessed Are The Sons Of God

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 1,3-7

Sermon Theme: Patience For A Lifetime – Hope For Eternity

1. The God Of Comfort
2. Comfort In Affliction
3. Patient Endurance Is Rooted In Hope

**INTROIT:** Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad with her: all you that love her. Rejoice for joy with her: all you that mourn for her. I was glad when they said unto me: Let us go into the house of the LORD. **Glory be to the Father ...**

The Gloria in Excelsis: is omitted during Lent, — in its place we sing Hymn 146, “Lamb of God”:

P. Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world.

P & C: Lamb of God, pure and holy,  
Who on the Cross didst suffer,  
Ever patient and lowly,  
Thyself to scorn didst offer.  
All sins Thou borest for us,  
Else had despair reigned o'er us:  
Have mercy on us,  
O Jesus!  
O Jesus!

**COLLECT:** Grant, we beseech You, Almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds do worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of Your grace may mercifully be relieved; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever the One true God, world without end. **Amen.**

Old Testament

Isaiah 49,8–13

Thus says the LORD,  
“In a favorable time I have answered You,  
And in a day of salvation I have helped You;  
And I will keep You and give You for a covenant of  
the people,  
To restore the land, to make them inherit the desolate  
heritages;  
9 Saying to those who are bound, ‘Go forth,’  
To those who are in darkness, ‘Show yourselves.’  
Along the roads they will feed,  
And their pasture will be on all bare heights.  
10 They will not hunger or thirst,  
Nor will the scorching heat or sun strike them down;  
For He Who has compassion on them will lead them  
And will guide them to springs of water.  
11 I will make all My mountains a road,  
And My highways will be raised up.  
12 Behold, these will come from afar;  
And lo, these will come from the north and from the  
west,  
And these from the land of Sinim.”  
13 Shout for joy, O heavens! And rejoice, O earth!  
Break forth into joyful shouting, O mountains!  
For the LORD has comforted His people  
And will have compassion on His afflicted.

Epistle

2 Corinthians 1,3–7

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus  
Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> Who  
comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to

comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort  
with which we ourselves are comforted by God. <sup>5</sup> For just  
as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also  
our comfort is abundant through Christ. <sup>6</sup> But if we are  
afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are  
comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the  
patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also  
suffer; <sup>7</sup> and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing  
that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are  
sharers of our comfort.

**GRADUAL**

Be joyful with Jerusalem and rejoice for her, all you who  
love her,

**Be exceedingly glad with her.**

How blessed is the man whose strength is in You, O LORD;

**In whose heart are the highways to Zion.**

Passing through the valley of Baca,

**They make it a spring,**

The early rain also covers it with blessings.

**They go from strength to strength.**

O LORD God of Hosts, hear my prayer,

**Give ear, O God of Jacob!**

Behold our shield, O God,

**And look upon the face of Your anointed.**

Christ has humbled Himself and became obedient unto  
death,

**Even the death of the Cross. Amen.**

Gospel

John 6,1–15

Response: Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

After these things Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias).<sup>2</sup> A large crowd followed Him, because they saw the signs which He was performing on those who were sick.<sup>3</sup> Then Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat down with His disciples.<sup>4</sup> Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was near.<sup>5</sup>



Therefore Jesus, lifting up His eyes and seeing that a large crowd was coming to Him, said to Philip, “Where are

we to buy bread, so that these may eat?”<sup>6</sup> This He was saying to test him, for He Himself knew what He was intending to do.<sup>7</sup> Philip answered Him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, for everyone to receive a little.”<sup>8</sup> One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to Him,<sup>9</sup> “There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many people?”<sup>10</sup> Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.<sup>11</sup> Jesus then took the loaves, and having given thanks, He distributed to those who were seated; likewise also of the fish as much as they wanted.<sup>12</sup> When they were filled, He said to His disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments so that nothing will be lost.”<sup>13</sup> So they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley

loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.<sup>14</sup> Therefore when the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”<sup>15</sup> So Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone. [Scripture passages are from the *New American Standard Bible*, © The Lockman Foundation, used by permission]

Response: Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

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[Lessons for 22 March – Judica Sunday \(Lent 5\)](#)

Old Testament: Genesis 12,1-13

Epistle: Hebrews 9,11-15

Gospel: John 8,46-59

Weekly Scripture Verse. For the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth, trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. (Ephesians 5,9-10)

Next Service in Stockton –Today, at 2 p.m.

Laetare is a Latin word which means “rejoice” and comes from the words of the Introit and the Gradual, which in turn are based on Isaiah 66 and Psalm 84.

Bible Study – Hayward – No Bible Study Tuesday, 17 March.  
Stockton – Tuesday, 24 March, at 2 p.m.

ILL. In your prayers, please remember Nancy, Roy and his

brother and sister-in-law, Alex and Judy; Cindy Hartman (Pr. Jay Hartman's wife); Jean Niblett; Don Luebke (Don is now recuperating at home in Castro Valley); Sue (the Karps' neighbor who is undergoing chemotherapy), Sue (Carolyn's friend), Don Drews; Richard Hocker; Ruth Scheuermann; James Sandeen.

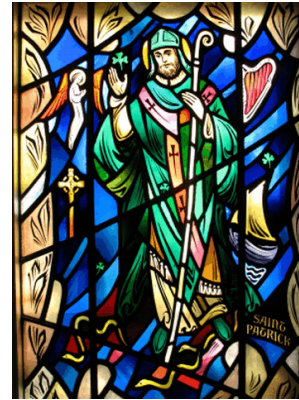


Call News: The Rev. Mark Tiefel, pastor of Bethel Lutheran, Morris, MN, has accepted the Call from Redemption Lutheran, Lynnwood, WA. Teacher Jeffrey Karnitz of St. Stephen Lutheran, Mountain View, CA, has returned the Call from Gethsemane Lutheran, Spokane Valley, WA to be principal and teacher at its school, reopening in the Fall. Calvary Lutheran, Marquette MI, has called the Rev. Andrew Schaller, pastor of Trinity Lutheran, Watertown, and Zion Lutheran, Hidewood Twp., SD. The Rev. Edward Starkey, missionary to India, has accepted the Call to Resurrection Lutheran, Corpus Christi, TX. Gethsemane Lutheran, Spokane Valley, WA, has called Jennifer Ohlmann, teacher at Luther Memorial school, Fond du Lac, WI, to serve as principal and teacher.

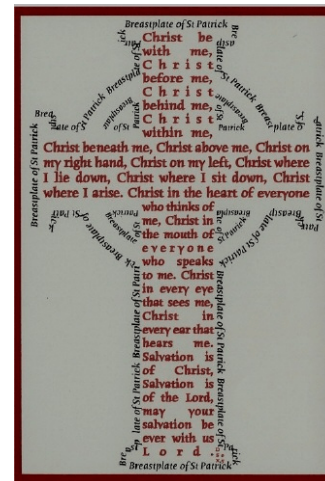
St. Patrick, Apostle of the Irish (ca. 390 – 17 March ca. 460). Patrick was not Irish, but was born in Britain, and was the son of a local town counselor. He was brought up as a Christian, but when he was sixteen years of age he was captured by Irish pirates and then was forced to serve as a herdsman in what today is County Mayo. During his captivity he turned to God, prayed earnestly, and received a message that he was to escape. After six years of captivity he made his way some 200 miles to the southeast coast of Ireland and persuaded some

sailors to give him passage back to Britain.

Without any higher education, he underwent training for the ministry, and probably followed a fairly conservative rule of faith and also acquired a very good knowledge of Latin. It is likely he received all of his training in Britain, although he probably spent some time in Gaul (France).



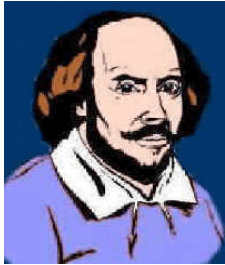
Around 432, he returned to Ireland as “the Bishop of Ireland” (his own title), and spent the rest of his life there, evangelizing, conciliating local chieftains, educating their sons, ordaining clergy, instituting monks and nuns. It is probable that his episcopal see was at Armagh. Towards the end of his



life he wrote a stirring account of his spiritual pilgrimage, called his Confession, in part, probably to refute attacks made on his character and career. His burial place is unknown. He is credited with a firm defense of the doctrine of the Trinity; however, the Lorica or St. Patrick's Breastplate was certainly composed several hundred years after his death and attributed to

him. His earliest biographers began writing in the second half of the seventh century and began to embellish the few known facts about Patrick.

Michael Weiße, Pastor & Hymn Writer (ca. 1488 – 19 March 1534). Little is known of his life. He was born in Neisse and became monk in Breslau; under the influence of some of



Luther's writings, he left the monastery and joined and became a leader of the German congregation of the Bohemian Brethren in Landskron. In 1522, he along with John Roth, were sent by the Brethren to Luther to explain the Brethren's religious views; in hindsight, it appears Weiße's views were closer to those of Zwingli than Luther. The Brethren entrusted Weiße to compile a hymnal, and in 1531 he published Ein Neu Gesengbuchlen (A New Hymn Book), consisting of 155 hymns. All the hymns were either composed by Weiße or translated by him from the Latin or Bohemian. He died in Landskorn in 1634. In The Lutheran Hymnal, there is one tune (74: "Gottes Sohn ist kommen) and two hymns (190: "Christ the Lord is Risen Again"; and 596:1-7, "This Body in the Grave We Lay") attributed to him.

Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury & Martyr (2 July 1489 – 21 March 1556). Cranmer was born in Aslockton, Notts, England, and was educated at Jesus College, Cambridge, of which he became a Fellow, and was ordained in 1523. He took part in discussions at the White Horse Tavern, joining a group of Lutheran sympathizers. When Henry VIII was looking for a solution to divorcing his wife, Cranmer suggested polling the universities of Europe. Cranmer was sent to poll the universities, and while in Europe in 1532,

married Margaret Osiander, the niece of Andreas Osiander.

Back in England, in 1532 Cranmer reluctantly accepted appointment as Archbishop of Canterbury. He was a believer in absolute monarchy, and thus supported Henry VIII's divorces and remarriages in search for a male heir. Under Thomas Cromwell, he helped organize Henry's reform of the Church, led the Protestant party in the King's Council, sponsored the Great Bible (1539), composed the English Liturgy (1545), opposed the Act of Six Articles (1539 – which forced him to exile his wife and children), and was responsible



Archbishop Cranmer in 1545

for the first Book of Common Prayer (1549). The Book of Common Prayer was skillfully worded so as to appease extremists in both the Protestant and Catholic camps. He was responsible for the compilation of the 42 Articles in 1559, which would later become the 39 Articles (under Elizabeth I in 1563). After Henry's death in 1547, Cranmer was one of the most influential counselors to the young King Edward IV.

With the death of Edward IV in 1553 and the accession of Mary Tudor, who was an ardent Catholic and determined to reimpose the Catholic faith on England, Cranmer was deposed from his archbishopric and arrested and tried for treason. Mary spared his life. He was soon arrested again, but this time for heresy. He was found guilty in an ecclesiastical court and

sentenced to death in a civil court. He made several recantations, affirming a belief in transubstantiation and papal supremacy. Before being burned at the stake on 21 March 1556, he withdrew his recantation and thrust his right hand into the flames and held it there. In death, Cranmer made a lasting impression on all assembled, but not the one that Mary had anticipated. Cranmer's legacy lives on in The Book of Common Prayer, the Thirty-Nine Articles, and in his Homilies.



2 April

Maundy Thursday at Mountain View – Supper at 6 p.m. & Holy Communion at 7 p.m.

3 April

Good Friday – Service in Hayward at 2 p.m.



Good Friday Vespers – Mtn View, 7 p.m.

5 April

Easter: 9 a.m. Service in Hayward



Easter Brunch in Mtn View at 11:15 a.m.

Easter: 2 p.m. Service in Stockton

