

St. Stephen Lutheran Church of the East Bay & Central Valley
(A Congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession)
www.ststephenclc.org

**Worshiping Every Sunday in the East Bay at 9 a.m. in
Grace Lutheran Church
1836 B St., Hayward, CA 94541-3140**

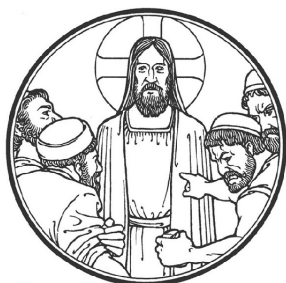
Worshiping in the Central Valley at 2 p.m. - 1st & 3rd Sundays of
the Month

Atria Senior Living - Bayside Landing - 1st 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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Passion Sunday

**Judica Sunday – The 5th Sunday In Lent –
22 March 2015**

Liturgy: The Order of Matins — Page 32 in The
Lutheran Hymnal

Hymn 328 O Jesus, Lamb Of God, Thou Art

Matins page 32
The Invitatory page 33
The Venite pages 33-34

The Psalmody

Vindicate me, O God, and plead my case against an
ungodly nation;

O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man!

For You are the God of my strength; why have You
rejected me?

**Why do I go in mourning because of the
oppression of the enemy?**

O send out Your light and Your truth, let them lead me;

**Let them bring me to Your holy hill, and to Your
dwelling places.**

Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding
joy;

**And upon the lyre I shall praise You, O God, my
God.**

Why are you in despair, O my soul?

And why are you disturbed within me?

Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him,

The help of my countenance, and my God.

Christ has humbled Himself and became obedient unto
death,

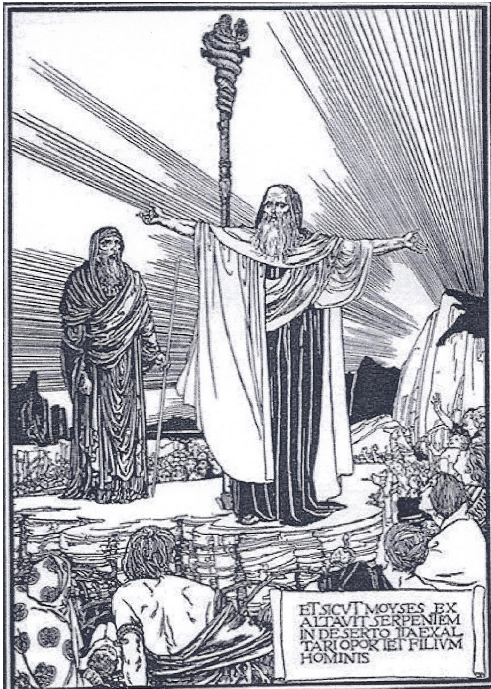
**Even the death of the Cross. [sing: Glory be to the
Father ...]**

First Lesson

Numbers 22,4-9

Then they set out from Mount Hor by the way of the
Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the people
became impatient because of the journey. ⁵ The people

spoke against God and Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this miserable food.”



⁶ The LORD sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷ So the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, because we have spoken against the LORD and you; intercede with the LORD, that He may remove the serpents from us.” And Moses interceded for the

people. ⁸ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a standard; and it shall come about, that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, he will live.” ⁹ And Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on the standard; and it came about, that if a serpent bit any man, when he looked to the bronze serpent, he lived.

P] But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C] **Thanks be to Thee, O Lord.**

Second Lesson

John 8,46-59

[Jesus said to them,] “Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? ⁴⁷ He

who is of God hears the Words of God; for this reason, you do not hear them, because you are not of God.”

⁴⁸ The Jews answered Him, “Do we not say rightly



that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?”

⁴⁹ Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. ⁵⁰

But I do not seek My glory; there is One Who seeks and judges. ⁵¹

Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My Word he shall never see death.” ⁵² The Jews said to Him, “Now we

know that you have a demon. Abraham died, and the prophets also; and You say, ‘If anyone keeps My Word, he

shall never taste of death.’ ⁵³ Surely You are not greater

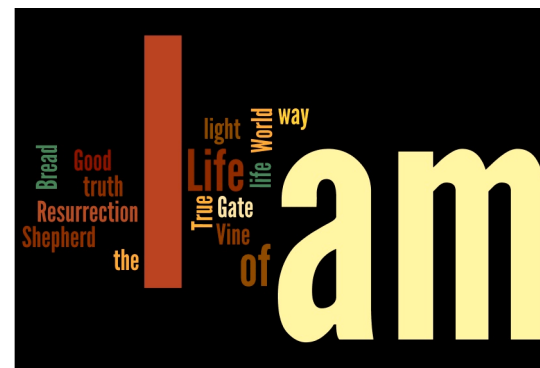
than our father Abraham who died? The prophets died

too; Who do You make Yourself out to be?” ⁵⁴ Jesus

answered, “If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it

is My Father Who glorifies me, of Whom you say, ‘He is our God’; ⁵⁵ and you

have not come to know Him, but I know Him; and if I say



that I do not know Him, I shall be a liar like you, but I do know Him and keep His Word. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day; and he saw it, and was glad.” ⁵⁷ The Jews therefore said to Him, ‘You are not yet fifty years old, and you have seen Abraham?’” ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born I AM.” ⁵⁹ Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself, and went out of the temple. [Scripture passages are from the *New American Standard Bible*, © The Lockman Foundation, used by permission]

P] But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C] **Thanks be to Thee, O Lord.**

Hymn 390 Drawn To The Cross

Sermon Text: Numbers 21,4-9

Sermon Theme: What Happens When One says “Yuck” To God?

1. Dissatisfaction And Grumbling
2. Repentance And Life
3. The Upward Look

The Offering

The Te Deum Laudamus page 35-37

The Prayers [Morning Suffrages]

O Lord,
Have mercy upon us.
O Christ,
Have mercy upon us.
O Lord,
Have mercy upon us.

Confession Of Faith

**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 Ghost;
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 sitteth at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty;
From thence He shall come to judge the quick and
the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
The Holy Christian Church,
The communion of Saints;
The forgiveness of sins;
The resurrection of the body.
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

Unto Thee have I cried, O Lord:

**And in the morning shall my prayer come before
Thee.**

Let my mouth be filled with Thy praise:

And with Thine honor all the day.

O Lord, hide Thy face from my sins:

And blot out all mine iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God:

And renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence:

And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation:

And uphold me with Thy free Spirit.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, this day:

To keep us without sin.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord:

Have mercy upon us.

O Lord, let Thy mercy be upon us:

As our Trust is in Thee.

Hear my prayer, O Lord:

And let my cry come unto Thee.

Let us pray [special petitions, intercessions, or thanksgivings]

[Together we pray the morning prayer:] **We give thanks unto Thee, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, That Thou hast kept us this night from all harm and danger; and we pray Thee that Thou wouldst keep us this day from sin and every evil, that all our doings and life may please Thee. For into Thy hands we commend ourselves, our bodies and souls, and all things. Let Thy holy angel be with us that the wicked Foe may have no power over us. Amen.**

The Kyrie [sung]

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Lord's Prayer

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 be with you.

C] And with thy spirit. [sung]

COLLECT: We beseech You Almighty God, mercifully to look upon Your people, that by Your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore both in body and soul; 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.

C] Amen. [sung]

P] Bless we the Lord.

C] Thanks be to God. [sung]

P] The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (✠) and the Love of God and the Communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all.

C] Amen. [sung]

Hymn [insert] Dearest Jesus, Draw Thou Near Me

† † †

[Lessons for 29 March - Palm Sunday \(Lent 6\)](#)

Old Testament: Isaiah 50,4-9

Epistle: Philippians 2,5-11

Gospel: John 12,12-19

Weekly Scripture Verse. The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. (Matthew 20,28)

Judica is a Latin word meaning, "judge me" or vindicate me,"

and comes from the opening words of the Introit and Gradual, which consists of selected verses from Psalms 43.

Next service in Stockton – Easter Sunday, 5 April, at 2 p.m.

Bible Study – 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 his home in Castro Valley); Sue (the Karp's neighbor who is undergoing chemotherapy), Sue (Carolyn's friend), Don Drews; Richard Hocker; Ruth Scheuermann; James Sandeen.



Pulpit Exchange – Pastors Kesterson and Karp will exchange pulpits on Palm Sunday, 29 March.

Calls. The Rev. Andrew Schaller, pastor of Trinity Lutheran, Watertown and Zion Lutheran, Hidewood Twp., SD, has accepted the Call to Calvary Lutheran, Marquette, MI. 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. Bethel Lutheran, Morris, MN, has called the Rev. Roland Gurgel, pastor of Bethel Lutheran, Spring, TX.

A Theological Misstatement In Meditations. The devotions

for this past week in Meditations (March 1, 2015 – May 30, 2015) have been based on our First Lesson for today, Numbers 21,4-9. These verses relate what happened when the children of Israel “spoke against God and Moses” and accused them of bringing them out into the wilderness to die and providing them with “miserable food.” In the devotion for Wednesday, 18 March 2015, the author writes:

Are we different? When we complain about the weather, against whom are we complaining? Isn't that a complaint against God?

And in the devotion for Saturday, 21 March 2015, the author writes:

We have committed many sins, like complaining about what God permits to happen in our lives. We deserve the wages of sin – eternal death!

In both of these cases, that author goes beyond what Scripture says. These verses in Numbers talk of speaking directly against God and Moses. When the author of these devotions speaks of complaining, he is speaking of indirectly complaining against God. The logic behind the indirect complaint must be something like this: (a) God sends the weather; (b) I complain about the weather; (c) therefore, I am complaining against the One Who sent the weather, that is, God. That may be great logic, but is that what the Scripture says? In my opinion, it goes beyond Scripture. After all, what is there that God does not permit to happen in our lives? But

permitting something to happen, is different from causing something to happen. According to this author, any complaint is sin – but a statement such as that goes against Scripture, reason, and experience.

Dearest Jesus, Draw Thou Near Me

T.H. Kingo (1634–1703)

Trans. C.K. Solberg (1908)

Tune: Werde Munter (TLH 207)

1. Dearest Jesus, draw Thou near me,
Let Thy Spirit dwell with mine;
Open now my ear to hear Thee,
Take my heart and seal it Thine;
Keep me, lead me on my way,
Thee to follow and obey,
E'er to do Thy will and fear Thee,
And rejoice to know and hear Thee.

2. Underneath Thy wings abiding,
In Thy Church, O Savior dear,
Let me dwell, in Thee confiding,
Hold me in Thy faith and fear;
Take away from me each thought
That with wickedness is fraught,
Tempting me to disobey Thee,
Root it out, O Lord, I pray Thee.

3. Thou, earth's greatest joy and gladness,
And salvation, full and free,
Let Thy presence cheer my sadness,

And prepare my soul for Thee!
In the hour when I depart,
Touch my spirit, lips and heart,
With Thy Word assure, uphold me
Till the heav'nly gates enfold me.



And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; that who ever believes in Him have eternal life. (John 3,14-15)