

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

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Organist: Elizabeth Karp



HE IS RISEN!

HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Easter Day - The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord -

5 April 2015

A Service with Holy Communion

(Visitors are asked to speak with the Pastor before communing)

Liturgy — Page 15 in The Lutheran Hymnal

HYMNS: 199 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today, Alleluia! (stand for last stanza)

201 Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

207 Like The Golden Sun Ascending (1-4)

Sermon Text: John 1,1-18

Sermon Theme: God Refreshes Our Easter Joy

1. The Angel Speaks To Us

2. Jesus Speaks To Us

3. We Speak With Others

INTROIT: When I awake I am still with You. Hallelujah! You have laid Your hand upon me. Hallelujah! Such knowledge is too wonderful for me: it is high, I cannot attain unto it. Hallelujah! Hallelujah. O Lord, You have searched me and known me: You know my downsitting and my uprising. **Glory be to the Father ...**

COLLECT: Almighty God, Who through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, has overcome death and opened unto us the gate of everlasting life, we humbly ask You that, as You do put into our minds good desires, so by Your continual help we may bring the same to good effect; 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 25,6-9

The LORD of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for
all peoples on this mountain;

A banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow,
 And refined, aged wine.

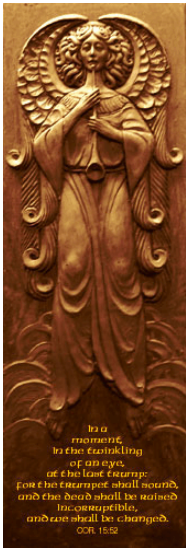
7 And on this mountain He will swallow up the
 covering which is over all peoples,
 Even the veil which is stretched over all nations.

8 He will swallow up death for all time,
 And the Lord GOD will wipe tears away from all
 faces,
 And He will remove the reproach of His people from
 all the earth;
 For the LORD has spoken.

9 And it will be said in that day,
 “Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited
 that He might save us.
 This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
 Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.”

Epistle

1 Corinthians 15,12-20



Now if Christ is preached, that He has
 been raised from the dead, how do some
 among you say that there is no resurrection
 of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection
 of the dead, not even Christ has been raised;
¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our
 preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. ¹⁵
 Moreover we are even found to be false
 witnesses of God, because we testified
 against God that He raised Christ, Whom He
 did not raise, if in fact the dead are not
 raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not
 even Christ has been raised; ¹⁷ and if Christ
 has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in

your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in
 Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If we have hoped in Christ in this
 life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

²⁰ But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the
 first fruits of those who are asleep.

GRADUAL

The Lord is Risen!

He is risen indeed!

The sound of joyful shouting and salvation is in the tents of
 the righteous;

The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.

The right hand of the LORD is exalted;

The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.

I shall not die, but live,

And tell of the work of the LORD.

The Stone which the builders rejected

Has become the Chief Corner Stone.

This is the LORD's doing;

It is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day which the LORD has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Hallelujah! Christ, our Passover,

Is sacrificed for us. [sing: triple Hallelujah]

Gospel

John 20,1-18

Response: Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene
 came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the
 stone already taken away from the tomb. ² So she ran and
 came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus

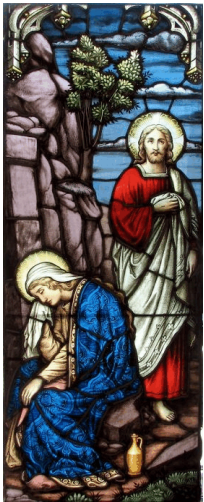
loved, and said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid



Him.”³ So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb.⁴ The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first;⁵ and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in.⁶ And so Simon Peter

also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying there,⁷ and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself.⁸ So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed.⁹ For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.¹⁰ So the

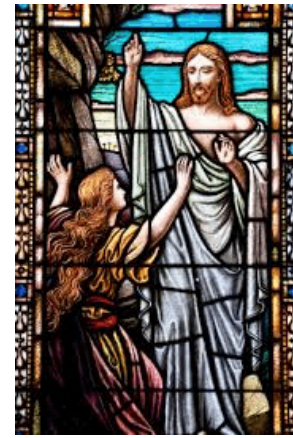
disciples went away again to their own homes.



¹¹ But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb;¹² and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying.¹³ And they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.”¹⁴ When

she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was

Jesus.¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?



Whom are you seeking?” Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, “Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.”¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” (which means, Teacher).¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say

to them, ‘I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.’”¹⁸ Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and that He had said these things to her. [Scripture passages are from the *New American Standard Bible*, © The Lockman Foundation, used by permission]

Response: Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

† † †

Lessons for 12 April - Quasimodogeniti - The First

Sunday after Easter

Old Testament: Job 19,25-27

Epistle: 1 John 5,4-10

Gospel: John 20,19-29

Weekly Scripture Verse. Jesus says: “I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and have the keys of Death and of Hades. (Revelation 1,18)

The Gradual consists of verses from Luke 24 and Psalm 118.

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

Bible Study – Hayward – Tuesday, 7 April, at 2 p.m.

Stockton – Tuesday, 28 April, at 2 p.m.

ILL. In your prayers, please remember Nancy, Roy and his brother Gerald; Cindy Hartman (Pr. Jay Hartman's wife); Jean Niblett; Marlene Clappier; 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.



Call News: 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, and is being installed at this morning's Easter Service. Jennifer Ohlmann, teacher at Luther Memorial school, Fond du Lac, WI, has returned the call to Gethsemane Lutheran school, Spokane Valley, WA. The congregation has now called Sherman Carstensen, teacher at Trinity Lutheran school, Watertown SD. The Rev. Roland H. Gurge, Bethel Lutheran, Spring, TX, has returned the Call to Bethel Lutheran, Morris, MN; the congregation has now petitioned the Call Committee on Graduates.

Church Council will meet after the morning service in Hayward at about 10:30 on Sunday, 12 April 2015.

Handout – CLC President's Eichstadt's April Pastoral Letter

Thoughts On A "Happy Easter" by Pastor Em. Daniel Fleischer. "BLESSED RESURRECTION DAY": During Holy Week, ushered in with Palm Sunday, we were already hearing the greeting, "Happy Easter." It rolls off the tongue like "Good Morning," or "How are you?" or "Good Day" or the innocuous "Have a good one."

But what makes "Happy Easter" different from "Happy Birthday," or "Happy Valentine's Day," or "Happy Halloween"? As the expression is used on the street or in the public square, "Happy Easter" has the sound of a clanging bell.

The experience of a happy Easter is real only for those who acknowledge the unhappy reality of what natural man prefers to forget or deny. It begins with an acceptance of our total unworthiness, our sin, of which all are indicted by Scripture. "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3,23). Again, "There is none righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3,10). Further, Scripture issues the indictment against the sinner. "For the wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6,23). The wages — wages are earned — of sin are separation from God, judgment, and eternal condemnation to hell — hardly a formula for happiness.

Unless sinners acknowledge and confess their sin, the celebration of Easter and the expression of Easter greetings are at most a feel good moment, and in reality meaningless.

So of what does a meaningful and happy Easter consist? The Father's intervention into man's desperate circumstance



makes it so. Of His grace He determined in eternity to rescue mankind in time from the sentence of eternal death. He sent the Lord Jesus Christ into the world, and laid upon Him the iniquity of us all. God made His perfect Son, Jesus Christ, the bearer of the sins of the world and laid upon Him the anguish of man's eternal separation from God. The Father sacrificed His Son in the sinner's place—a sacrifice unto death and punishment of hell. The Father made Jesus Who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that all who believe in the substitutionary death of Christ might be rescued from the deserved judgment and instead be clothed in the righteousness of Christ unto salvation.

And the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know you are looking for Jesus Who has been crucified. He is not here; for He has risen, just as He said." (Matthew 28,5-6)

Unless sinners are honest to confess their sin, and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Savior, the happy Easter greeting is at most a feel good moment, and in reality meaningless.

Jesus died, but a dead man who lies moldering in the grave cannot satisfy the need of mankind. Had Jesus not totally satisfied the will of the Father and completely paid the

debt we owed, He would still be lying in the grave. But on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. The Father expressed His approval and verified His satisfaction with the sacrifice of His Son by bringing Jesus forth from the grave! The angel at the tomb said to the women, Jesus "is not here: for He is risen as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead..." (Matthew 28,6,7). By Jesus' resurrection "Death is swallowed up in victory" (Isaiah 25,8; 1 Corinthians 15,54). Through the disciple John, the Father declared by His Spirit, "He that believes on the Son has everlasting life..." (John 3,36). Jesus declared for the comfort of those who believe, "Because I live, you shall live also" (John 14,19).

While the Christ-believer still dies as to the body, in effect he never dies. Even now eternal life is his as Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life...: he that believes in Me shall never die... (John 11,25,26). The evidence of Jesus' resurrection left to us in the divine record is unassailable and moves the Christ-believer to say with Job, "I know that my Redeemer lives...in my flesh I shall see God" (Job 19,26, 27).

For all who confess their sin, repent of it, and trust in the accomplished redemption verified and sealed by Jesus' resurrection from the dead, "Happy Easter "is a greeting with substance! However, inasmuch as the world which has no appreciation of the meaning of Easter nevertheless celebrates it in its own way a more meaningful greeting for Christ-believers is to wish one another a "Blessed Resurrection Day!"

In the early Church, Christ-believers greeted one another with "Christ is risen" to which the hearer responded, "He is risen indeed." In this manner they shared in the mutual

joy of all who believe that as Jesus rose again so also shall all who die in Him. A Blessed Resurrection Day to you today, and every day, until finally you with all believers in Christ shall ever be with the Lord!

READING FROM THE BOOK OF CONCORD
LARGE CATECHISM, PART II, APOSTLES' CREED

³¹ Let this be the summary of this article, that the little word “Lord” simply means the same as Redeemer, that is, He Who has brought us back from the devil to God, from death to life, from sin to righteousness, and now keeps us safe there. The remaining parts of this article simply serve to clarify and express how and by what means this redemption was accomplished — that is, how much it cost Christ and what He paid and risked in order to win us and bring us under His dominion. That is to say, He became man, conceived and born without sin, of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin, that He might become Lord over sin; moreover, He suffered, died, and was buried that He might make satisfaction for me and pay what I owed, not with silver



and gold but with His own precious blood. All this in order to become my Lord. For He did none of these things for Himself, nor had He any need of them. Afterward He rose again from the dead, swallowed up [Isaiah 25,8] and

devoured death, and finally ascended into heaven and assumed dominion at the right hand of the Father. The devil and all powers, therefore, must be subject to Him and lie beneath His feet until finally, at the Last Day, He will completely divide and separate us from the wicked world, the devil, death, sin, etc. [Tappert, Theodore G. ed. The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, c1959) p. 414, § 31]

Holy Communion

Concerning Holy Communion, we believe, teach and confess that:

- a. in, with, and under the bread Jesus gives us His true Body;
- b. in, with, and under the wine Jesus gives us His true Blood;
- c. whoever receives Holy Communion, receives it either for salvation or for judgment;
- d. whoever believes the words, “given and shed for you...”, receives the Body and Blood of Christ for salvation;
- e. whoever does not believe the words, “given and shed for you...”, receives the Body and Blood of Christ to judgment;
- f. out of a pastoral concern for your soul, we ask that visitors speak with the pastor before receiving Holy Communion.



We practice Close Communion. We welcome those to the Lord’s Supper who are baptized and confirmed members in good standing of our congregation and sister congregations within the Church of the Lutheran Confession. This reflects the practice of the ancient and apostolic church which opened the Lord’s Table only to those who had been baptized and publicly confessed doctrinal agreement with all that Christ had commanded. If you are a visitor and would like to learn more about what we teach, please speak with Pastor Karp.