

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

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Exaudi Sunday –The Sunday After The Ascension –

The Sixth Sunday After Easter – 17 May 2015

Liturgy — Page 5 in The Lutheran Hymnal

HYMNS: 219 The Head That Once Was Crowned With Thorns (1 &

4-6)

392 Blest Is The Man, Forever Blest

398 Renew Me, O Eternal Light (tune 10)

Sermon Text: 1 Peter 4,7-11

Sermon Theme: Love Covers A Multitude Of Sins

1. Sin Uncovers

2. Love Covers

3. Live, Forgive, And Cover

INTROIT: Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice.
Hallelujah! When You said, “Seek My face,” my heart said
unto You, “Your face, Lord, will I seek. Hide not Your face
from me.” Hallelujah! Hallelujah! The Lord is my Light
and my Salvation: whom shall I fear? **Glory be to the Father**
...

COLLECT: O Lord God, heavenly Father, we give thanks to
You, that through Your Holy Spirit You have appointed us
to bear witness of Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ:
We beseech You, inasmuch as the world cannot endure
such testimony and persecutes us in every way, grant us
courage and comfort, that we may not be offended because
of the Cross, but continue steadfastly in Your testimony,
and be always found among those who know You and
Your Son, until we obtain eternal salvation; 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

Jeremiah 31,31–34

“Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“when I will make a new Covenant with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah, ³² not like the Covenant which

I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My Covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD. ³³ “But this is the Covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD, “I will put My Law within them and on their heart I will write It; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the LORD, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

Epistle

1 Peter 4,7-11

The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer. ⁸ Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Be hospitable to one another without complaint. ¹⁰ As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹ Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to Whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

GRADUAL

Hear, O LORD, when I call with my voice, Hallelujah!

Do not hide Your face from me. Hallelujah!

The LORD is my Light and my Salvation;

Whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the Defense of my life;

Whom shall I dread?

Hear, O LORD, when I call with my voice,

And be gracious and answer me.

You have been my help;

Do not abandon me or forsake me, O God of my salvation!

I would have despaired unless I believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD

In the land of the living.

I shall lift up the cup of salvation,

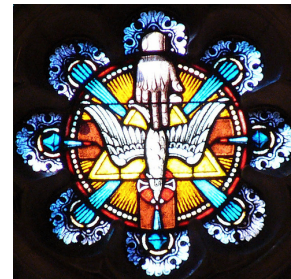
And call upon the name of the LORD. [sing: triple Hallelujah]

The Holy Gospel

John 15,26-16,4

Response: Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

[Jesus said to His disciples:] “When the Helper comes, Whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of Truth, Who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me, ²⁷ and you will bear witness also, because you have been with me from the beginning.



^{16,1} “These things I have spoken to you, that you may be kept from stumbling. ² They will make you outcasts from the synagogue; but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. ³ And these things they will do, because they have not known the Father, or Me. ⁴ But these things I have spoken to you, that when their hour comes,

you may remember that I told you of them. And these things I did not say to you at the beginning because I was with you.” [Scripture passages are from the *New American Standard Bible*, ©

The Lockman Foundation, used by permission]

Response: Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

† † †

Lessons for 24 May – The Feast of Pentecost

Old Testament: Joel 3,1-5
Epistle: Acts 2,1-18
Gospel: John 14,23-27

Weekly Scripture Verse: Jesus says: “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself. (John 12,32)

Exaudi is a Latin word meaning, “Hear, O Lord,” and comes from the first words of the Introit and Gradual, which consists of verses from Psalm 27.

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

Bible Study –Hayward – Tuesday, 19 May at 2 p.m.

Stockton – on Tuesday, 26 May, 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 and Rose, one of his care givers; Sue (the Karp's neighbor who is undergoing chemotherapy), Sue (Carolyn's friend), Don Drews; Richard Hocker; Ruth



Scheuermann; James Sandeen; the Breeden twins, Chloe and Dagny; Pr. Doug Priestap (Calgary).

Call News: The Rev. Paul Krause, pastor of Faith Lutheran, Markesan WI, has accepted the Call to Trinity Lutheran, Watertown, and Zion Lutheran, Hidewood Twp. SD. Collette Krause, has resigned (effective at the end of this school year) as upper grade teacher at Faith. The Rev. Andrew Schaller will be installed at Calvary Lutheran, Marquette MI, on June 14 in a special 3:00 p.m. service. Messiah Lutheran, Eau Claire, WI, has called Miss Naomi Bernthal of Eau Claire to teach the 2nd-3rd grade level at Messiah School. Miss Bernthal is a 2014 graduate of ILC's teacher training department. Gethsemane Lutheran, Spokane Valley, WA, has called Teacher Quinn Sprengeler of Redemption Lutheran, Lynnwood, WA.

Pulpit Exchange – on the fifth Sunday of this month, 31 May, Trinity Sunday, Pastors Karp and Kesterson will be exchanging pulpits.

News From Nepal. The Mission Board has not issued any new updates regarding the situation in Nepal. If one goes to the CLC Mission Web Site, however, you can click on the link to the Nepal Relief Report and get a Facebook account of what Raju and others are doing to help alleviate the situation. Color photos enhance the short reports.

Valerius Herberger (21 April 1562-18 May 1627) He was born in Fraustadt, in what today is Poland, and later returned to become a Pastor. He was educated in Frankfurt an der Oder

and Leipzig. Because of his powerful preaching, he was called “the little Luther.” When he was the Pastor in Fraustadt, the king ousted the Lutherans from the large, beautiful city church and the Lutherans then met in what was known as the “Kripplein Christi, or “the Little Manger of Christ.” He wrote books of sermons and also hymns, one of which, “Farewell I gladly Bid Thee,” is 427 in our hymnal and is also written as an acrostic on his name (an acrostic which only works in German and not in English).



The Council of Nicea (mid-May 325). The Council of Nicea was the first of seven recognized Ecumenical Councils and was called and presided over by the Emperor Constantine, primarily in order to combat the Arian heresy, which falsely taught that Jesus is subordinate and inferior to God the Father. It did that and also adopted a Creed which is the basis for the Nicene Creed, whose finished form was adopted by the Council of Constantinople in 381, although the Western Church added the Filioque, “and the Son,” which has never been accepted by the Eastern Church. About 318 bishops attended (although that number is open to debate), all but seven of whom were from the East; the Bishop of Rome sent a priest as a representative and had no influence over the



Constantine and the Bishops at the Council of Nicea hold the Nicene Creed

Council. The Council also set the date for Easter, so as to distinguish it from the Jewish Passover; it decreed that Easter should always be celebrated on a Sunday. The book and movie, The Da Vinci Code, make several false claims about the Council: it did not establish the divinity of Christ but reaffirmed what the Church had always taught and believed; it did not establish the canon (books) of the New Testament as these had been accepted in their present form for at least 150 years before the Council; it did not strengthen the power of the Bishop of Rome.

Alcuin of York (ca. 735–20 May 804). Although Alcuin was English, he achieved fame in the court of Charlemagne and inspired the Carolingian Renaissance. He was educated in his native York and became the master of the cathedral School in 766. In 768, while returning from Rome, he met the emperor in Parma and accepted Charlemagne’s invitation to become his advisor in spiritual and educational matters. Alcuin was made head of the palace school in Aachen, where he also established an excellent library. In 796 he became Abbot of Tours and there established a school and library. He wrote educational manuals, poetry, copied classical texts, and wrote many letters. He revised the Roman Sacramentary. He apparently convinced Charlemagne not to force the conversion of pagans upon penalty of death. He played a leading role in fighting the Adoptionist heresy (which began in Spain in the 700s and maintained that Christ in His humanity is not true God but only the adopted Son of God).



Constantine the Great and Helena (21 May AD 337). Flavius Valerius Aurelius Constantinus served as Roman Emperor from AD 306 to 337. During his reign the persecution of Christians was forbidden by the Edict of Milan in 313. Ultimately, the faith gained full imperial support.

Constantine took an active interest in the life and teachings of the church and. He called the First Council of Nicaea in 325 at which Saint Athanasius and others defended and defined orthodox Christianity. Among the fruits of this council was one of Christendom's major confessions of faith, the Nicene Creed.

Some argue that Constantine may not have been a true believer since he wasn't baptized until his death bed. However, he actively supported Christianity in his later life and even preached upon occasion. Other scholars speculate that he delayed Baptism for the same reason as did many others



A Mosaic of Constantine and Helena

during portions of the Church's history, that of a general misunderstanding of Holy Baptism.

Many theologians spoke of the need for "satisfaction" — making amends for sins committed during one's life — and warned about time that would be spent in Purgatory by those who didn't make full satisfaction while still living.

Indeed, some even taught that unless proper penance was done, one might find himself forever barred from Heaven!

Since Baptism truly washes away all sin — both that of our birth nature and any transgressions committed later — some thought the best way to avoid Purgatory (or Hell) was to be baptized when one was at death's door. In so doing, people believed that there would be no unrepented, unsatisfied sins remaining that would leave one waiting for eternal bliss or forever denied its blessings.

Even though we maintain there is no Scriptural basis for Purgatory, if Constantine had such worries, he wasn't alone during his day, and his decision to delay would be understandable in light of such teaching.

Saint Helena, ca. AD 255–329. Constantine's mother Helena strongly influenced her son throughout his life. Her great interest in locating the holy sites of the Christian faith led her to become one of the first Christian pilgrims to the Holy Land. Her research led to the identification of Biblical locations in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and beyond, which are still maintained as places of worship today. One of Christianity's annual festivals, Holy Cross Day, has its origin in her explorations of Palestine. (Source: Aardvark Alley Blog).

Johann Jacob Schütz - Lawyer, Pietist, Hymn Writer (7 September 1640–21 May 1690). Schütz was born in Frankfurt, where his father was the city attorney. He studied law and became a lawyer in Frankfurt. He became friends with Philip Jakob Spener, a Lutheran pietist. By 1676, however, he formed his own pietistic circle because he did not believe Spener went far enough; by this time, he had also broken with the Lutheran Church and believed his pietistic circles substituted for regular church services. He stopped participating in Holy Communion.

Soon, Schütz was involved in chiliasm and wound up promoting alchemy and Kabbala. Schütz was married and had four daughters. Schütz wrote hymns, and one of his hymns is in The Lutheran Hymnal as well as in all modern German Lutheran hymnals; 19, “All Praise To God, Who Reigns Above.”

Girolamo Sarvanarola (21 September 1452 – 23 May 1498) was an Italian Dominican monk who tried to reform the church and society and ultimately was hanged and burned at the



stake in Florence. In 1482 he moved to the Priory of San Marco in Florence and was elected Prior in 1491. He was a powerful orator and mesmerized crowds with his attacks on the tyranny of the state and corruption within the church. He denounced the rulers of Florence and called Pope Alexander IV a “simoniac,

heretic and infidel” (note: Simony is the selling of church offices for money); considering Alexander’s numerous personal moral failings, this was like shooting fish in a barrel. Sarvanarola held that people could not be saved by good works or indulgences, but only by the grace of God through Christ. Unfortunately, he also thought that God had called him to also reform society, establish a democratic theocracy, and had given him prophetic gifts and powers. He denounced the personal corruption of Florentine political rulers and the excesses of society. To this end, in 1497, he organized a burning of personal “vanities” such as mirrors, cosmetics, lewd pictures, pagan books, immoral sculptures, and so forth, in the main square in Florence in what is known as the “Bonfire

of the Vanities.” Political fortunes turned against him and in favor of his enemies; in 1498 he was condemned and excommunicated by Pope Alexander, handed over to the secular authorities, and hanged and burned in the same square where he had burned the vanities of Florence. Luther thought highly of him and republished his exposition of Psalm 51 because Luther thought it to be an example of evangelical doctrine and Christian piety.