

**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. at  
Grace Lutheran Church  
1836 B St., Hayward, CA 94541-3140**

Worshiping 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

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**Organist: Elizabeth Karp**

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The Seventh Sunday After Trinity – 19 July 2015

Liturgy – Page 5 in The Lutheran Hymnal

HYMNS: 355 Thou Art The Way  
141 Enslaved By Sin And Bound In Chains  
443 O Lord Of Heaven And Earth And Sea (1 & 4-6)

Sermon Text: Romans 6,19-23

Sermon Theme: What Does Paul mean When He Speaks About  
Slavery And Death?  
1. Enslaved By Sin  
2. Freed By Christ  
3. Living In Christ

**INTROIT:** O clap your hands, all you people: Shout unto God  
with the voice of triumph. He shall subdue the people under  
us: and the nations under our feet. **Glory be to the Father**  
...

**COLLECT:** O Lord our God, You are our Deliverer from lack  
and need, for from You comes the bread of the earth and  
the Bread of Heaven: help us, so that with thankfulness we  
receive Your gifts and share with all who need Your help;  
through our Lord Jesus Christ, who with You and the Holy  
Ghost, lives and reigns, ever the One true God, world  
without end. **Amen.**

Old Testament

Jeremiah 31,23–25

Thus says the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, “Once  
again they will speak this word in the land of Judah and in  
its cities, when I restore their fortunes,

‘The LORD bless you, O abode of righteousness,  
O holy hill!’

<sup>24</sup> And Judah and its cities will dwell together in it, the  
farmer and they who go about with flocks. <sup>25</sup> For I satisfy  
the weary ones and refresh every one who languishes.”

Epistle

Romans 6,19–23

I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, to sanctification. <sup>20</sup> For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup> Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. <sup>22</sup> But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, to sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**GRADUAL**

The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;

**Those who seek Him will praise the LORD.**

O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;

**For His steadfast love is everlasting.**

They were hungry and thirsty;

**Their soul fainted within them.**

Then they cried out unto the LORD in their trouble;

**He delivered them out of their distress.**

Let them give thanks to the LORD for His steadfast love,

**And for His wonders to the sons of man!**

For He has satisfied the thirsty soul,

**And the hungry soul He has filled with what is good.**

Hallelujah! O Lord, deal with Your servant according to Your mercy and teach me Your statutes.

**I am Your servant, give me understanding that I**

**may know Your testimonies.** [sing triple Hallelujah!]

The Holy Gospel

Mark 8,1–9

Response: Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

In those days again, when there was a great multitude and they had nothing to eat, He [Jesus] summoned His disciples and said to them, <sup>2</sup> “I feel compassion for the multitude because they have remained with Me now three days, and have nothing to eat; <sup>3</sup> and if I send them away



Paula Jordan

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fasting to their home, they will faint on the way; and some of them have come from a distance.” <sup>4</sup> And His disciples answered Him, “Where will anyone be able to find enough to satisfy these men with bread here in

the wilderness?” <sup>5</sup> And He was asking them, “How many loaves do you have?” And they said, “Seven.” <sup>6</sup> And He directed the multitude to sit down on the ground; and taking the seven loaves, He gave thanks and broke them, and began giving them to His disciples to serve to them, and they served them to the multitude. <sup>8</sup> They also had a few small fish; and after He had blessed them, He ordered these to be served as well. <sup>8</sup> And they ate and were satisfied; and they picked up seven full baskets of what was left over of the broken pieces. <sup>9</sup> And about four thousand were there; and He sent them away. [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 26 July – The Eighth Sunday After Trinity

Old Testament: Jeremiah 15,19–21

Epistle: Romans 8,12–17

Gospel: Matthew 7,15–23

Weekly Scripture Verse: So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow-citizens with the saints, and are of God's household. (Ephesians 2,19)

Today's Gradual is based on selected verses from Psalms 22 and 107.

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

Bible Study –Hayward – Tuesday, 21 July, at 2 p.m.

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

ILL. In your prayers, please remember Nancy, Roy and his brother Gerald; Jean Niblett; Marlene Clappier; Don Luebke, Don's nephew Leigh, and Rose, one of Don's care givers and her husband; 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. Trinity Lutheran, Watertown, SD, has called recent graduate Leah Ude to be its teacher. Redeemer Lutheran,

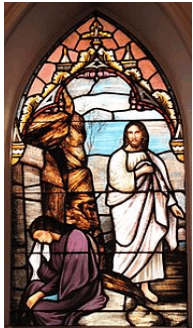
Cheyenne, WY, has called teacher graduate Leah Ude to serve as pre-school teacher. Trinity Lutheran, Millston, WI, has now called Pastor Em. David Lau, Eau Claire, WI. Immanuel Lutheran, Mankato, MN, has called Mr. Matthew Kranz, Eau Claire, WI, to serve as 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher beginning in the Fall 2015. The Rev. Michael Schierenbeck has accepted the Call to Faith Lutheran, Markesan, WI. PULPIT VACANCIES: Mt. Olive, Lamar, CO; Grace, Fairbanks, AK; Shepherd of the Valley, Weslaco, TX; Resurrection, Calgary, AB; 2<sup>nd</sup> Foreign Missionary.

Invitation from the West Bay – Church Rafting Retreat on August 29: Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 29 for a church rafting trip down the American River, departing from Sacramento. Cost for raft rentals will be about \$20 per person. If interested, leave your name and email address on the sign-up sheet in the narthex or email Danielle at danielle.wittorp@gmail.com. SSSL families and SSSL East Bay and Central Valley members are welcome to join. More details to follow.

Safe Return – CLC Mission Helpers to East Africa. We thank God that our CLC Mission Helpers are now safely back in the States after about a two week stay in Tanzania, Kenya, and Zambia.

Mary Magdalene (22 July). Whenever the New Testament Gospels name the women who were with Jesus, Mary Magdalene is listed first (John 19,25 is the only exception), perhaps because she was the first to see the risen Savior alive.

Luke 2,8 reports that Jesus had cured her of being possessed by seven demons. There is no Biblical basis, however, for identifying her with the repentant “woman of the city” who anointed Jesus’ feet as he sat at table in the home of a Pharisee (Luke 7,36–50). She is also not to be identified with Mary, the sister of Martha, in Bethany. According to the Gospels, Mary was at the foot of the Cross and saw Jesus die; she witnessed His burial; however, most importantly, she was the first to see Jesus alive after His resurrection (John 20,11–18). According to early church legend in the Eastern Church, she accompanied the Apostle John to Ephesus, where she died; her body was later taken to Constantinople. Bernard of Clairvaux called her “the apostle to the apostles.” (Sources: Scot A. Kinnemann, ed., *Treasury of Daily Prayer* (CPH, 2008), 549; F. L. Cross and E. A. Livingstone, eds., *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* (OUP, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1983), 884).



Mary  
Magdalene  
weeping at  
Jesus' Tomb

St. James the Elder, Apostle (25 July). St. James, and his brother John, the sons of Zebedee (cf. Matthew 27,56 and Mark 15,46), were fishermen in the Sea of Galilee who were called with Peter and his brother Andrew to follow Jesus (Matthew 4,18–22). In the Gospel lists of Jesus’ disciples, James is listed after Peter but before John. Together, these three appear as leaders of the Twelve. Because James is listed ahead of John, it is supposed that James was the older of the two. The Book of Acts reports that James was beheaded by

Herod Agrippa, probably between AD 42 and 44 (Acts 12,12). Thus, James is the first of the Twelve to die as a martyr. Jesus called James and John the “Sons of Thunder” (Mark 3,17); some attribute this to their zeal, but it may well have been a humorous comment on their desire to call down thunder and lightning on a Samaritan village that had refused lodging to Jesus and the Twelve (Luke 9,54). Peter, James, and John



accompanied Jesus to the Mount of Transfiguration and were present at Jesus’ agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. According to a seventh century legend, before his death, James preached the Gospel in Spain, and his body after his death was translated to Santiago de Compostela (In Spanish, the name “James: is “Iago”). The name of St. James was invoked by Spaniards

during the reconquest of Spain during the Middle Ages as they sought to expel the Moors from Spain. He is the patron saint of Spain. Scripture, however, records that the apostles did not leave Jerusalem until after the martyrdom of James. (Sources: Scot A. Kinnemann, ed., *Treasury of Daily Prayer* (CPH, 2008), 559; F. L. Cross and E. A. Livingstone, eds., *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* (OUP, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1983), 723).

Bridget of Sweden (23 July – ca. 1303–73). Bridget was born into one of the richest families in Sweden. In 1316, she married Ulf Gudmarrson, to whom she bore four daughters and four sons, all of whom survived infancy except for two. She soon became known for her works of charity, particularly

for unwed mothers. In 1341, she and her husband went on a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela (in Spain), but soon after their return to Sweden her husband died. She now devoted herself to religion and in 1346 founded the order of the Brigittines at Vadestena, Sweden. In 1349, she and her



A Depiction in 1476 of  
St. Bridget

companions, including her daughter Catherine (later, St. Catherine), journeyed to Rome to obtain papal approval for her new order. Except for occasional pilgrimages, she remained in Rome until her death. She agitated for a return of the papacy from its “captivity” in Avignon to Rome, which finally occurred in 1377. As a child, she claimed to have received visions, and these continued throughout her life. In

English, her visions fill four volumes. During the Middle Ages, they influenced popular perception of the Nativity and other aspects of Jesus’ life (for example, she claimed that Jesus told her that He had suffered 5,480 blows). In 1391, the Roman church canonized her. She is considered to be the patron saint of Sweden; in 1999, she was named one of the six patron saints of Europe (the others being Benedict of Nursia, Saints Cyril and Methodius, Catherine of Sienna, and Edith Stein (who converted from Judaism, became a Carmelite nun, and died at Auschwitz on 9 August 1942)).

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF CONCORD  
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY  
LARGE CATECHISM  
THE FOURTH PETITION

THE FOURTH PETITION: Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>76</sup> ... On this topic anyone might indeed make a long prayer. With many words one could list all the things that are included, like when we ask God to give us food and drink, clothing, house and home, and health of body. Or when we ask that He cause the grain and fruit of the field to grow and mature well. Furthermore, we ask that He help us at home with good housekeeping, and that He give and preserve for us a godly wife, children, and servants. We ask that He cause our work, trade, or whatever we are engaged in to prosper and succeed, favor us with faithful neighbors and good friends, and other such things. <sup>77</sup> Likewise, we ask that He give wisdom, strength, and success to emperors, kings, and all estates, and especially to the rulers of our country and to all counselors, magistrates, and officers. Then they may govern well and vanquish the Turks and all enemies. We ask that He giver to subjects and common people obedience, peace, and harmony in their life with one another. <sup>78</sup> On the other hand, we ask that He would preserve us from all sorts of disaster to body and livelihood, ...

<sup>80</sup> But this petition is especially directed also against our chief enemy, the devil. For all his thought and desire is to deprive us of all that we have from God or to hinder it. He is not satisfied to obstruct and destroy spiritual government by leading souls astray by his lies and bringing them under his

power. He also prevents and hinders the stability of all government and honorable, peaceable relations on earth. There he causes so much contention, murder, treason, and war. He also causes lightning and hail to destroy grain and cattle, to poison the air, and so on.<sup>81</sup> In short, he is sorry if anyone has a morsel of bread from God and eats it in peace. If it were in his power, and our prayer (next to God) did not prevent him, we would not keep a straw in the field, a farthing in the house, yes, not even our life for an hour. This is especially true of those who have God's Word and would like to be Christians.

<sup>81</sup> You see, in this way God wishes to show us how He cares for us in all our need and faithfully provides also for our earthly support.<sup>83</sup> He abundantly grants and preserves these things, even for the wicked and rogues (Matthew 5,45). Yet, He wishes that we pray for these goods in order that we may recognize that we receive them from His hand and may feel His fatherly goodness toward us in them (Psalm 104,28; 145,16.... [Condensed from CONCORDIA: THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS, © 2005,2006 by Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.]