

**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. - 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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**The Festival of the Reformation - 25 October 2015**

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

**Hymn 262 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God** (we stand)

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

**The Psalmody**

God, Whose Word I praise,

**In the LORD Whose Word I praise,**

In God have I put my trust, I shall not be afraid.

**What can man do to me?**

God is our Refuge and Strength,

**A very present help in trouble.**

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,

**And though the mountains should slip into the  
heart of the sea.**

The nations have made an uproar, the kingdoms tottered;

**He raised His voice, the earth melted.**

The LORD of Hosts is with us;

**The God of Jacob is our stronghold. [sing: Glory  
be to the Father ...]**

First Lesson

Romans 3,21-28

But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets; <sup>22</sup> even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe; for there is no distinction; <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; <sup>25</sup> whom God

displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup> for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. <sup>27</sup> Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith. <sup>28</sup> For we maintain that a man is justified [alone] by faith apart from the works of the Law.

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

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

Second Lesson

John 8,31-36

So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “ If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” <sup>33</sup> They answered Him, “ We are Abraham’s descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, ‘You will become free?’” <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. <sup>35</sup> The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.” [Scripture 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 387 Dear Christians, One And All Rejoice (1-4)**

Sermon Text: Romans 3,21-28

Sermon Theme: Getting Right With God Depends On God

1. Scripture Alone
2. Grace Alone
2. Faith Alone

**Hymn 387 Dear Christians, One And All Rejoice (5-8)**

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: Lord God, heavenly Father, we most heartily thank  
You that by Your Word You have brought us out of the  
darkness of error into the light of Your grace: We beseech You,  
mercifully help us to walk in that light, guard us from all error  
and false doctrine, and grant that we may not become

ungrateful and despise and persecute Your Word, but receive it with all our heart, govern our lives according to it, and put all our trust in Your grace, through the merit of 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 261 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Thy Word**

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Lessons for 1 November – All Saints' Day – A Service with  
Holy Communion

Old Testament: Isaiah 2,6–9

Epistle: Revelation 7,2–12

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 5,1–12

Weekly Scripture Verse: For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Christ Jesus. (1 Corinthians 3,11)

Today's Psalmody is based on selected verses from Psalms 56 and 46.

Church Council will meet after this morning's service in Hayward.



**Time Change.** Next Sunday, 1 November, Daylight Saving Time ends. Set your clocks back one hour. This is also a good time to replace the batteries in smoke detectors and other electronic devices.

Next Service in Stockton: Sunday, 1 November, at 2 p.m.

Bible Study. Hayward – no Bible Study on Tuesday, 27 October  
Stockton – Tuesday, 27 October, 2 p.m.

Handout – November 2015 Church Calendar

Call News. Nothing new to report.

ILL. In your prayers, please remember Nancy, Roy and his brother, Gerald; Jean Niblett; Marlene Clappier; Don Luebke (who is now at home), Don's nephew Leigh, and Rose, one of Don's care givers and her husband; Sue (the Karps' 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).



Retired Professor John H. Lau was taken home to be with the Lord on Friday, October 23 at his home in Eau Claire, WI. In His mercy, the Lord delivered him from this vale of tears one week after he was diagnosed with acute leukemia. He was 89 years old. Prof. Lau was a founding member of the CLC, and served several congregations in our church body before being

called to teach at Immanuel High School, College, and Seminary from 1965 to 1997. During that time he served 8 years as ILC's President. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, children Jonathan Lau and Kathy Thomson, as well as extended family and many friends. A victory service for John Lau will be held at Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire on Tuesday, October 27, at 2:00 pm. Correspondence may be addressed to: 3825 Fairfax St., Eau Claire, WI 54701. "Even to your old age, I am He, And even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; Even I will carry, and will deliver you," Isaiah 46,4.

Saints Simon and Jude (28 October). On the various New Testament lists of the Twelve Apostles (Matthew 10,2-4; Mark 3,16-19; Luke 6,14-16; Acts 1,13), the tenth and eleventh places are occupied by Simon the Zealot (or Simon the

"Canaanite," which is the Aramaic word meaning "Zealot") and by Judas or James, also called Thaddaeus or Lebbaeus.

Simon is not

mentioned by name in the New Testament except on these lists. If he was of the Jewish religio-political organization known as the Zealots, he would have been part of an effort to overthrow Roman rule. However, the title might only be descriptive of his personality. Also, some believe that if he were called "Simon of Cana," then it may have been his



wedding at which Jesus turned water into wine (John 2,1-9).

Judas (often called Jude in English) is variously named, but this is not surprising. Before the Crucifixion, there would be a need to distinguish him among the apostles from Judas Iscariot, and after the Crucifixion there would be an additional reason for being emphatic about the distinction.

After the Last Supper it was Jude who asked Our Lord why he chose to reveal Himself only to the disciples. He received the reply: "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him" (see John 14,22-31).

Jude is the so-called patron of several causes, the most notable being lost or desperate causes. Perhaps being the last resort played into this, but more likely the association came because of the encouragement in the Epistle of Jude to remain faithful no matter how harsh the circumstances.

Jude's invocation during desperate situations drew special attention from the sick and injured, especially those "hopeless" who saw no improvement or were close to death. As medicine advanced and seriously ill people gathered together for treatment, it was natural to grant patronage of hospitals and hospital workers to the apostle. Simon is the so-called patron of tanners (considerably less interesting than that of "lost causes").

In the Western Church, both are commemorated together; in the Eastern and Coptic Church they are commemorated separately.

Church histories have them being martyred together in what today is Beirut, Lebanon - although some place this in Persia. Simon is pictured with a saw (or, perhaps, an axe),

since he is believed to have been sawn apart when martyred.  
(Sources: mostly, Aardvark Alley Blog)

Historical Note on the Reformation – On 31 October 1517



Luther in 1529 by Cranach the Elder

Luther nailed 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. Luther wanted to begin a debate among other theologians on the question of indulgences, and this was the usual way of starting such a debate. The Theses were written in Latin. Without Luther's permission, his students took the Theses, translated them into German, and sent them to the printer. Within several weeks time the Theses were all over Germany — and within several more weeks all over Europe.



Selling Indulgences in Church

According to Medieval Catholic thought, forgiveness consisted of several parts: contrition, confession, forgiveness, and penance. Even after forgiveness, the forgiven sinner still had to perform penance, that is, to make amends for sin(s) committed. Since penance could not be performed perfectly during this earthly life, after death one had to spend time in purgatory to atone for imperfect penance. Technically, an indulgence granted “time off” from the time one had to

spend in purgatory.



Albrecht von Brandenburg by Cranach the Elder

The indulgence was granted by the pope because he had the power to unlock the treasury of merit in heaven. Catholic theology taught — and still teaches — that the “saints” had led such exemplary lives that they built up a surplus of spiritual “credit” before God which they did not need. This credit was like a spiritual piggy bank to which the pope had the keys. In effect, an indulgence sold this credit so the buyer could use the credit either for himself or herself or for deceased relatives.

In 1517, the pope authorized the sale of indulgences to help pay for the construction of St. Peter's in Rome. In addition, the pope gave the contract to Albrecht von Brandenburg, the Archbishop of Mainz and soon-to-be Cardinal, who took a cut from the sale to help pay off his debts for having bought the office of Archbishop.



Johannes Tetzel

In Germany, the best seller of indulgences was a Dominican monk, John Tetzel. Tetzel worked for Albrecht, and in his preaching he seems to have exaggerated what an indulgence could do; namely, it began to sound as if an indulgence could forgive sin itself even before it was committed. Even so, the idea that one

could relieve the sufferings of one's deceased relatives was a powerful incentive to buy an indulgence. The popular jingle went: "A penny in the coffer sings, | A soul from purgatory springs," as a contemporary illustration shows

Tetzel, however, was not allowed to come into Saxony to sell indulgences because the Elector of Saxony forbade it (the Elector had his own way of making money - he charged people to see his collection of thousands of relics). So Tetzel



A Contemporary Woodcut Showing Tetzel Selling Indulgences

stopped just across the river from Wittenberg and people came out to hear him and buy indulgences. Many of those who came out were Luther's parishioners.

For several years before Tetzel came, Luther had been

thinking and lecturing about this. Now, out of a concern for the souls and faith of his parishioners he issued his theses. At the time, Luther was both a professor of theology at the University of Wittenberg and the pastor of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. Luther also sent a copy of the theses (in Latin) to Albrecht, who in turn forwarded them to Rome.

It goes without saying that there is no Biblical basis for indulgences, purgatory, or the treasury of merit.

A Humorous Aside: When Luther married Katherine von Bora, Albrecht von Brandenburg, the Archbishop of Mainz, sent 20

gold gulden to Katherine as a wedding present. The sources are unanimous in indicating that Luther disapproved; however, some leave it at that and some indicate that Luther told Katherine to return the gift. The sources are unanimous in indicating that Katherine kept the gift. Katherine was the one who managed the family finances.



The Luther Seal or Luther Rose