

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. - 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
Phone: (510) 581-6637; e-mail: se-karp@sbcglobal.net

Guest Pastor: The Rev. Terrel Kesterson
Guest Organist: Peggy Kesterson

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The Last Sunday of the Church Year – 22 November 2015

Liturgy — Page 5 in The Lutheran Hymnal

HYMNS: 444 Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You
463 For All The Saints Who From Their Labors Rest
32 Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven

Sermon Text: Daniel 12,1-3

Sermon Theme: The Judgment Day Is Coming

INTROIT: I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End: which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them: and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God. Lift up your heads, O you gates; and be you lifted up, you everlasting doors: and the King of Glory shall come in. **Glory be to the Father ...**

COLLECT: O Lord God, heavenly Father, make us ever watchful and heedful in awaiting the coming of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, that when He shall stand at the door and knock, He may not find us sleeping in carelessness and sin, but awake and rejoicing in His appearing; 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

Daniel 12, 1–3

[In a vision, Daniel saw a man who said to Daniel:] “At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people — everyone whose name is found written in the book — will be delivered. ² Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

Epistle

Hebrews 10,11-18

Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when this Priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ and since that time He waits for his enemies to be made His footstool. ¹⁴ For by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.



¹⁵ The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First He says:

¹⁶ “This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord.

I will put My laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds.”

¹⁷ Then He adds:

“Their sins and lawless acts
I will remember no more.”

¹⁸ And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

GRADUAL

And the ransomed of the Lord will return,

And come with joyful shouting to Zion.

When the Lord brought back the captive ones of Zion,

We were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter,

And our tongue with joyful shouting.

Then they said among the nations,

“The Lord has done great things for them.”

The Lord has done great things for us;

We are glad.

Those who sow in tears

Shall reap with joyful shouting.

He who goes to and fro weeping, carrying his bag of seed;

**Shall indeed come again with a shout of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.**

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

John 5,25-29

Response: Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

[Jesus said to those Jews who opposed Him:] “Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in Himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in Himself. ²⁷ And He has given Him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

²⁸ “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear His voice ²⁹ and come out — those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned. ³⁰ By Myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and My judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but Him who sent Me.” [Scripture passages are from the *NIV*, used by permission]

Response: Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

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Lessons for 29 November — [The First Sunday of Advent](#)

Old Testament: Zechariah 9,9-10

Epistle: Romans 13,8-14

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 21,1-9

Weekly Scripture Verse: Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps alight. (Luke 12,35)

Today's Gradual consists of selected verses from Isaiah 35 and Psalm 126.

Thanksgiving Day Service in Hayward at 9 a.m. on Thursday, 27 November.

Next Service in Stockton: Sunday, 6 December, at 2 p.m.

Bible Study. Hayward -No Bible Study this Tuesday.

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 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); Pr. Robert List (Spokane).



Call News. Gethsemane Lutheran, Spokane Valley, WA, has called the Rev. Michael Gurath, pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran, Phoenix, AZ.

Thanks to Pastor Kesterson of our sister congregation in the West Bay for leading us in worship today and also thanks to his wife, Peggy, for playing the organ.

Advent begins next Sunday and consists of the four Sundays preceding Christmas, when the Word of God became flesh and was pleased to dwell among us to begin His work of redemption. During this penitential season of Advent, we look forward to Jesus' coming in Grace.

Clement of Rome, Bishop (ca. 35 – 23 November 96). Clement was a "bishop" in Rome and is generally considered to have been



the second or third after the apostle Peter. Little is known of his life, but he did write one letter to the Corinthians that is considered authentic and may have written another.

In his first letter, Clement upheld apostolic authority in the face of problems in the Corinthian congregations (what's new?), in which certain leaders ("presbyters") had been disposed. He said that since the apostles had appointed these presbyters, they should be respected and retained in office. Outside of the New Testament, it is one of the oldest Christian documents in existence. In his letter, however, he seemingly makes no distinction between higher church leaders, described as "presbyters" (usually considered to be "elders") and "bishops" (episkopoi). He does, however, say that that Holy Communion should only be celebrated by the "high clergy" (that is, those above the rank of deacon).

Thus, even though Clement was a bishop in Rome, it is uncertain as to what exactly the office of bishop consisted of. It is doubtful that it would be like the monarchical bishopric that later evolved in the Church. So, even if the Roman Church considers him to be a bishop of Rome and therefore a pope, it is doubtful that he was a pope in the present day sense of the word.



Later literature has him deported to the Crimea where he was martyred by being fastened to an anchor and thrown into the sea. Thus, in Church he is represented by an anchor, which is described as “St. Clement’s Cross.”

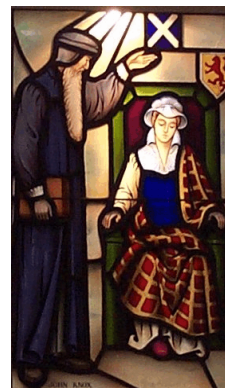
From a historical point of view, it is difficult to say that Clement was a pope in the sense that the papacy developed; indeed, it is difficult to say that a bishop might not merely have been the head pastor of a house church.

John Knox, Scottish Reformer (ca. 1505 – 24 November 1572). Known as the “Thundering Scot,” Knox was a leader of the Scottish Reformation. His parents were probably farmers and he went to university in Scotland and became a priest and a lawyer. By 1545 he was tutoring the sons of two Protestant nobles who were the protectors of George Wishart, a Protestant preacher.



In Scotland the Reformation was closely identified with anti-French nationalism (as the French were the powers behind the Scottish throne), and this resistance had been growing since the 1520s. In 1546 Wishart was burned at the

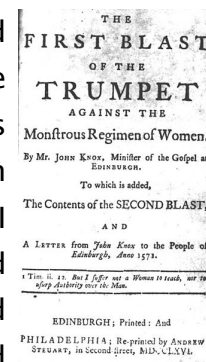
stake and Knox joined a group of rebel nobles who had murdered Cardinal Beaton, the Archbishop of St. Andrews. For three months he and the others were besieged in St. Andrew’s castle, and while there he proved to be a powerful preacher. A later observer noted that he could inspire like the sound of 500 trumpets and a 1,000 drums. In 1547, the French broke the siege and Knox spent the next eighteen months as a galley slave. Through the influence of King Edward IV of England he was released, went to England, assisted Archbishop Cranmer with the “Forty-Two



Knox Chastising Mary Queen of Scots

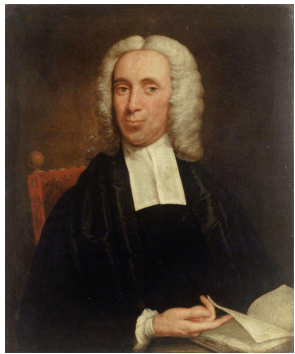
Articles” and the second edition of The Book of Common Prayer, and in general denounced Roman Catholicism. When Mary I ascended to the throne he fled to the continent, and in Geneva ministered to other English refugees. Like Beza, he went far beyond Calvin in advocating armed resistance against “ungodly rulers.” In 1547, he published The First Blast of the Trumpet Against the Monstrous Regiment of Women, which was directed against female Catholic rule in England, Scotland, and France. In 1558 Mary I died and Elizabeth I became queen; she barred Knox from England, for she rightly perceived that even though “The First Blast” was directed against Catholic rulers, the arguments could just as easily apply to her as well; however, Elizabeth did allow Knox to pass unhindered through England on his way back to Scotland.

Once in Scotland (1559–72), his sermons inspired the Lords of the Congregation, that is, the rebel Protestant nobility,



and with English assistance they forced French troops from Scotland and established the Reformation. Knox became the minister of St. Giles, Edinburgh, and was closely involved in the Scots Confession and The First Book of Discipline, which was the body of beliefs and the Presbyterian organization adopted by the Kirk from 1560 on. Further civil war dragged on through the reign of Mary, Queen of Scots (1561–67), before she fled to England, where she met what was for her an unexpected end (beheaded in 1587). On at least four separate occasions, Knox personally berated her.

Isaac Watts (17 July 1674– 25 November 1748). Watts is generally considered to be the father of English hymnody. His



Hymns and Spiritual Songs, published between 1707 and 1709, was the first English hymn book. Watts was the son of a Nonconformist minister and became a Nonconformist minister, that is, neither he nor his father were members of the Church of England. Watts had a classical education, learning Greek, Latin, and Hebrew. He entered a Nonconformist

academy. At age twenty, he left the academy and spent the next two years at home, during which time he wrote most of his hymns. Watts spent the next six years as a private tutor and studied so intensely that he ruined his health. In 1709, Watts was ordained pastor at the independent congregation in Mark Lane (now a part of London). Because of his failing health, he was given an assistant, who became co-pastor after Watts came down with a fever in 1712, when the congregation moved to Bury Street (also in London). Because of Watts's poor health, he was

taken in by the Abney family, and stayed with them until his death. Watts never married. Hymns of his in The Lutheran Hymnal are: 10, "This Is The Day The Lord Hath Made"; 13, "Before Jehovah's Awe=ful Throne"; 15, "From All That Dwell Below The Skies"; 27, "Oh, Bless The Lord, My Soul"; 43, "We Sing The Almighty Power Of God"; 87, "Joy To The World, The Lord Is Come"; 123, "Our God, Our Help In Ages Past"; 154, "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"; 156, "Not All The Blood Of Beasts"; 164, "'Twas On That Dark, That Doleful Night"; 175, "When I Survey The Wondrous Cross"; 220, "Jesus, My Great High Priest"; 248, "Father Of Glory, To Thy Name"; 286, "How Shall The Young Secure Their Hearts"; 289, "The Law Commands And Makes Me Know"; 325, "O Thou That Hear'st When Sinners Cry"; 344, "Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs"; 382, "Lord, We Confess Our Numerous Faults"; 392, "Blest Is Man, Forever Blest"; 414, "The Man Is Ever Blest"; 416, "Oh, That The Lord Would Guide My Ways"; 426, "The Lord My Shepherd Is"; 445, "Am I A Soldier Of The Cross"; 460, "Behold The Sure Foundation=Stone"; 478, "The Saints On Earth And Those Above"; 480, "Lord Of The Worlds Above"; 487, "How Beauteous Are Their Feet"; 511, "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er The Sun"; 593, "Why Do We Mourn Departing Friends"; 629:1–3, 5, "Let Children Hear The Mighty Deeds"; 636, "Great Is The Lord, Our God." [Source, The Handbook To The Lutheran Hymnal]