

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
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Organist: Elizabeth Karp



The Second Sunday of Advent – 6 December 2015

Liturgy — Page 5 in The Lutheran Hymnal

HYMNS: 609 Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying
64 Jesus, Thy Church With Longing Eyes
[insert] O Savior, Rend The Heavens Wide

Sermon Text: James 5,7-11

Sermon Theme: Patience Serves God's Purposes

1. Patience Is Not Resignation
2. Patience Is God's Gift To Believers
3. Patience Strengthens Hearts

INTROIT: Unto You, O Lord, do I lift up my soul: O my God,
I trust in You; let me not be ashamed: let not mine enemies
triumph over me; yea, let none that wait on You be
ashamed. Show me Your ways, O Lord: teach me Your
paths. **Glory be to the Father ...**

COLLECT: O Lord God, heavenly Father, by Your Son You
have revealed to us that heaven and earth shall pass away,
that our bodies shall rise again, and that we shall all appear
before the judgment seat: We beseech You to keep us in
Your Word by Your Holy Spirit; establish us in the true
faith, graciously defend us from sin and preserve us in all
temptations, that our hearts may not be weighed down with
carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, but we may
ever watch and pray and, trusting fully in Your grace,
await with joy the glorious coming of Your Son and at the
last 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

Micah 4,1-7

And it will come about in the last days
That the Mountain of the House of the LORD
Will be established as the chief of the mountains.
It will be raised above the hills,
And the peoples will stream to it.

2 And many nations will come and say,
“Come, let us go up to the Mountain of the LORD
And to the House of the God of Jacob,
That He may teach us about His ways
And that we may walk in His paths.”
For from Zion will go forth the Law,
And the Word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

3 And He will judge between many peoples
And render decisions for mighty, distant nations.



They will hammer their
swords into plowshares
And their spears into
pruning hooks;
Nation will not lift up
sword against nation,
And never again will
they train for war.

4 And each one of them will sit under his vine
And under his fig tree,
With no one to make them afraid,
For the mouth of the LORD of Hosts has spoken.
5 Though all the peoples walk
Each one in the name of his god,
As for us, we will walk
In the name of the LORD our God forever and ever.

6 “In that Day,” declares the LORD,
“I will assemble the lame,
And gather the outcasts,
Even those whom I have afflicted.
7 I will make the lame a remnant,
And the outcasts a strong nation,

And the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion
From now on and forever.”

Epistle

James 5,7-11

Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. ⁸ You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the Coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door. ¹⁰ As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord’s dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

GRADUAL

Straighten up and lift up your heads,

Because your redemption is drawing near.

Oh give ear, Shepherd of Israel,

You Who leads Joseph like a flock.

You Who are enthroned above the cherubim,

Shine forth!

O God of Hosts, turn again, we beseech You,

**Look down from heaven and see, and take care of
this vine,**

Even the shoot which Your right hand has planted,

**Even on the root, which You have strengthened
for Yourself.**

O LORD God of Hosts, restore us;

Cause Your face to shine upon us, and we will be saved.

Hallelujah! Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies,

For they have been ever of old. [sing: triple Hallelujah]

The Holy Gospel

Luke 21,25-33

Response: Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

[Jesus said to His disciples:] “And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and waves,²⁶ men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.²⁷ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.²⁸ But when these things begin to



take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ And He told them a parable: “Behold the fig tree, and all the trees;³⁰ as soon as they put forth leaves, you see it and know for yourselves that the summer is now near.³¹ Even so you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that the Kingdom of God is near. Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My Words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard, that your hearts may not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap;³⁵ for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of the earth.³⁶ But keep on the alert at all times, praying in order that you may have the strength to escape these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.” [Scripture passages are from the *New American Standard Bible*, © The Lockman Foundation, used by permission]

Response: Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

† † †

Lessons for 13 December: The Third Sunday of Advent

Old Testament: Malachi 3,1-6

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4,1-5

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 11,2-10

Weekly Scripture Verse: Straighten and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. (Luke 21,28)

Today’s Gradual is based on selected verses from Luke 21 and Psalm 80.

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

Bible Study – Hayward – No Bible study

Stockton – Tuesday, 15 December, at 2 p.m. ?

Call News. The Rev. Michael Gurath, pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran, Phoenix, AZ, has returned the Call to Gethsemane Lutheran, Spokane Valley, WA.

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); Pr. Robert List (Spokane), Pr Karp.



Note: Committee Chairmen should submit their annual reports for 2015 to Timothy Blank no later than the first of the New Year.

Thank you to everyone who helped out in today's services.

Christmas Services 2015

Thursday, 24 December

Christmas Eve Service in Stockton at 12:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Children's Service in the West Bay at 5 p.m.

Friday, 25 December

Christmas Day Service in Hayward at 9 a.m.

O Savior, Rend The Heavens Wide Author: Friedrich von Spee (1591-1635)

O Savior, rend the heavens wide!
Come down, come down with mighty stride.
Unbar the gates, the doors break down;
Unbar the way to heaven's crown.

O Day-Spring, dew from heaven send.
As gentle dew, O Son, descend.
Drop down, you clouds, and torrents bring,
To Jacob's line rain down a King.

O earth, in flowering bud be seen,
Clothe hill and dale in garb of green.
O earth, bring forth this Blossom rare;
O Savior, rise from meadow fair.

O Morning Star, O Radiant Dawn,
When will we sing Your morning song?
Come, Son of God! Without Your light
We grope in dread and gloom of night.

Here dreadful doom upon us lies.
Death looms so grim before our eyes.
O come, lead us with mighty hand
From exile to our promised land.

There will we all our praises bring
Ever to Thee our Savior King.
There will we laud Thee and adore
Forever and forevermore. Amen.