

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

21290 Birch St. - Hayward, CA 94541-1538

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

Organist: Elizabeth Karp

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The Last Sunday After The Epiphany – The
Transfiguration of Our Lord – 17 January 2016

Liturgy — Page 5 in The Lutheran Hymnal

Hymns: [insert] **O Wondrous Type, O Vision Fair** (stand for last stanza)
290 We Have A Sure Prophetic Word
135 'Tis Good Lord To Be Here

Sermon Text: 2 Peter 1,16-21

Sermon Theme: Jesus – No Myths Here, Only Reality

- 1) A Reliable Eyewitness
- 2) Jesus Is The Truth
- 3) The Bible Is Our Sure Source Of Knowledge

INTROIT: Praise the LORD, all nations; Laud Him, all peoples!
For His lovingkindness is great toward us: And the truth of
the LORD is everlasting. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due
His name: bring an offering and come into His courts. **Glory
be to the Father ...**

COLLECT: O God, in the glorious Transfiguration of Your
only-begotten Son, You once confirmed the mysteries of
the faith by the testimony of the ancient fathers, and in the
voice that came from the bright cloud You wondrously
foreshadowed our adoption by grace. Therefore mercifully
make us coheirs with our King of His glory, and bring us to
the fulness of our inheritance in heaven; 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

Exodus 3,1-15

Now Moses was pasturing the flock of Jethro his
father-in-law, the priest of Midian; and he led the flock to
the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the
mountain of God. ² The Angel of the LORD appeared to him
in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked,

and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed. ³ So Moses said, “I must turn aside now



Paula Jordan

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and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burned up.” ⁴ When the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” ⁵ Then He said, “Do not come near

here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶ He said also, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ The LORD said, “I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have given heed to their cry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings. ⁸ So I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite. ⁹ Now, behold, the cry of the sons of Israel has come to Me; furthermore, I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians are oppressing them.

¹⁰ Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt.” ¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?” ¹² And He said, “Certainly I

will be with you, and this shall be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God at this mountain.”

¹³ Then Moses said to God, “Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you.’ Now they may say to me, ‘What is His name?’ What shall I say to them?” ¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM”; and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” ¹⁵ God, furthermore, said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations.”

Epistle

2 Peter 1,16–21

For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made



known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses to His majesty. ¹⁷ For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well

pleased,” — ¹⁸ and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ And so we have the prophetic Word made

more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. ²⁰ But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

GRADUAL

The Lord's radiance is like the sunlight; He had rays flashing from His hand,

And there is no hiding His power.

The Lord reigns; let the earth rejoice;

Let the many islands be glad.

Clouds and thick darkness surround Him;

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.

The heavens declare His righteousness,

All the peoples have seen His glory.

He preserves the souls of His godly ones,

He delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

Light is sown like seed for the righteous,

And gladness for the upright in heart.

Hallelujah! Oh praise the LORD, all you nations, and laud Him all you people.

For His merciful kindness is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever. [sing triple Hallelujah]

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 17,1-9

Response: Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

And six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and

James and John his brother, and brought them up to a high mountain by themselves. ² And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became white as light. ³ And behold, Moses and Elijah



appeared to them, talking with Him. ⁴ And Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵ While he was still speaking, behold, a

bright cloud overshadowed them; and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased; hear Him!" ⁶ And when the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were much afraid. ⁷ And Jesus came to them and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." ⁸ And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one, except Jesus Himself alone.

⁹ And as they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead." [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 24 January — Septuagesima Sunday

Old Testament: Jeremiah 1,4-10

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9,24-10,5

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 20,1-16

Weekly Scripture Verse: But the LORD will rise upon you, |
And His glory will appear upon you. (Isaiah 60,2).

Today's Gradual is based on selected verses from Psalms 66
and 145.

Bible Study – Hayward – Tuesday, 19 January, at 2 p.m.
Stockton – Tuesday, 26 January, at 2 p.m.

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

ILL. In your prayers, please remember Nancy, Roy; Jean Niblett;
Marlene Clappier; Don Luebke, Don's nephew
Leigh, and Rose, one of Don's care givers; Sue (the
Karps' neighbor who is undergoing chemotherapy),
Sue (Carolyn's friend), Don Drews; Richard Hocker;
Ruth Scheuermann; James Sandeen; Pr. Doug Priestap
(Calgary); Pr. Robert List (Spokane); Pr. Steven Karp.



Call News: Timothy Daub, a member of Gethsemane Lutheran,
Spokane Valley WA, has applied for colloquy. Formerly he was
in the LC-MS and WELS. Mt. Zion Lutheran, Madison Heights
MI, (Detroit Area) has called the Rev. John M. Johannes, pastor
of Mt. Olive Lutheran, Detroit Lakes, MN, and St. Paul's
Lutheran, Ponsford, MN. Gethsemane Lutheran, Spokane

Valley, WA, has called the Rev. Wayne Eichstadt, co-pastor at
Immanuel Lutheran, Mankato, MN.

Installation of Officers for 2016 - We will install our officers
for 2016 during the morning service in Hayward on 31 January
(note change of date). After the service, there will be a Church
Council meeting at the parsonage; after lunch, the audit
committee will meet.

Hans Sachs, German Poet & Supporter of the Reformation (5
November 1494 – 19 January 1576). By profession, Sachs was
a shoemaker and by avocation he was a poet and song writer.

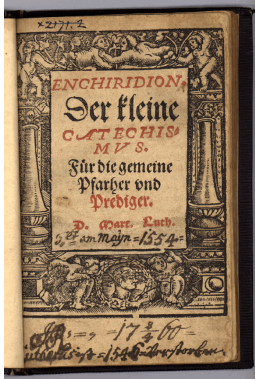


He was born in Nuremberg,
attended Latin school, and at age
fourteen apprenticed as a
shoemaker, a trade which he
pursued for his entire life. Over the
course of his life he wrote some
6636 poems and over 200 dramatic
works. He was known as a
Meistersinger, or master song
writer. With the coming of the

Reformation he became an ardent supporter of Luther and in
1523 wrote an allegorical poem in support of Luther, "The
Nightingale of Wittenberg." in 1527 he and Andreas Osiander
wrote a polemical pamphlet against the papacy. He was a
major influence in winning Nuremberg for the Reformation.
Although some of his songs and tunes became hymns, none
are included in either modern German or English Lutheran
hymnals. After becoming a master shoemaker, Sachs married

Kunigunde Creutzer in 1519; after her death he remarried; however, neither union was blessed with children. He is considered to be the outstanding poet of sixteenth-century Germany. In Wagner's 1868 opera, "The Meistersingers of Nuremberg," Hans Sachs, is one of the main characters.

Luther's Small Catechism (20 January 1529). In 1529, after one of the great disappointments of his life, Martin Luther wrote his Small Catechism, a simple manual of instruction in the Christian faith. In 1527–28, Luther and his associates were asked by their prince to inspect the churches of Saxony. The results were profoundly disappointing. Ignorance reigned among the clergy and laity alike, and the schools were in ruins. To meet the need for popular instruction Luther immediately drew up wall charts



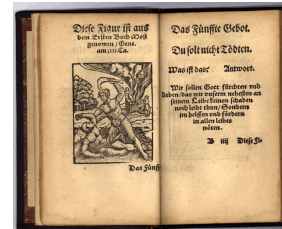
containing explanations in simple language of the Ten Commandments, The Apostles' Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. When his colleagues delayed writing a more complete explanation, Luther pulled together his charts and published them as a simple explanation of the faith.

Luther intended his Small Catechism to be an aid for family worship. In its preface, he condemned parents who, by neglecting the Christian education of their children, had become "the worst enemies of God and man." Almost all of the Catechism's sections begin with remarks directed toward the head of the house (for example: "The Ten Commandments in the plain form in which the head of the family shall teach it to

his household").

The Catechism contains nine sections, each in a series of questions and answers. These sections, according to Luther's order, treat the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Confession and Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. They also include instructions for morning and evening prayers, grace at meals, and a "Table of Duties" made up of various Scriptural passages "selected for various estates and conditions of men, by which they may be admonished to do their respective duties."

Much of the influence of Lutheranism around the world may be traced to the success of the Small Catechism in expressing the profound truths of the Christian faith in a language that all can understand. Unlike virtually all Reformed catechisms and the Roman Catholic catechism, Luther places the Ten Commandments before describing the work of Christ; this shows us the demands of the Law, which we cannot fulfill, and then gives us our Savior,



Explanation of the Fifth Commandment in a 1554 edition of Luther's Small Catechism

Christ, Who on our behalf has fulfilled all of the Law's demands. The Catechism's exposition of the Creed focuses on the free gift of salvation in Christ. The explanations of Baptism and the Lord's Supper show how these are true Means of Grace which give forgiveness, in which God gives us life and salvation (Source: Mark A. Noll, "Luther's Small Catechism," in Evangelical Dictionary of Theology, ed. Walter A. Elwell, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1984: 670)

O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair

Latin, 15th century

Translated: J. M. Neale (1818-66)

Tune: Deo Gracias, LM

O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair
Of glory that the Church may share,
Which Christ upon the mountain shows,
Where brighter than the sun He glows!

With Moses and Elijah nigh
The incarnate Lord holds converse high;
And From the cloud the Holy One
Bears record to the only Son.

With shining face and bright array
Christ deigns to manifest today
What glory shall be theirs above
Who trust in His atoning love.

And faithful hearts are raised on high
By this great vision's mystery;
For which in joyful strains we raise
The voice of prayer, the hymns of praise.

O Father, with the eternal Son,
And Holy Spirit, ever One,
We pray Thee, bring us by Thy grace
To see Thy glory face to face.