

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

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Organist: Elizabeth Karp

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The Second Last Sunday of the Church Year –
13 November 2016

Liturgy — Page 5 in The Lutheran Hymnal

HYMNS: 611 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near (1-5)
[insert] The World Is Very Evil
56 Jesus Came The Heavens Adoring

Sermon Text: Revelation 2,8-11

Sermon Theme: Enduring Tribulation

1. Tribulation Is Being Under Pressure
2. Jesus Endured Tribulation
3. God's Promises Ease The Pressure

INTROIT: Save me, O God, by Your name: and judge me by Your strength. Hear my prayer, O God: give ear to the words of my mouth. He shall reward evil unto mine enemies: cut them off in Your truth. **Glory be to the Father ...**

COLLECT: O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit, that, being ever mindful of the end of all things and the Day of Your Last Judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with you forever hereafter; 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

Isaiah 40,9–11

Get yourself up on a high mountain,
O Zion, bearer of good news.
Lift up your voice mightily,
O Jerusalem, bearer of good news,
Lift it up, do not fear.
Say to the cities of Judah,

“Here is your God!”

¹⁰ Behold, the Lord GOD will come with might,
With His arm ruling for Him.

Behold, His reward is with Him,
And His recompense before Him.

¹¹ Like a shepherd He will lead His flock,
In His arm He will gather the lambs,
And carry them in His bosom;
He will gently lead the nursing ewes.

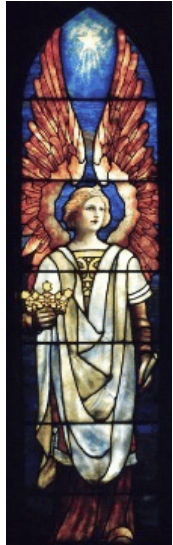
Epistle

Revelation 2,8-11

“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

The First and the Last, Who was dead,
and has come to life, says this:

⁹ ‘I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰ Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.’”



GRADUAL

For the LORD is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness,

And the peoples in His faithfulness.

Hear my prayer, O LORD,

Give ear to my supplications!

Answer me in Your faithfulness,

in Your righteousness!

And do not enter into judgment with Your servant,

For in Your sight no man living is righteous.

I stretch out my hands to You;

My soul longs for You, as a parched land.

Let me hear Your steadfast love in the morning;

For I trust in You.

Teach me the ways in which I should walk;

For to You I lift up my soul.

Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God;

Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

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

Matthew 25,31-46

Response: Glory be to Thee, O Lord!



[Jesus said to His disciples:] “But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all of the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. ³² And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the

goats; ³³ and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundations of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; ³⁶ naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You drink? ³⁸ And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? ³⁹ And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ ⁴⁰ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’ ⁴¹ Then He will say to those on His left, ‘Depart from me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; ⁴³ I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.’ ⁴⁴ Then they themselves also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?’ ⁴⁵ Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” [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 20 November — The Last Sunday of the Church Year

Old Testament: Isaiah 65,17-25
Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5,1-11
The Holy Gospel: Matthew 25,1-13

Weekly Scripture Verse: For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ. (2 Corinthians 5,10)

Today’s **Gradual** is based on selected verses from Psalms 96 and 143.

Next Service in Stockton: Sunday, 13 November, at 2 p.m.

Thanksgiving Day Service in **Hayward** on **Thursday, 24 November, at 9 a.m.**

Bible Study. Hayward – Tuesday, 13 November, at 1:30 p.m.

Stockton, Tuesday, 29 November, at 2 p.m.

(Note: There should be a Bible Study in Hayward on Tuesday, 15 November, but Pastor Karp may have to report for jury duty. While he can dial in to find out his status on Monday evening, there is the possibility that if he is not summoned for a morning session he could be summoned for an afternoon session.)

Meditations – the new issue of *Meditations* (dec. 2016 – Feb. 2017) did not arrive in Stockton until Thursday. Jim Niblett

said he mailed them but the delivery slip indicated they will probably arrive here on Monday so they should be distributed next Sunday, 20 November.

ILL. In your prayers, please remember Nancy and Roy Cameron; Jean Niblett; Marlene Clappier; Sue (the Karp's neighbor who is undergoing chemotherapy), Don Drews; Richard and Beth Hocker; Ruth Scheuermann; Pr. Doug Priestap (Florida); Pr. Steven Karp; Mary Ryan (of Eau Claire, WI); Deena; Peter.



Call News. St. Stephen Lutheran, Mountain View, and St. Stephen Lutheran, Hayward, CA, have called the Rev. Luke Bernthal, pastor of Grace Lutheran, Valentine, NE, Peace Lutheran, Mission, and St. Paul's Lutheran, White River, SD. Zion Lutheran, Lawrenceville, GA, has called the Rev. Michael Wilke, pastor of Gethsemane Lutheran, Saginaw, MI. Pastor Emeritus Dan Fleischer has returned the Call from St. Stephen Lutheran of Mountain View, CA, and St. Stephen Lutheran of the East Bay & Central Valley to be their interim pastor.

Justinian I, Roman Emperor, Roman Emperor (483 - 13 or 14 November 565; emperor from 527). Although he was a staunch defender of orthodox Christianity, and so the Eastern Orthodox Church considers him to be a saint (as do some Lutherans), Justinian was hardly "saintly" in the performance of either his civic or religious duties (one would be hard pressed to be "saintly" in either becoming emperor or retaining power and staying alive as emperor). That said, he was probably one of the greatest Roman emperors and had a profound impact upon Western Civilization.

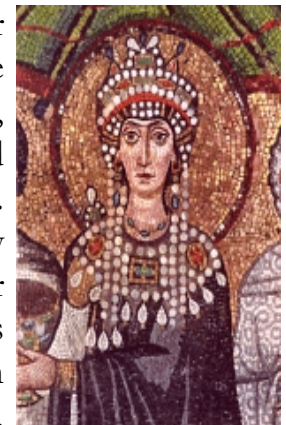
He was born to a peasant family and then adopted by

his uncle, Justin, his mother's brother. Justin went from being a member of the emperor's guard to emperor. Justin brought his nephew to Constantinople, where Justinian received a good education in politics, law, and religion. In 527, Justinian became associate emperor and upon Justin's death in 527 he assumed sole duties of emperor.



Mosaic of Justinian at the church in Ravenna, Italy

In about 525 he married Theodora (ca. 500-547), who was twenty years his junior, and before their marriage was an "actress" (which most take to be a euphemism for prostitute). While the marriage caused a scandal, Theodora was very intelligent and staunchly supported her husband. Theodora died in 548 at a relatively young age. Justinian would outlive her by 20 years and in his later years became more and more interested in theology. In theological matters, however, Theodora seems to have sympathized with the heretical Monophysites.



Mosaic of Theodora at the church in Ravenna, Italy

In military matters, he was served well by his general, Belisarius, who conquered Africa from the Vandals (533-34) and went on to conquer Italy from the Goths (535-40 and 541-554). Justinian's military efforts were directed more to the West than the East. Belisarius was instrumental in putting down the Nika riots of 532 in Constantinople, which attempted to overthrow Justinian. Theodora strengthened

Justinian's resolve to brutally suppress the riots, including the slaughter of tens of thousands of civilians in the Hippodrome. Taking advantage of the situation, at this time Theodora successfully persuaded him to kill the extended family of one of the previous emperors.

In legal matters, Justinian codified Roman Law in what has become known as the Code of Justinian, which was influential in the development of Roman Catholic canon law and also the basis for many European law codes.

Justinian built many churches, including the famed Hagia Sophia (Church of the Holy Wisdom, dedicated to Jesus as the personification of Wisdom) in Constantinople; after the Muslim conquest in 1453, this great church was turned into a mosque, but has now been turned into a museum.

In religious matters, Justinian championed the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed, which he made the sole symbol of the Church. He accorded legal force to the canon of the first four Ecumenical Councils. He vigorously suppressed heresy (including being personally present while Manicheans were burned at the stake and drowned). In 539 he closed the Academy in Athens. He suppressed paganism. For the most part and even in opposition to his ecclesiastical officials in the East, he pursued good relations with the papacy in Rome. In support of this endeavour, he suppressed the Monophysite heresy, which was particularly strong in Syria and Egypt. Also in support of this suppression, he called the Fifth Ecumenical Council in 553 for Constantinople, which condemned the teachings of Origen and affirmed the Fourth Ecumenical Council of Chalcedon. He actively promoted missionary activity.

He was a hard-working individual who placed the interests of the state above personal interests. His invasion of

Italy worked out well for him, but not so well for Italy, since the consequent devastation began a long-term de-urbanization of the country and within three years of his death it was conquered by the Lombards. His wars demanded heavy taxation which alienated large segments of the populace. His persecution of Monophysites left Syria and Egypt open to welcome Muslim invaders as "liberators" a little more than a century after his death.

Elizabeth of Hungary, Princess and Provider for the Poor (7 July 1207 -14 November 1231).

Elizabeth was the daughter of King Andrew II of Hungary and his wife Gertrude. At age four, she was brought to the court of Thuringia, Germany, to be betrothed to the future Ludwig IV of Thuringia, whom she married at age fourteen, the same year in which he was crowned king (1221). In 1223, Franciscan monks arrived, and Elizabeth learned about the selfless life of Francis of Assisi. She then began to give alms and perform other charitable deeds, all with the approval of Ludwig. In 1226, when Ludwig was tending to imperial affairs, flood, famine, and plague gripped Thuringia and Elizabeth assumed control and distributed alms in all parts of the land. Below the Wartburg castle, she built a hospital and help tend the patients on a daily basis.

In the 1220s, Konrad von Marburg became her confessor. He was a harsh man and in assigning penance demanded that she even undergo physical beatings. It is thought that this harsh regimen contributed to her weak health and eventual death.

In 1227 Ludwig died while on his way to join the Sixth



Crusade. At this point, she made solemn vows to Konrad similar to those of a nun, including those of celibacy. This last vow was contested by her family, who, for political reasons, would have liked to marry her off again. Elizabeth, however, held fast to her vows. She became affiliated with the Third Order of St. Francis and built a hospital in Marburg with her dowry. She died in Marburg.

Elizabeth was survived by her three children: Hermann II, Landgraf of Thuringia (1222-41); Sophie (1224-75), who married Henry II, Duke of Brabant; Gertrude of Altenberg (1227-97), who became the abbess of the convent of Altenberg.

Elizabeth is commemorated by many hospitals which have been named in her honor.

Kaspar Cruciger the Elder, Pastor, Reformer, Equivocator (1 January 1504 - 14 November 1548). Cruciger was a Lutheran pastor who helped make Magdeburg a Lutheran stronghold, befriended Luther, assisted him in translating the Bible into German, transcribed and compiled his sermons, but, as a friend of Philip Melanchthon, later in life was willing to compromise with the Zwinglians and the Roman Catholics.



Cruciger (and there are various spellings of his name) was born in Leipzig; his father was a well-to-do merchant. In 1513 he entered the University of Leipzig and studied Theology. In 1523 he went to Wittenberg to continue his studies, but was also interested in natural history, botany, and astronomy. In 1525 he became the rector and preacher at the newly established Evangelical St. John's School in

Magdeburg. In 1528 he returned to Wittenberg to become a professor of theology and in 1533 he received his doctorate in theology. In 1539 he was assisted by Friedrich Myconius in establishing the Reformation in Leipzig. He took part in theological debates in Marburg (1529) and later in Hagenau and Worms (1540-41), and Regensburg (1541). With the outbreak of the Smalcald War in 1546, the imperial and Catholic forces moved from victory to victory, and Melanchthon moved to secure a compromise with the imperial government of Emperor Charles V by conceding some points which he felt were *adiaphora* (that is, things neither commanded nor prohibited by Scripture) in the area of worship. Cruciger would have gone along with this compromise, which was finally codified in the Augsburg Interim of 1548, but Cruciger died before the Interim was signed. The concept that one could yield in *adiaphora* in such circumstances was later condemned by Article X of the Formula of Concord (1580).

Cruciger was twice married. His first wife was Elizabeth von Meseritz, who bore two children: a daughter, who was Johannes Luther's second wife (Johannes was Martin Luther's eldest son), and a son, Kaspar the Younger, who followed in the final equivocating steps of his father and, after having been banished from Saxony in 1576, became a Calvinist pastor. After the death of his first wife, Cruciger married Apollonia Güntherode, the daughter of a Leipzig city councillor; this union bore one daughter, Apollonia, who married the poet Georg Mauritius.

Johann Hermann Schein, Lutheran Musician (20 January 1586 - 18 November 1630). Schein was the son of a pastor and was born in Gruehain. His father died in 1594 and his mother moved back to Dresden, where he became part of

the cathedral boys choir and was introduced to Italian and German choral composition. In 1603 he received a stipend which enabled him to enrol at the University of Leipzig. Even though he loved music, he also studied law. In 1612, with the end of stipends, he became a private tutor. In 1613



he moved to Weissenfels, continuing as a tutor and musical director; while there he became friends with Heinrich Schütz. In 1615, Duke Joahannes Ernst called Schein to be the cathedral choir director in Weimar. In 1616 he was called to be the Cantor of the Church of St. Thomas in Leipzig (a position which

would later be held by J. S. Bach). As Cantor, however, he was engaged in seemingly endless disputes with the Pastor as well as city officials (it must have been an occupational hazard). Because of continuing ill health (tuberculosis, gout, scurvy, and kidney problems), he was dismissed in 1629 and died in Leipzig in 1630. He was married, but four of his five children died in infancy and his wife died after the birth of their fifth child.

He is noted for composing many secular and religious works, combining the Italian madrigal with the German motet. His principal work is *The Hymnal of the Augsburg Confession* (1627), containing 286 hymns and 206 tunes, of which 57 were by him. Two of his tunes are included in *The Lutheran Hymnal*: 268 (Zion Klagt) and 421 (Mach's mit mir, Gott).

Veteran's Day – 11 November. Originally called Armistice



Day to commemorate the end of World War One at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month (1918); in 1954 the name was changed. In the British Commonwealth today is known as “Remembrance Day.” Wearing a red poppy reflects the WW I poem “In

Flanders Fields,” by Lt. Col. John McCrae.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Hymn Insert: **The World Is Very Evil** (TLH 605; tune
“Ewing”)

The world is very evil,
The times are waxing late;
Be sober and keep vigil,
The Judge is at the gate;
The Judge that comes in mercy,
The Judge that comes with might,
To terminate the evil,
To diadem the right.

2. Arise, arise, good Christian,
Let right to wrong succeed;
Let penitential sorrow
To heav'nly gladness lead,
To light that hath no evening,
That knows no moon nor sun,
The light so new and golden,
The light that is but one.

3. Brief life is here our portion;
Brief sorrow, short-lived care;
The life that knows no ending,
The tearless life, is there.
O happy retribution:
Short toil, eternal rest;
For mortals and for sinners
A mansion with the blest!

4. And now we fight the battle,
But then shall wear the crown
Of full and everlasting
And passionless renown;
And now we watch and struggle,
And now we live in hope,
And Zion in her anguish
With Babylon must cope.

5. But He Whom now we trust in
Shall then be seen and known;
And they that know and see Him
Shall have Him for their own.
And there is David's fountain
And life in fullest glow;
And there the light is golden,
And milk and honey flow.