

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

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Organist: Elizabeth Karp

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The First Sunday In Advent – 27 November 2016

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

Hymn 60 Hark, A Thrilling Voice is Sounding (stand for 5)

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

The Psalmody

LORD, you were favorable to Your land;

You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of Your people;

You covered all their sin.

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,

**For He will speak peace to His people, to His
saints; but let them not turn back to folly.**

Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,

That glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;

Righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Faithfulness springs up from the ground,

And righteousness looks down from the sky.

Yes, the LORD will give what is good,

And our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before Him

And make His footsteps a way.

Hallelujah! Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies,

**For they have been ever of old. [sing: Glory be to
the Father ...]**

First Lesson

Romans 13,11–14

Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. ¹² The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness,

not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to *its* lusts.

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

C] Thanks be to Thee, O Lord.

Second Lesson

Matthew 21,1-9



When they had approached Jerusalem and had come to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied there and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to Me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of them,’ and immediately he will send them.” ⁴ This

took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵ “Say to the daughter of Zion,
‘Behold your King is coming to you,
Gentle, and mounted on a donkey,
Even on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

⁶ The disciples went and did just as Jesus had instructed them, ⁷ and brought the donkey and the colt, and laid their coats on them; and He sat on the coats. ⁸ Most of the crowd spread their coats in the road, and others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in the road. ⁹ The crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David;
Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord;

Hosanna in the highest!” [Scripture passages are 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 58 Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee (1-5)

Sermon Text: Romans 13,11-14

Sermon Theme: Getting Dressed To Meet Jesus

1. When To Get Dressed
2. What Not To Wear
3. Where To Get The Proper Clothes

Hymn 58 Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee (6-9)

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]

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: O Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You, we bless and praise You forever, that You sent your Son to rule over us poor sinners, who for our transgressions justly deserved to remain in the bondage of sin and Satan, and that through Your Son You gave us a meek and righteous King, Who by His death became our Savior from sin and eternal death. Enlighten, govern and direct us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may ever remain faithful to this righteous King and Savior, and not, after the manner of this world, be offended by His

humble form and despised Word, but, firmly believing in Him, 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.

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 95 Savior Of The Nations Come (1-4)

† † †

Lessons for 4 December — The Second Sunday of Advent— A Service With Holy Communion

Old Testament: Micah 4,1-7

Epistle: Romans 15,4-13

The Holy Gospel: Luke 21,25-33

Weekly Scripture Verse: Behold, your King is coming to you; | He is just and endowed with salvation. (Zechariah 9,9)

Next Service in Stockton: Sunday, 4 December, at 2 p.m.

Bible Study - Stockton - Tuesday, 29 November, at 2 p.m.

Today's **Psalmody** consists of selected verses from Psalm 85.

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. The Rev. Timothy Wheaton, pastor of Living Word Lutheran, Blue Springs (Kansas City area), MO, has returned the Call from Rock of Ages Lutheran, Grand Rapids, MI.

Handout – December 2016 Church Calendar.

ILL. In your prayers, please remember Nancy and Roy Cameron; Jean Niblett; Marlene Clappier; Sue (the Karps' 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.



Advent begins today 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, we look back to Jesus' coming in Grace.

The Advent Wreath. The roots of the Advent Wreath may go back to the Middle Ages in Europe; however, in modern times it was developed by Johann Heinrich Wichern (1808-81), a German theologian who ran a home for poor children in Hamburg, Germany. It became popular in the 20th century. The four candles in the wreath represent the four weeks before the birth of Jesus. Generally, there are three purple candles (or blue) and one pink candle (or rose); a white



candle in the middle symbolizes Christ and is not lit until Christmas Day. Different traditions assign different names to the different candles. Two of the most popular designations are: (1) the Prophets' Candle, the Shepherds' Candle, the Bethlehem Candle, and the Angels' Candle; or, (2) candles for Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy.

St. Andrew, Apostle (30 November). St. Andrew the Apostle, was the son of John (Jonah) and the brother of Simon Peter. He grew up in Bethsaida



by Lake Galilee, where he and his family were fishermen. At the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, they both lived in the same house in Capernaum. Even though Andrew is a Greek name, it was common among the Jews from the third to second centuries BC.

Before meeting Jesus, Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist. But after John identified Jesus as "the Lamb of God," Andrew left John to find Jesus. Andrew then told his brother Peter and the Apostle John about Jesus (John 1,36-42); subsequently, both Andrew and Peter "left all" to follow Jesus.

In the lists of the Apostles, Andrew is always listed among the first four. On each occasion that Andrew is mentioned in the Gospels, he is always bringing someone to Jesus: first, Peter and John; second, the boy with the five bread loaves and two fish at the feeding of the 5,000; third, when Jesus was going to Jerusalem for the last time, a group of Greeks who wanted to see Jesus. Andrew was present for the Last Supper and saw



Jesus at His post-resurrection appearances. He was also present at Jesus' Ascension as well as at Pentecost.

Since Andrew was the first of the Apostles, the Western Church commemorates his feast day on 30 November and this marks the beginning of the Church Year.

No mention of Andrew is made in the New Testament concerning the rest of his life. In his *Church History*, Eusebius notes that Andrew preached in Scythia; other writers have Andrew preaching in what is today's Turkey as well as Macedonia and Greece. In Achaia in Greece it was reported that he converted the wife and brother of the Roman governor, Aegeas (or, Aegeates). Aegeas was so enraged by this that he had Andrew arrested and condemned to death by crucifixion. Andrew was bound to a decussated or Saltire cross (shaped like an "X"), which prolonged his agony. The date of his martyrdom is said to be 30 November AD 60, during the reign of Nero.



Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland and Russia. In Scotland, his Saltire Cross was incorporated into the national flag; this Saltire Cross, along with the Cross of St. George, form the basis of the Union Jack.

Argula von Grumbach, Reformer (ca. 1492 - 30 November 1554). Argula was born into an aristocratic south German family and wrote letters and championed and defended Luther and the reformers.

She was born at Ehrenfels Castle in Bavaria in a staunchly Catholic family (von Stauff) of independent nobility (Freiherren), which meant that they only owed loyalty to the emperor. Argula was taught to read at an early age, and at age ten her father gave her a German Bible (note: Luther's translation was not the first German Bible), which she read,

studied, and memorized, in spite of Franciscans telling her that such reading would only “confuse her.”

In 1508 in Munich, she became a lady-in-waiting to Queen Kunigunde, the daughter of Emperor Friedrich II. In 1509 her parents died of the plague. In 1516 she married Friedrich von Grumbach, which was a slight social step down for her; he is reported to have been in ill health and died in 1530. With Friedrich, however, she bore four children, of which only the third, Gottfried, survived his parents. Her husband did not share her evangelical beliefs.

By 1522, having read Luther, she began to support the Reformation. She corresponded with Paul Speratus, Andreas Osiander, and Luther. In 1523 a young theologian named Ingolstadt was arrested for promoting Lutheran views and was arrested. In protest, Argula wrote a longer letter supporting the theologian. In part she wrote: “What have Luther and Melancthon taught save the Word of God? You have not refuted them.” Her letter was published as a pamphlet and enjoyed numerous printings. On account of this, she was shunned by her family and Catholic theologians denounced her as a “whore” and “an unfit mother.” In 1530 she was at the imperial Diet in Augsburg and met Luther.

She reportedly died in 1554 in Zeitlitzheim, however, there are reports that indicate that she might have lived until 1563.



**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF CONCORD
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
LARGE CATECHISM, PART III, THE LORD’S
PRAYER**

“What is God’s Kingdom?”

Answer, “Nothing other than what we learned in the Creed: God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, into the world to redeem and deliver us from the devil’s power [1 John 3,8]. He sent Him to bring us to Himself and to govern us as a King of righteousness, life, and salvation against sin, death, and an evil conscience. For this reason He has also given His Holy Spirit, Who is to bring these things home to us by His holy Word and to illumine and strengthen us in the faith by His power.”

We pray here in the first place that this may happen with us. We pray that His name may be so praised through God’s holy Word and a Christian life that we who have accepted it may abide and daily grow in it, and that it may gain approval and acceptance among other people. We pray that it may go forth with power throughout the world [2 Thessalonians 3,1]. We pray that many may find entrance into the Kingdom of Grace [John 3,5], be made partakers of redemption [Colossians 1,12-14], and be led to it by the Holy Spirit [Romans 8,14], so that we may all together remain forever in the one Kingdom now begun.



We pray that the Kingdom may come to those who are not yet in it, and, by daily growth that it may come to us who have received it, both now and hereafter in eternal life. (paragraphs 51-53) [Condensed from CONCORDIA: THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS, copyright 2006 by CPH. Used by permission. All rights reserved.]