

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 Sunday of Advent – 4 December 2016

– A Service with Holy Communion

(Visitors are asked to speak with the Pastor before
communing)

Liturgy — Page 15 in The Lutheran Hymnal

HYMNS: [insert] O Savior, Rend The Heavens Wide
64 Jesus, Thy Church With Longing Eyes
132 O God Of God, O Light Of Light

Sermon Text: Luke 21,25-36

Sermon Theme: Words Upon Which We Can Depend

1. Certain Signs For Uncertain Times
2. An Enduring And dependable Word
3. A Word Which Prepares

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

Romans 15,4-13

For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ Now may the God Who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God. ⁸ For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises *given* to the fathers, ⁹ and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written,

“Therefore I will give praise to You among the
Gentiles,
And I will sing to Your name.”

¹⁰ Again he says,
“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people.”

¹¹ And again,
“Praise the Lord all you Gentiles,
And let all the peoples praise Him.”

¹² Again Isaiah says,
“There shall come the Root of Jesse,
And He Who arises to rule over the Gentiles,

In Him shall the Gentiles hope.”

¹³ Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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 21,25-36

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!

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Lessons for 11 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 - Tuesday, 6 December, at 1:30 p.m.
Stockton - Tuesday, 27 December, at 1 p.m. (Note change of time)

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.

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.

Handouts - CLC President Eichstadt's December 2016 Pastoral Letter

Martin Rinkart, Lutheran Pastor & Hymn Writer (23 April 1586 - 8 December 1649). Rinkart (or, Rinckart) was born and grew up in Eilenburg, near Leipzig in Saxony, Germany, where his father was a master cooper. At age five he was enrolled in the Latin School in his home town and at



age 15 he joined the boys' choir at the Thomas Church in Leipzig. A year later, he began studies at the University of Leipzig, even though at times his musical studies interfered with his theological studies. He received his baccalaureate degree in 1609. He then became the Cantor at St. Nicolai Church in Eisleben and also taught in the Latin School. In 1611 he became the Deacon at St. Anne in Eisleben and in 1613 was installed as the Pastor at Erdeborn, near Eisleben. In 1615 he was acknowledged as a poet laureate and in 1617 he became the Archdeacon (that is, the "second" Pastor) in Eilenburg, where he remained the rest of his life. He wrote poetry, hymns, and dramas, including a seven-part series on Luther, in which he portrayed Luther as the victor over the papacy and Calvinism. Many of his works, however, have been lost or only exist as fragmentary copies.

By 1637 the ravages of the Thirty Years' War came to Eilenburg. Plague struck the city and he was the only pastor, two having died and one having fled. He conducted funeral services for as many as 40 to 50 people a day; the death toll

reached 4,480. He even buried his wife and several of his children. In response to this devastation, he wrote what would become one of the best known of Christian hymns, “Now Thank We All Our God” (number 36 in *The Lutheran Hymnal*). His signet ring was embossed with the initials “MVSICA,” which stood for: “Mein Vertrauen steht in Christo allein,” or, “My trust is placed in Christ alone.”

Rinkart first married Christine Morgenstern, who was the daughter of the Rector of the church in Eisleben. After her death in 1637, he married a widow, Barbara Scheffler. Two children from his first marriage and one from his second survived him. Rinkart died about a year after the Peace of Westphalia, which ended the Thirty Years’ War.

Paul Eber, Professor and Hymnist (8 November 1511 - 8 December 1569), was the son of a master tailor and was born in Kitzingen, Bavaria. He began his education in Ansbach, but illness forced him to return home. He was thrown from



his horse and dragged half a mile, and thus remained deformed for the rest of his life. In 1525 he entered the St. Lorenz school in Nürnberg and in 1532 he matriculated at the University of Wittenberg, his teachers being Luther and Melanchthon. For several years he was a tutor and then in 1557 he was appointed regular professor,

first of Latin then of Physics. In the same year he became the preacher at the Castle Church in Wittenberg. At the Colloquy of Worms in 1557 he was Melanchthon’s secretary, but left at Christmas to return to Wittenberg. In 1558 he succeeded Bugenhagen as municipal preacher and general superintendent of the electoral circuit. In 1559 he received the

degree of Doctor of Divinity from Wittenberg. He died in Wittenberg. Next to Luther, he was considered to be the best poet of the Wittenberg school. Hymns of his in *The Lutheran Hymnal* include: 112, To God the Anthem Raising; 254, Lord, God, We All to Thee give Praise; 522, When in the Hour of Utmost Need; and, 585, I Fall Asleep in Jesus’ Wounds. (Source: *Handbook to the Lutheran Hymnal*, 502).

Heinrich von Zütphen, Pastor and Martyr (ca. 1488 - 11 December 1524). Little is known of von Zütphen’s early life except he was born in Zütphen, the Netherlands. He was



educated at the Augustinian monastery in Wittenberg and graduated in 1508. He then went to Köln and was elected subprior of the monastery in 1514; in the following year he went to Dordrecht and became prior. With the onset of the Reformation he resigned his position and returned to Wittenberg to study under Luther,

receiving his degree in theology in 1521. His thesis consisted of 73 theses “against private masses.” He went to Antwerp to further the cause of the Reformation. He was arrested but a crowd of peasants freed him. Seeing little prospects for the Evangelical cause, he decided to return to Wittenberg in 1522. On the way back, he stopped in Bremen, was asked to preach, and then asked to remain. After seeing that some of his classmates had succeeded in preaching in the Netherlands, in 1524 he went to Medorf. Even though he was seemingly well received, the prior at the Dominican monastery, Augustinus Torneborch, urged a drunken crowd to accost and seize von Zütphen. On 9 December 1524 they broke into the parsonage, seized von Zütphen, and bound him to a

horse's tail and marched him to Heide. The next day they tried to burn him at the stake. The wood, however, was too wet, so they repeatedly struck him in the chest with a hammer and killed him. On 11 December they cut his body up and burned it.

Holy Communion

Concerning Holy Communion, we believe, teach and confess that:

a. in, with, and under the bread Jesus gives us His true Body;



b. in, with, and under the wine Jesus gives us His true Blood;

c. whoever receives Holy Communion, receives it either for salvation or for judgment;

d. whoever believes the words, “given and shed for you...”, receives the Body and Blood of Christ for salvation;

e. whoever does not believe the words, “given and shed for you...”, receives the Body and Blood of Christ to judgment;

f. out of a pastoral concern for your soul, we ask that visitors speak with the pastor before receiving Holy Communion.

We practice Close Communion. We welcome those to the Lord's Supper who are baptized and confirmed members in good standing of our congregation and sister congregations within the Church of the Lutheran Confession. This reflects the practice of the ancient and apostolic church which opened the Lord's Table only to those who had been baptized and publicly confessed doctrinal agreement with all that Christ had commanded. If you are a visitor and would like to learn more about what we teach, please speak with Pastor Karp.



Christmas Services 2016

Saturday, 24 December

Christmas Eve Service in **Stockton** at **1 p.m.**

Sunday, 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 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.