

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

West & East Bay, Central Valley, and Southern California

Member congregations of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (clclutheran.org)

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October 22, 2023 ✝ Pentecost 21

We Welcome Our Visitors who are with us this morning.

We hope that you are uplifted by the Gospel at our worship service.

We invite you to join us every Sunday.

✝ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 23 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) ✝

**Our Worship Services will be Posted to Our Website Each Sunday Evening.
To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:**

<https://www.sslwest.org/worship.html>

Note: Sung responses will have musical notes 🎵 next to them.

All other responses will be spoken.

Opening Hymn: 707 Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

LSB 707



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot - steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in Thy com - mands—'Tis a de - light - ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!
Let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, But keep my con - science clear.
And should I e'er for - get Thy way, Re - store Thy wan - d'ring sheep.
Nor let my head or heart or hands Of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870
Text and tune: Public domain

THE INVOCATION

We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

(TLH, p. 5)

[P] In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[C] Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

[P] Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

[P] Our help is in the name of the Lord.

[C] Who made heaven and earth.

[P] I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

[C] And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C **Amen.**

THE GLORIA PATRI

Latin for "Glory to the Father" (TLH, p. 6)

C **♪** ***Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.***

THE KYRIE

Latin for "O Lord." We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life. (TLH, p. 7)

♪ ***Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.***

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

In Latin "Gloria in excelsis Deo" means "Glory to God in the highest." We rejoice In our Lord who came to earth to bring us His peace. (TLH, p. 7)

**♪ Glory be to God on High, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee.
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE SALUTATION *(Greeting)*

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spirit.

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

The main thoughts for the day are "collected" together in this prayer.

- P** We pray:
O God, the protector of all who trust in You, have mercy on us that with You as our ruler and guide we may so pass through this earthly life and in the end enjoy with You the life eternal. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

God speaks to us.

First Reading

Philippians 4:4-13 (EHV)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything,

by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if anything is excellent, and if anything is praiseworthy, think about these things. ⁹ The things that you learned, received, heard, and saw in me: Keep doing these things. And the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰ I rejoice greatly in the Lord now that you have revived your concern for me once again. Actually, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹ I am not saying this because I lack anything; in fact, I have learned to be content in any circumstances in which I find myself. ¹² I know what it is to live in humble circumstances, and I know what it is to have more than enough. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, while being full or hungry, while having plenty or not enough. ¹³ I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.

THE GRADUAL

When God speaks to us in His Word it is natural for us to respond. We sing "Hallelujah!"—meaning "Praise the Lord!"

P Blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it. Hallelujah!

G Hallelujah!

P The second reading is from Matthew 22:1-10.

G Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

Second Reading

Matthew 22:1-10 (EHV)

Jesus spoke to them again in parables. He said, ² "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent out his servants to summon those who were invited to the wedding banquet, but they did not want to come.

⁴ "Then he sent out other servants and said, 'Tell those who are invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner. My oxen and my fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet!'

⁵ "But those who were invited paid no attention and went off, one to his own farm, another to his business. ⁶ The rest seized the king's servants, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ As a result, the king was very angry. He sent his army and killed those murderers and burned their town.

⁸ *"Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. ⁹ So go to the main crossroads and invite as many as you find to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰ Those servants went out to the roads and gathered together everyone they found, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.*

P Here ends our Gospel reading.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

THE APOSTLES' CREED

We boldly confess what we believe. (TLH, p. 12)

C 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 on 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

Hymn of the Day:

(Mountain View Service) **783** (Worship Supplement) ***Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep***

(Hayward Service) **718** ***Jesus, Lead Thou On***

LSB 718

1 Je - sus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won; And al-though the
2 If the way be drear, If the foe be near, Let not faith-less
3 When we seek re-lief From a long-felt grief, When temp-ta-tions
4 Je - sus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won. Heav'n-ly lead-er,



way be cheer - less, We will fol - low calm and fear - less.
 fears o'er - take us; Let not faith and hope for - sake us;
 come al - lur - ing, Make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing.
 still di - rect us, Still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



Guide us by Thy hand To our fa - ther - land.
 For through man - y a woe To our home we go.
 Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more.
 Till we safe - ly stand In our fa - ther - land.

Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700–60; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–97, alt. Tune: Adam Drese, 1620–1701
Text and tune: Public domain

THE SERMON

Psalm 23 (NKJV)

A Psalm of David.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. ³ He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

Sermon Theme: Exploring the Meaning of the 23rd Psalm and It's Wonderful Blessings to Us

by Pastor Mark Gullerud - preaching at St. Stephen-West (Mountain View)

Preaching at St. Stephen-East Bay (Hayward): Timothy Blank

THE OFFERTORY

(TLH, p. 12-13)

♪ 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. Amen.

THE OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS

In tangible evidence of our gratitude, we offer the Lord the gift of our money, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.

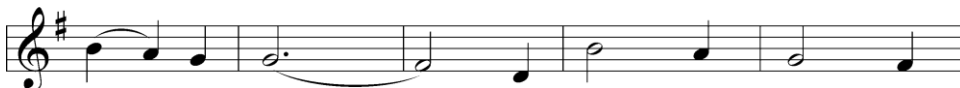
(† If you have an offering to give today, please place it in the plate in the church entryway. †)

Sermon Hymn: 710 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

LSB 710



1 The Lord's my shep - herd, I'll not want; He makes me
2 My soul He doth re - store a - gain And me to
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I
4 My ta - ble Thou hast fur - nish - ed In pres - ence
5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life Shall sure - ly



down to lie In pas - tures green; He
walk doth make With - in the paths of
fear no ill; For Thou art with me,
of my foes; My head Thou dost with
fol - low me; And in God's house for -



lead - eth me The qui - et wa - ters by.
righ - teous - ness, E'en for His own name's sake.
and Thy rod And staff me com - fort still.
oil a - noint, And my cup o - ver - flows.
ev - er - more My dwell - ing place shall be.

Text: The Psalms of David in Meeter, 1650, Edinburgh
Tune: William Gardiner, 1770-1853
Text and tune: Public domain

THE GENERAL PRAYER / THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE BENEDICTION

The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

G *♪ Amen, Amen, Amen.*

Closing Hymn: 716 *I Walk in Danger All the Way*

LSB 716



1 I walk in dan - ger all the way. The thought shall nev - er
2 I pass through tri - als all the way, With sin and ills con -
3 And death pur - sues me all the way, No - where I rest se -
4 I walk with an - gels all the way, They shield me and be -

leave me That Sa - tan, who has marked his prey, Is
tend - ing; In pa - tience I must bear each day, The
cure - ly; He comes by night, he comes by day, He
friend me; All Sa - tan's pow'r is held at bay When

plot - ting to de - ceive me. This foe with hid - den snares
cross of God's own send - ing. When in ad - ver - si - ty
takes his prey most sure - ly. A fail - ing breath, and I
heav'n - ly hosts at - tend me; They are my sure de - fense,

May seize me un - a - wares If I should fail to
I know not where to flee, When storms of woe my
In death's strong grasp may lie To face e - ter - ni -
All fear and sor - row, hence! Un - harmed by foes, do

watch and pray. I walk in dan - ger all the way.
soul dis - may, I pass through tri - als all the way.
ty to - day As death pur - sues me all the way.
what they may, I walk with an - gels all the way.

(hymn continues on next page ->)

***5. I walk with Jesus all the way, His guidance never fails me;
Within His wounds I find a stay When Satan's pow'r assails me;
And by His footsteps led, My path I safely tread.
No evil leads my soul astray; I walk with Jesus all the way.***

***6. My walk is heav'nward all the way; Await, my soul, the morrow,
When God's good healing shall allay All suff'ring, sin, and sorrow.
Then, worldly pomp, begone! To heav'n I now press on.
For all the world I would not stay; My walk is heav'nward all the way.***

Text: Hans Adolf Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. Ditlef G. Ristad, 1863–1938, alt.
Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1708, 4th ed., Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen
Text and tune: Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Worship – 10am**
Conducting worship: Mark Gullerud & Michael Slattengren

St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): Worship – 1pm
Conducting worship: Timothy Blank

This Week: Monday – **School Resumes at SSLS**
Pastor Luke Returns from Vacation (see announcement below)

Next Sunday: *Reformation Sunday*
10/29/23 **Joint Reformation Worship Service (Mt. View) @ 10am**
Fellowship Meal – 11:15am



There is a sign-up sheet for the Reformation meal in the church entryway

No East Bay Worship Service (Hayward)

Online Worship Services - <https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html>

Thank You! – to Mark Gullerud and Michael Slattengren (Mt. View), and to Timothy Blank (Hayward) for conducting our worship services today. Pastor Luke is out of town on vacation. He will be returning, Lord willing, on Monday evening (10/23).

Pastor's Call Announcement –

Dear Members and Friends of our St. Stephen Congregations,

Last Monday evening I received a call from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mankato, MN to serve as their 2nd pastor (Immanuel is the 2nd largest congregation in our church body, the CLC, with over 830 members. They also operate a Christian grade school and high school on their campus).

What this means is that over the next few weeks I will be prayerfully and thoughtfully considering where the Lord would have me serve best in His Kingdom: Either continue to serve our congregations here in California, or at Immanuel in Mankato, MN.

Please pray that the Lord would give me clarity as I consider this call. Your prayers for me and Jewels during this time are greatly appreciated, as well as any thoughts or advice you'd like to share. My prayers are with our congregations and school as well, as a call can be a difficult time for both pastor and congregation. We can be confident that the Lord will guide and direct us, that His good and perfect will will be done, and that it will be for our ultimate good!

In Christ, the Lord of the Church,

Pastor Luke