

# ***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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**School Office: (650) 961-2071**

**School Website: ssls.org**

**November 23, 2023 ✝ Thanksgiving Day**



**To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:**

**<https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html>**

✝ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 47 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) ✝

- 1. For the fruits of His creation, Thanks be to God.  
For His gifts to ev'ry nation, Thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, Silent growth while we are sleeping,  
Future needs in earth's safekeeping, Thanks be to God.**
- 2. In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.  
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.  
In our worldwide task of caring For the hungry and despairing,  
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.**
- 3. For the harvests of the Spirit, Thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit, Thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us, For the truths that still confound us,  
Most of all, that Christ has found us, Thanks be to God.**

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000 (v. 3 – adapted)

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## **Invocation**

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

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**G** Amen.

## **Confession and Absolution**

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

**P** On this day of thanks we come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. We come to offer Him our thanks and praise for all His goodness. But we have disobeyed Him. We do not deserve to come before His holy presence. We deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

**G** Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy upon me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

**P** God our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. Give thanks to Him for He truly has **“blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ!” (Ephesians 1:3).** In the joy and peace of forgiveness let us now praise the Lord:

**P** O Lord, open my lips,

**C** And my mouth will declare Your praise!

**P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

**C** Make haste, to help me, O Lord!

### 893 *Sing to the Lord of Harvest*

LSB 893

1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest, Sing songs of love and praise;  
2 God makes the clouds rain good - ness, The des - erts bloom and spring,  
3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar The gifts His good - ness gave,

With joy - ful hearts and voic - es Your al - le - lu - ias raise.  
The hills leap up in glad - ness, The val - leys laugh and sing.  
The gold - en sheaves of har - vest, The souls Christ died to save.

By Him the roll - ing sea - sons In fruit - ful or - der move;  
God fills them with His full - ness, All things with large in - crease;  
Your hearts lay down be - fore Him When at His feet you fall,

Sing to the Lord of har - vest A joy - ous song of love.  
He crowns the year with bless - ing, With plen - ty and with peace.  
And with your lives a - dore Him Who gave His life for all.

Tune and text: Public domain

## Prayer of the Day

**P** We pray:

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, whose mercies are new unto us every morning and who, though we have in no way deserved Your goodness, abundantly provides for all our needs of body and soul, give us, we pray, Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your merciful goodness toward us, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Responsive Psalm – *Psalm 100 (NKJV) A Psalm of Thanksgiving.*

**P** Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands!

**C** **Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.**

**P** Know that the LORD, He is God;

**C** **It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;**

**P** We are His people And the sheep of His pasture.

**C** **Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise.**

**P** Be thankful to Him,

**C** **and bless His name.**

**P** For the LORD is good;

**C** **His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.**

## Second Reading

*Philippians 4:4-7 (EHV)*

**P** The second reading is from Philippians 4:4-7.

**C** **Sanctify us by Your truth, O LORD. Your Word is truth!**

*<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

# Hymn of Thanksgiving: 806 *Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart*

LSB 806

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, Give thanks to the

Ho - ly One, Give thanks \_\_\_\_\_ be-cause He's giv-en\_\_ Je - sus

Christ His Son. Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, Give

thanks to the Ho - ly One, Give thanks \_\_\_\_\_ be-cause He's giv-en\_\_

Je-sus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say "I am

strong," Let the poor say "I am rich," \_\_\_\_\_ Be-cause of

what the Lord has done for us. And now let the

weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am

rich," \_\_\_\_\_ Be-cause of what the Lord has done for us.

Give thanks, \_\_\_\_\_ give thanks. \_\_\_\_\_

Text and tune: Henry Smith, 1952

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## **Confession of Faith - 1<sup>st</sup> Article of the Apostles' Creed** with Luther's Explanation (Sydow Catechism, p. 97)

**☐ I believe in God the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe that God has created me and all creatures.**

**He has given me my body and life, eyes, ears, and all my bodily members, my mind, and all my senses and still keeps them for me.**

**God also preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals, and all my property and all I need to support this body and life.**

**He protects me from all danger. He guards and defends me from every evil. God does all this because He is my good and gracious Father in heaven, not because of anything I have done to earn or deserve it.**

**For all of this it is my duty to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him.**

**This is most certainly true.**

### **Sermon Text: John 6:25-35 (EHV)**

<sup>25</sup> When they found him on the other side of the sea, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

<sup>26</sup> Jesus answered them, "Amen, Amen, I tell you: You are not looking for me because you saw the miraculous signs, but because you ate the loaves and were filled. <sup>27</sup> Do not continue to work for the food that spoils, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

<sup>28</sup> So they said to him, "What should we do to carry out the works of God?"

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God: that you believe in the one he sent."

<sup>30</sup> Then they asked him, "So what miraculous sign are you going to do, that we may see it and believe you? What miraculous sign are you going to perform? <sup>31</sup> Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, just as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

<sup>32</sup> Jesus said to them, "Amen, Amen, I tell you: Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the real bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

<sup>34</sup> “Sir,” they said to him, “give us this bread all the time!”

<sup>35</sup> “I am the Bread of Life,” Jesus told them. “The one who comes to me will never be hungry, and the one who believes in me will never be thirsty.

## **Sermon Theme: Thanksgiving When You Already Have Everything**

- † What type of attitude can we be tempted to have when we have been blessed with so many things in so many different ways?
- † Why is an “attitude of entitlement ” so detrimental to having a thankful heart?
- † What (or Who?) is the cure for an attitude of entitlement? (**see v. 35** and **Psalm 103:2**)

## **Sermon Hymn: 785 *We Praise You, O God***

LSB 785



1 We praise You, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;  
2 We wor - ship You, God of our fa - thers, we bless You;  
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer

In grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.  
Through tri - al and tem - pest our guide You have been.  
And glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore You, we kneel and a - dore You;  
When per - ils o'er - take us, You will not for - sake us,  
With You, Lord, be - side us, Your strong arm will guide us.

We bless Your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.  
And with Your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.  
To You, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Text: Julia B. Cory, 1882–1963, alt. Tune: Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck, 1626, Haarlem  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Offertory

LSB 956



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new  
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way  
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;  
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Public domain

**Offering** *We offer our gifts to the Lord, 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.* †)

## Choir Hymn: "Oh Give Thanks!"

**Prayer of the Church / Prayer Requests** *We bring our prayers to God.*

## Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

- ☐ 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.**



## **Benediction** *The "Apostolic Blessing" (2 Corinthians 13:14)*

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

## **Closing Hymn: 895 Now Thank We All Our God** *(please stand for last verse)* LSB 895



1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voice - es,  
2 Oh, may this boun-teous God Through all our life be near us,  
3 All praise and thanks to God The Fa - ther now be giv - en,



Who won-drous things has done, In whom His world re - joic - es;  
With ev - er joy - ful hearts And bless - ed peace to cheer us  
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in high - est heav-en,



Who from our moth-ers' arms Has blest us on our way  
And keep us in His grace And guide us when per-plexed  
The one e - ter - nal God, Whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



With count-less gifts of love And still is ours to - day.  
And free us from all ills In this world and the next!  
For thus it was, is now, And shall be ev - er - more.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS



A blessed and joyful day of Thanksgiving to you all in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ! Let us all remember to whom we are giving thanks – God Himself. He is certainly worthy of our thanks and praise every day of our lives. May God give us all more appreciative and thankful hearts, for He truly “has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3). Please join us in thanking and praising our Savior Jesus again at our worship service this Sunday.

This Sunday: *Last Sunday of the Church Year*

11/26/23 **St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Class – 9am**

**Worship – 10am**

**Children’s Christmas Program Practice – 11:15am**

**St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): Worship – 1pm**

**Bible Class – 2pm**

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

**Christmas Tree and Church Decorating (Mt. View) – Sun. 12/3 @ 11:15am**



We plan to put up the Christmas tree and church Christmas decorations on **Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** after the worship service (approx. 11:15am). Please come and join us if you are able!