

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

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

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School Website: ssls.org

**May 11, 2025 † Easter 4
Good Shepherd Sunday**

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 Service

will be Posted to Our Website Each Sunday Evening.

To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:

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

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn 673 Jerusalem, My Happy Home

LSB 673



1 Je - ru - sa - lem, my hap - py home,
2 O hap - py har - bor of the saints,
3 Thy gar - dens and thy gal - lant walks
4 There trees for - ev - er - more bear fruit

When shall I come to thee? When shall my sor - rows
O sweet and pleas - ant soil! In thee no sor - row
Con - tin - ual - ly are green; There grow such sweet and
And ev - er - more do spring; There ev - er - more the

have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?
may be found, No grief, no care, no toil.
pleas - ant flow'rs As no - where else are seen.
an - gels dwell And ev - er - more do sing.

5 Apostles, martyrs, prophets, there
Around my Savior stand;
And soon my friends in Christ below
Will join the glorious band.

6 O Christ, do Thou my soul prepare
For that bright home of love
That I may see Thee and adore
With all Thy saints above.

Text: F. B. P., 16th cent., alt.

Tune: American

Text and tune: Public domain

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 Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Responsive Reading

(Selected verses of Psalm 90 & 95 NKJV - A Call to Worship)

P Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

C Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

P For He is our God,

C And we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

P LORD, You have been our dwelling place

C in all generations.

P Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world,

C Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

P The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years,

C Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

P Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy,

C That we may rejoice and be glad all our days!

P Let Your work appear to Your servants,

C And Your glory to their children

P And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us,

C And establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands.

Confession

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

Almighty and most merciful Father, I have strayed from Your paths like a lost sheep. Out of my heart have come evil thoughts, emotions, and desires. I have offended against Your holy law of love in my words and actions. I am truly sorrow for all my offenses of thought, word, and deed. Have mercy on me and forgive me for Jesus' sake! Restore me and revive my spirits, according to the promise You have declared to me in Jesus Christ, my Lord. Fill my heart with Your love that I may lead a godly and righteous life, to the glory of Your name.

Absolution

The LORD declares His forgiveness through His called servant.

Lift up your hearts in peace and with joy. The Lord God, according to His promise, is slow to anger and abounding in mercy and love. By the command and in the stead of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

P We pray:

Lord God, heavenly Father, out of Your fatherly goodness You have been mindful of us poor, miserable sinners, and have given us Your beloved Son to be our Shepherd, not only to nourish us by His Word, but also to defend us from sin, death, and the devil: We pray that You would grant us Your Holy Spirit, that, even as this Shepherd knows us and helps us in every affliction, we also may know Him, and, trusting in Him, seek help and comfort in Him, from our hearts obey His voice, and obtain eternal salvation; through the same, Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Acts 20:17-35 (NKJV)

¹⁷ *From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. ¹⁸ And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, ¹⁹ "serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; ²⁰ "how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, ²¹ "testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. ²² "And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, ²³ "except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. ²⁴ "But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵ "And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. ²⁶ "Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. ²⁷ "For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸ "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ "For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ "Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. ³¹ "Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. ³² "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³ "I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴ "Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. ³⁵ "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "*

Second Reading

John 10:22-33 (NKJV)

²² *Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter. ²³ And Jesus*

walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch. ²⁴ Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." ²⁵ Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. ²⁶ "But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. ²⁷ "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. ³⁰ "I and My Father are one." ³¹ Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. ³² Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" ³³ The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."

Apostles' Creed *We boldly confess what we believe.*

W.S. p. 15

**☒ 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 Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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

(NKJV)

Sermon Text: Revelation 7:9-17 ⁹ *After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,* ¹⁰ *and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"* ¹¹ *All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,* ¹² *saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."* ¹³ *Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"* ¹⁴ *And I said to*

him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. ¹⁶ "They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; ¹⁷ "for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Sermon Theme: Insights into the Future World for the Saints of Heaven.

- 1. The multiplicity and vast number of people in heaven.**
- 2. The cause of their being there**
- 3. The kind of blessed life which they enjoy there**

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

Choir: The Shepherd Psalm

Offering *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

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

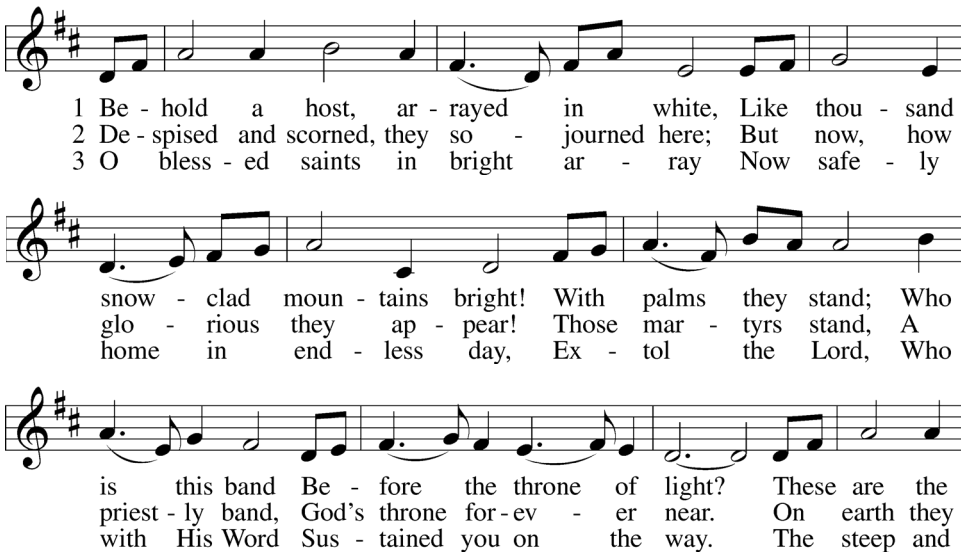
Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

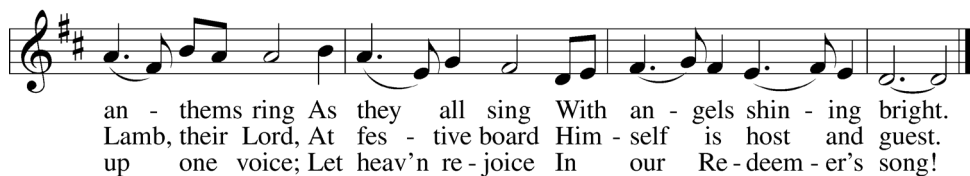
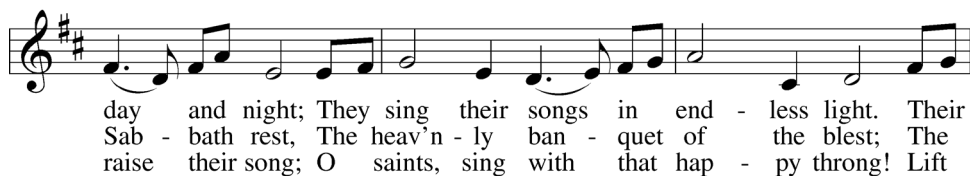
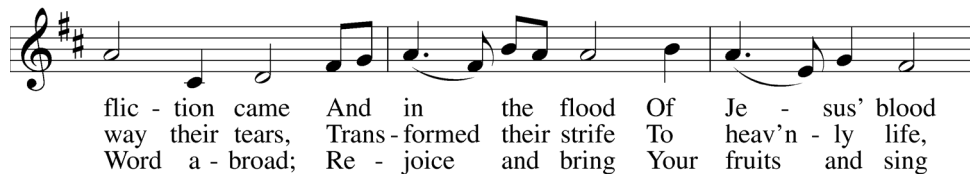
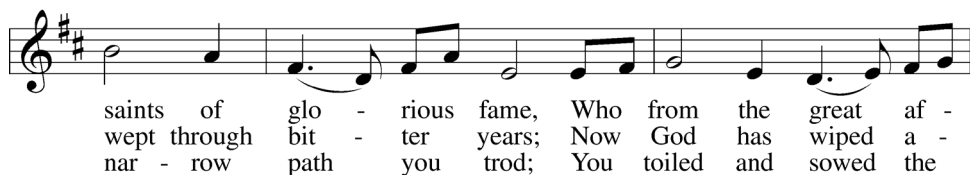
C Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.

Hymn 676 Behold a Host, Arrayed in White

LSB 676



1 Be - hold a host, ar - rayed in white, Like thou - sand
2 De - spised and scorned, they so - journed here; But now, how
3 O bless - ed saints in bright ar - ray Now safe - ly
snow - clad moun - tains bright! With palms they stand; Who
glo - rious they ap - pear! Those mar - tyrs stand, A
home in end - less day, Ex - tol the Lord, Who
is this band Be - fore the throne of light? These are the
priest - ly band, God's throne for - ev - er near. On earth they
with His Word Sus - tained you on the way. The steep and



Text: Hans Adolf Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Norwegian, 17th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

Responsive Reading (NKJV)

(Psalm 23 A Psalm of David)

P The LORD is my shepherd;

C I shall not want.

P He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

C He leads me beside the still waters.

P He restores my soul;

C He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

P Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;

C **For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.**

P You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

C **You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.**

P Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life;

C **And I dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.**

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

P The LORD bless you and keep you.

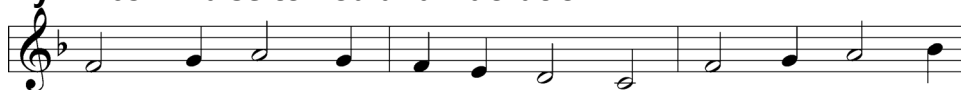
The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C **♩ Amen, Amen, Amen.**

Hymn 692 Praise to You and Adoration

LSB692

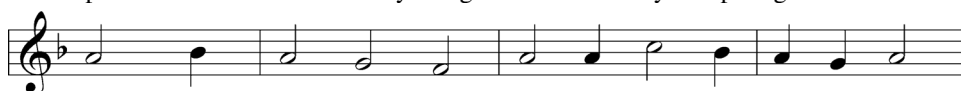


1 Praise to You and ad - o - ra - tion, Bless - ed Je - sus,

2 Hold me ev - er in Your keep - ing; Com - fort me in



Son of God, Who, to serve Your own cre - a - tion, Came to
pain and strife. In my laugh - ter and my weep - ing Be with



share our flesh and blood. Guide me that I nev - er may
me through - out my life. Give me great - er love for You,



From Your fold or pas - tures stray, But with zeal and
And my faith and hope re - new In Your birth, Your



joy ex - ceed - ing Fol - low where Your steps are lead - ing.
life, and pas - sion, In Your death and res - ur - rec - tion.

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; (st. 1): tr. Kristen Kvamme, 1866–1938, alt.; (st. 2): tr. Christian Worship, 1993

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois

Text and tune: Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, 5/11/25

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

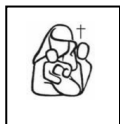
Tuesday, 5/13/25

5:30 p.m. Board of Education Meeting

Sunday, 5/18/25

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

11:00 a.m. Church Council Meeting



Today is **Mothers' Day**, when we properly set aside a special time to remember the Lord's blessings to us through mothers and grandmothers. For all the love, care, and protection that our mothers provide to their children, we give God our thanks. Special appreciation is due for the instruction and guidance in the Lord's Word that mothers provide to their children. For these and the many other blessings that come to us through our mothers, we honor the presence of these godly women among us.

Knee Surgery This past week Deanna Williams, our member who lives in San Rafael, CA, had knee replacement surgery. The surgery went well and Deanna is recovering at home. Pastor Gullerud will be going to visit her and the rest of the family on Thursday of this week.

Letter from Pastor Frank Gantt

Dear Members of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Mt. View, CA and fellow saints of God,

It is never an easy thing to tell any group of Christians, "I can't serve you," whether it be the ones I am currently serving or the ones that have requested that I serve them. Such a decision comes with many tears and much personal grief. I could wish to serve them all, but God has appointed only clay pots to this ministry, and clay pots can only be set in one location at a time and dispense His water of life those in that location. After prayerfully considering the call which you extended to me to serve as an under-shepherd of Christ among you, I am convinced that it is God's will that I should not

accept it and should continue serving where He has me currently serving in the part of His vineyard that is Zion Lutheran Church of Loganville, GA.

Going forward, it will be my constant prayer that God provide you the servant of His choosing, of which I am confident since He is faithful and since He has entrusted to His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the authority to give apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastors and teachers to equip the saint for the work of ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ."

Peace to you all in His name, Pastor Frank Gantt

CLC World Missions Prayer List – May 2025

Nepal (South Asia) – Pastor Raju recently reported that fifty-seven adults, children, and infants were baptized into Christ during visits to distant congregations during the Easter season. Eight CLC Mission Helpers will be visiting Nepal in late June. Plans are to teach the Gospel to approximately 1500 children in twelve different congregations and preaching stations. Fifteen men will finish their Himalayan Bible Institute studies in the coming months, and their graduation is planned for October or November. Thank the Lord for the gift of Baptism and for the 57 souls who have received this sacrament in Nepal. Ask God to bless all the Mission Helper Trip preparation over the next several weeks. And ask for the Lord's blessings on the last few months of Bible instruction for the HBI students.

Liberia (West Africa) – Due to serious health concerns, Pastor John Hein has resigned his call as the part-time visiting missionary to Liberia. The Board of Missions has assigned visiting, correspondence, and oversight duties to Missionary Ohlmann. Thank the Lord for Pastor Hein's faithful service to his call and for the many blessings experienced by both Pastor Hein and the members of the Liberia-CLC. Ask the Lord to grant patience and wisdom to Missionary Ohlmann and those he will begin working with in Liberia as they make plans to continue the Gospel outreach work.

Kenya (East Africa) – Missionaries Naumann and Ohlmann are planning a visit in May to offer assistance and guidance regarding organizational and leadership issues. While in Kenya, they will be on hand to teach pastoral training lessons and attend the KCLC annual convention. Pray that the Lord grants the necessary wisdom, love, patience, diligence, and clear direction as we seek His blessings for the upcoming meetings, correspondence, and decisions that the leaders of the KCLC, the CLC Kinship Committee, and the CLC Board of Missions need to make.

Nigeria (West Africa) – With an MDF grant and local offerings, the Nigeria-CLC has made good progress in constructing a new multipurpose building for the seminary.

When finished, the building will include new classrooms, a library/computer room, and an office for faculty. Missionary Ohlmann plans to visit the NCLC in the Fall for the dedication.

Missionary Peter Evensen (Togo, West Africa) – Missionary Evensen continues his teaching duties at Mt. Horeb Lutheran Seminary and also teaches at the local congregation in Lomé. Thank the Lord for the work Missionary Evensen is doing, and pray for his improved health. He will be returning to the U.S. for furlough in June.

Missionary Bruce Naumann (Tanzania-East Africa) – Missionary Naumann will meet Missionary Ohlmann in Nairobi on May 17th. They will spend about a week meeting with the pastors and leaders of the KCLC and the two kinship-supported schools in Etogo and Moi's Bridge. Paula will be returning to the U.S. for furlough on May 14th. Missionary Naumann will join her a few weeks later. You can follow Missionary Naumann's blog at <https://clc-tz.blogspot.com/>. Praise the Lord for all that Missionary Naumann is accomplishing, thank the Lord for the faithful support and encouragement of his wife Paula, and ask our Savior to grant wisdom, patience, love, and all that is necessary to continue our Savior's work in East Africa.

Missionary Todd Ohlmann – Missionary Ohlmann was forced to postpone his visit to Nigeria due to issues in obtaining a visa. Those issues have been resolved; he received his visa a few weeks ago. He will meet Missionary Naumann in Kenya in the second week of May. He will lead the Mission Helper Trip to Nepal in June. He has also been assisting with the pastoral vacancy at Faith Lutheran Church in the St. Louis area. Please pray that the Lord blesses and provides for all the necessary preparations for these trips to occur. Please continue to pray for his wife, Beth, as she cares for her elderly father, who longs for his heavenly home. You can read reports and see pictures here: missionaryohlmann.blogspot.com

Ongoing Opportunities – Please continue to pray for all of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world, who, by God's grace, are dedicated to proclaiming the truths of God's saving Word for the salvation of souls as they trust the promise of our Savior that His Word will not return to Him void but will accomplish that for which He sends it.

