

A CHRISTIAN VICTORY SERVICE



In Loving Memory of

Theresa Jordan Bliss

September 19, 1951- September 3, 2025



THE SUFFERINGS OF THIS PRESENT TIME ARE
NOT WORTH COMPARING WITH THE *glory*
THAT IS GOING TO BE REVEALED TO US.

R O M A N S 8 : 1 8

September 21, 2025

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

320 Moorpark Way - Mountain View, California 94041-1600

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

Officiant: Pastor Mark Gullerud



Organist: Barbara Gullerud

THE INVOCATION & OPENING PRAYER

P We begin this victory service in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

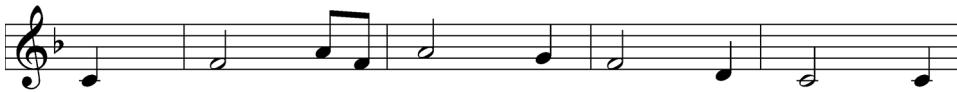
P Let us pray: Dear Lord Jesus, as we gather together in Your House of Worship to hear Your comforting Word, to sing the praises of Your Holy Name, and to offer up our prayers and petition in Your Name, be present with Your Spirit to comfort our sorrowing hearts and uplift our spirits in the knowledge that as our Savior You have conquered death and have given us the gift of life and immortality in heaven which is ours through faith in You. Because of Tari's confession of faith in You, we rejoice in knowing that even now Tari is with You in heaven. Help us to focus our minds and hearts on Your comforting Word, rejoice in it and give thanks to You for Your priceless spiritual and eternal blessings to Tari, for You live and reign with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Reading of the Obituary

Hymn: 744 *Amazing Grace*

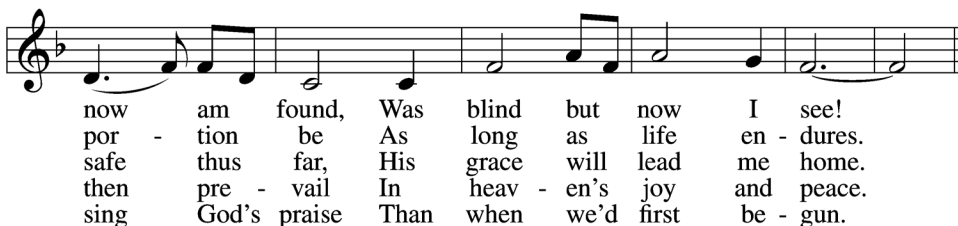
LSB 744



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall
shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



Text (sts. 1–4): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond

Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1829, Cincinnati

Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

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

P We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C **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. Through faith in Him, which was created in you by the Holy Spirit, you are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

C **Amen.**

Kyrie *Latin for “O Lord.” We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life.* W.S. p. 13

♪ Lord have mercy on us. Christ have mercy on us. Lord have mercy on us.

Gloria in Excelsis *Latin for “Glory to God in the highest.”* W.S. p. 13

**♪ Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise;
Of heav’nly joy and peace on earth we sing.**

***We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,
Lord God, almighty Father, heav'nly King.***

***Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict'ry won,
Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within.***

***Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,
At God's right hand in majesty most high:
Who with the Spirit worshiped and adored,
With all the heav'nly host we glorify.***

RESPONSIVE READING

From the "Resurrection Chapter:" **1 Corinthians 15:51-57**

P Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed--

C **in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.**

P For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

C **For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.**

P When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

C **"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"**

P The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

C **But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

The words of this familiar Psalm remind us of the gentle care our Good Shepherd, Jesus, gives us throughout our lifetime and on into our eternal dwelling "in the house of the Lord forever" in heaven.

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.

*Jesus' words at the graveside of His dear friend, Lazarus, give us the comforting assurance that because Jesus is "**the resurrection and the life**" we know that Tari—and we too through faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior—will rise back to life from our graves to be with Him forever in heaven on the Last Day.*

John 11:25-26 (NKJV)

Jesus said to her [Martha], "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶ "And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it!

Alleluia and Verse

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

♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
These words are written that we may believe
That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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.**

Text and tune: Public domain




Sermon Text: Job 1:18-22; 19:23-27 ¹⁸ While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁹ "and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young

people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" ²⁰ Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. ²¹ And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD." ²² In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong. Chapter 19 ²³ " Oh, that my words were written! Oh, that they were inscribed in a book! ²⁴ That they were engraved on a rock With an iron pen and lead, forever! ²⁵ For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; ²⁶ And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God, ²⁷ Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

Theme: *God's Gracious Eternal Will for Taris Bliss*

Offertory


W.S. p. 16

 ***Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence,
Take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation.
Uphold with Your Spirit free.***

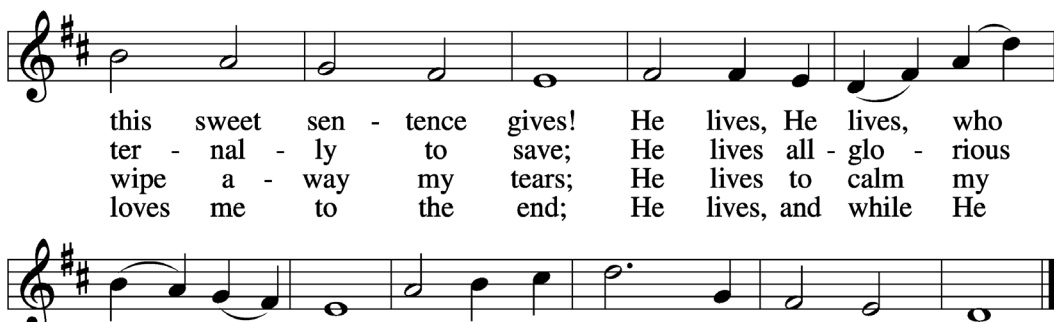
Offering *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.
(† If you have an offering to give today, please place it in the plate in the church entryway. †)*

Hymn: 461 *I Know that My Redeemer Lives*

LSB 461 v. 1, 2, 5-8



1	I	know	that	my	Re -	deem -	er	lives;	What	com - fort
2	He	lives	tri -	um -	phant	from	the	grave;	He	lives e -
5	He	lives	to	si -	lence	all	my	fears;	He	lives to
6	He	lives,	my	kind,	wise,	heav'n -	ly	friend;	He	lives and



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who
 ter - nal - ly to save; He lives all - glo - rious
 wipe a - way my tears; He lives to calm my
 loves me to the end; He lives, and while He
 once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.
 in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.
 trou - bled heart; He lives all bless - ings to im - part.
 lives, I'll sing; He lives, my Proph - et, Priest, and King.

**7. He lives and grants me daily breath;
 He lives, and I shall conquer death;
 He lives my mansion to prepare;
 He lives to bring me safely there.**

**8. He lives, all glory to His name!
 He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
 Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
 I know that my Redeemer lives!**

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

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.**

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 on you and be gracious to you.

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



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

Closing Hymn: 878 Abide with Me *(please stand for the last verse)*

LSB 878



1 A - bid with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 I need Thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
3 Come not in ter - rors, as the King of kings,
4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bid.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
But kind and good, with heal - ing in Thy wings;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Who like Thy - self my guide and stay can be?
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea.
Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;



Help of the help - less, O a - bid with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bid with me.
Come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bid with me.
O Thou who chang - est not, a - bid with me.

**5. I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.**

***Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!***

- 6. *Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.***

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, alt.
Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89
Text and tune: Public domain

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The Obituary of Theresa Jordan Bliss

Psalm 139:13-14 You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.

We praise God for blessing G. James and Lois Lea nee Beman Menkveld with the special gift of Theresa Claudine born to them on September 19, 1951 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

John 3:5-6 ⁵Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Theresa was spiritually born again at infancy into the eternal family of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism and was made a partaker of God's saving grace through faith in Jesus Christ. She was confirmed in the Christian faith as a teenager.

Proverbs 14:23; 18:15; Revelation 14:13 In all labor there is profit... The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge, And the ear of the wise seeks knowledge... 'Blessed *are* the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' " "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

With the gracious help and blessing of God, Theresa graduated from Mac Arthur High School in Houston, TX in 1969. She took a Medical Center Course in 1972 and Continuing Education Courses at North Harris County College from 1974-1983. She worked at the Information Desk at the Houston Airport, as an Accounting Clerk in 1980, as a Regional Secretary from 1980-1985, as an Insurance/Billing Clerk from 1985-1987, as

a Medical Receptionist from 1987-1992, and then started working as a medical transcriptionist when the family moved to California in 1992.

Inspired by the love of God, Tari used her talents for the benefit of others, sewing to make clothing for women who were less fortunate. Besides sewing, Tari enjoyed crocheting, knitting, beading and making jewelry, and would often bring crosses she made to give away to members at St. Stephen. She would take in recyclables brought to church by others and put the money into the Women's Auxiliary treasury. Also at church, she was consistently in the kitchen setting out food and drink for fellow members. Being concerned for her neighborhood she walked around collecting discarded bottles and cans for recycling. For personal enjoyment she read books, gardened, and visited with the neighbors.

Proverbs 18:22; 31:10 ²² He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the LORD.... ¹⁰ Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.

The LORD united Tari to Dan Jordan in marriage in 1970, to which marriage the couple was blessed with two children: Ambrose and Patricia. In 1987, Tari married Allen Benedict. And finally in 2013, she married Wayne Bliss and remained in this union until the Lord took Wayne home to heaven in 2023.

Psalms 23:4,5 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.

In the latter part of July, Tari injured her back. During back surgery, it was discovered that she had been stricken with a cancer called Multiple Myeloma. While her body quickly succumbed to this disease, yet having faith in her Savior, who conquered sin and death, she gained the victory of everlasting life in heaven. The time of Tari's life was 73 years, 11 months, and 15 days.

She was preceded in death by her Parents, Brother Kenneth Menkveld, Sister Linda Boyle, Ex-husband Dan Jordan, Husband Wayne Bliss and Niece Phoebe Isaak.

Those still living in their time of grace: Sister Sharon Bailey of La Selva Beach, CA, Son Ambrose Jordan of Susanville, CA, Daughter Patricia Jordan of Hillsboro, OR, Nephew Jeremy Menefee of Seattle, WA, Nephew Shannon Menkveld of Oakland, CA, Niece Chandra Menkveld of Marietta, GA, Nephew James Ivey of Somerville, MA, and Nephew Rick Deininger of San Jose, CA.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Everyone is invited to a light lunch in the fellowship hall following the victory service.

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

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

Today: **10:00 a.m. Victory Service in Memory of Tari Bliss**
9/21/25 **11:00 a.m. Luncheon**

Next Sunday:
9/28/25 **9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class**
 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
 11:00 a.m. Church Council Meeting

Box for Cards There is a box in the entryway to place cards for the family of Tari Bliss.

Adult Bible Class Please note that Pastor Ude will be starting up Adult Bible Class next Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

CLC Call News Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer in Cheyenne, WY has returned the call from Living Hope in Appleton, WI.