

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Worship Bulletin  
October 15, 2023 – 10AM  
“Season of Creation: Climate Sunday”

Prelude Susan Berg, Piano

Announcements

Welcome

Opening Songs “Everything Glorious”  
“Give Thanks”  
“Everlasting God”

Gathering

In the name of God, who knows the laws of nature, the name of Christ, a cosmic power embracing nature, and the name of the Spirit, swirling in the winds of nature. Amen.

**Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God’s presence.**

Christ, we come to into your presence, today, to worship in this sanctuary called Earth,

**Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with your presence.**

Call to Worship

We invite the weather to worship with us,  
**thunderstorms and wild lightning, rain clouds and soft summer skies.**

We invite the ocean currents to praise God,  
**deep currents that circle in the Pacific Ocean, swirling waters that warm the Atlantic.**

We join with the movements of Earth in celebration,  
**rotations that create atmospheric movement, weather cycles moving Westward from dawn to dusk.**

We call the ecosystems of nature to worship with us,  
**connecting us with diverse climates that nourish and sustain all life on Earth.**

We celebrate the songs of our climate!

**Sing! Climate! Sing!**

Remembering

We remember the weather cycles of our youth, the fierce storms of Winter and

vibrant colors of Spring the hot winds of Summer and peaceful skies of Autumn. We remember and rejoice, aware of the wisdom of God in nature that balances our climate and sustains our planet.

**Thank you, God, for the wonders of the weather, the cycles of nature that sustain us and the mysteries of the climate that surround us.**

### **Confession and Absolution**

We know that there have been many changes in climate in the long history of our planet home. But in recent years we have become aware of rapid climate changes due to human habits that have caused global warming. One result of these climate changes is the rising of sea levels on parts of the planet.

**We confess that we humans have been greedy, pumping greenhouse gases into our atmosphere and are causing recent changes in our climate that are becoming destructive.**

We have abused the balance of nature.

**We have been greedy. We are sorry.**

Christ hears your confession from Mount Calvary and reminds you of God's presence in all creation, especially God's wisdom permeating in nature.

**Christ, teach us to be wise in our ways on Earth, sustaining rather than violating the ways of our climate. Shalom! Shalom! Earth is our home!**

In the face of the warming of Earth, rising sea levels, shrinking ice caps, and dispossessed peoples, we confess that by our action and inaction, we have contributed to changes in our climate. For our excessive use of motor vehicles

**Forgive us Lord**

For our waste of energy and water

**Forgive us Lord**

For our rampant consumerism

**Forgive us Lord**

For our failure to embrace renewable energy resources

**Forgive us Lord**

For our lack of respect for our oceans and forests

**Forgive us Lord**

For our complacency and apathy

**Forgive us Lord**

God forgives you. May God strengthen you to commit to the path of change. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



## Prayer for the Day

God, our Creator, as we view the mysteries of our climate, we have a sense of anxiety as well as wonder. Help us to see the deep powerful forces you have planted in creation as wondrous and natural. Teach us to recognize that the climate too is sustained by your wisdom and to rejoice with all the forces of nature. In the name of Christ who reconciles and renews all things in creation. Amen.

## FIRST LESSON

Job 28:22-28

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

<sup>22</sup> Abaddon and Death say,

‘We have heard a rumor of it with our ears.’

<sup>23</sup> “God understands the way to it,  
and he knows its place.

<sup>24</sup> For he looks to the ends of the earth  
and sees everything under the heavens.

<sup>25</sup> When he gave to the wind its weight  
and apportioned out the waters by measure,

<sup>26</sup> when he made a decree for the rain,  
and a way for the thunderbolt,

<sup>27</sup> then he saw it and declared it;  
he established it and searched it out.

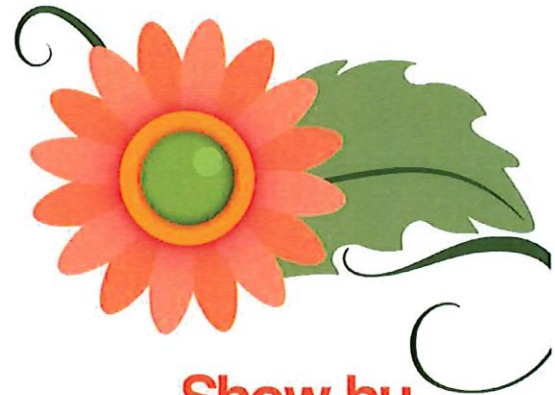
<sup>28</sup> And he said to humankind,  
‘Truly, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom;  
and to depart from evil is understanding.’ ”

## SECOND LESSON

James 3:13-18

### Two Kinds of Wisdom

<sup>13</sup> Who is wise and knowledgeable among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup> But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be arrogant and lie about the truth. <sup>15</sup> This



**Show by  
your good life  
that your works  
are done with  
gentleness  
born of wisdom.**

James 3:13, NRSV

is not wisdom that comes down from above but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup> For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup> But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup> And the fruit of righteousness<sup>[a]</sup> is sown in peace by those who make peace.

## **GOSPEL**

Matthew 22:1-14

### **The Parable of the Wedding Banquet**

22 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup> “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup> He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup> Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ <sup>5</sup> But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup> while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. <sup>7</sup> The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. <sup>8</sup> Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup> Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ <sup>10</sup> Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests. <sup>11</sup> “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, <sup>12</sup> and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ <sup>14</sup> For many are called, but few are chosen.”

## **Sermon**

### **“The Everlasting Invitation”**

Sermon Hymn

**“Song of Sky” words by Norman Habel,  
melody “Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken”**







Sunday, October 8, 2023

## Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

*Obedience is the fruit of faith. —Christina Rossetti*

Today's Bible reading is about the Ten Commandments. How many of the commandments do you know without looking? Most people can recite less than half of them before beginning to stumble.

These commandments are the most concise, yet comprehensive, moral and ethical code ever recorded in the annals of human history. They say so much in so few words, causing President Ronald Reagan to remark on one occasion, "I have wondered at times, what the Ten Commandments would have looked like if Moses had had to run them through the United States Congress."

The Ten Commandments have about 180 words, depending upon the version you are reading.

In contrast, the Nicene Creed: 224 words.

The Gettysburg Address: 286 words.

The Declaration of Independence: 1,300 words.

The Heidelberg Catechism: 8,683 words.

U.S. government regulations on cabbage sales: 26,911 words.

Jesus' summary of the Ten Commandments: 40 words.

We can admire the Ten Commandments for their brevity, but we should also adhere to them. Consider this story: A businessman known for his ruthlessness was talking with Mark Twain and announced, "Before I die, I mean to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. There I will climb Mount Sinai and read the Ten Commandments aloud from the top of the mountain."

"I have a better idea," replied Mark Twain. "You could stay in Boston and keep them."

So, what is the Decalogue all about — in a nutshell? As Jesus noted in his chat with a lawyer recorded in Matthew 22:37-40, the Ten Commandments explain *how we mortals relate to both God and neighbor*. This is God's amazing code of conduct, the adherence to which will save humans a ton of grief, a fact that the psalmist repeatedly notes: "Happy are those whose ways are blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD" (Psalm 119:1).

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Gracious God, thank you for the Ten Commandments and all of the spiritual and ethical guidance you provide in your word. My heart's desire is to be faithful to it every day. Amen.*

### **Affirmation of Faith**

Let us affirm our faith together.

**We believe that God creates all things, renews all things and celebrates all things. We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with our kin. We believe that God became flesh and blood, became a piece of Earth, a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross, for all human beings and for all creation. We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation and filling the cosmos. We believe the Spirit renews life in creation groans in empathy with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of creation. We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.**

### **Special Music**

"Look at the World" by John Rutter  
Choral Ensemble



## Prayers of the People

**Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.**

Heavenly Father, you placed the stars and planets in the sky, and you made one planet only, that according to science, with the fine-tuning to be able to support life, breath and the needs of the human race. Lord, we have been foolish stewards of those resources, wasting and consuming them for our own purposes. Forgive us, Lord. ***Lord in your mercy...***

Sin entered our land, and we transgressed the commandments that would sustain life. We have abused and forsaken your good earth, treating it unwisely. But then, we have done the same with our own lives. The lesson from James says, *“For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice...This wisdom... is earthly, unspiritual, devilish.”* ***Lord in your mercy...***

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world. We pray for the peace in Israel. We pray for this congregation as we share the love of Jesus. Show us how to love one another, respect our differences and work together for the health of our climate. We name those among us who have asked for prayers. And for what else do the people of God pray or praise? Lord in your mercy...

God has a better way for us to act and live. It is in God's wisdom. James words continue, *“But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity. And the harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”* The message that resounds from the beginning of the Scriptures is “Seek God and Live!” Yes, Lord, show us how to live to preserve life and the earth you have given. In Jesus' mighty name, we pray. ***Amen.***

CAROLYN T. LINN

## Prayer Concerns



### Members in Need of Prayer:

Dee Wright  
Jim, Jimmy & Stacy Lairson  
Sue Hays & Family on the passing  
of her Uncle Bill  
Essman.  
Yvonne Smith  
Mona White  
Neil and Verna Walden  
Robert Harris  
Jackie Miller  
Mary Schmidt  
Liz Smith  
Bill Biggs  
Arlene Robbins  
Mary Norris & Family  
Connie Alvarado  
Susan Berg  
Irene Pierini  
Jocelyn Miller  
Kirsten Linder  
Jim Thompson

### Family and Friends:

Monica & Kyle Sedra (Werfelmann)  
Jacob, Abbe & Family (Werfelmann)  
Ken & Becky (Lairson)  
Loren Gaither (Vonny)  
Russel DiGirolamo  
Blaise (Linn)  
Kevin & Collee (Pastor)  
Brad, Sam, & Luke Kossow  
Janet Sharp (Fake)  
Karl & Pauline Ritterbush (Fake)  
Art & Children (Anderson)  
Debbie West's Daughter, Christine  
Bill, Wife & Sons (Julie)  
Belinda Zavala (Norris)  
Renee Family on her passing. (Norris)  
Dan Fey & Family (Norris—No  
Relation)  
Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)  
Bob Knous (Anderson)  
Melissa (Sandy T.)  
Joy Kensinger (Miller)  
Jenna Vance (Kossow)  
Emily Burton (Hays)  
Frank and Anita Porco (Vonny)  
Jim D. (Norris)  
Jade Dixon (Julie)  
Pam (Smith)  
Grace Johnson (Fake)  
Sierra Ramirez (Norris)  
Krystina Ramos (Norris)  
Dora Barraza (Norris)  
Carlos & Anne Cortez (Norris)  
Sandy Robbins (Robbins)  
JJ Werfelmann (Julie)  
Gloria Valdez (Norris)  
Emily & Sawyer Bogart (Anderson)  
Roger Robbins (Robbins)  
Michelle B. (Norris)  
Bonnie Wolfe (Norris)  
Hudson Otten (Anderson)  
Karen Ohanesian (Hays)  
Rosemary (Vonny)  
Nathan Robbins (Robbins)  
Darlee (Norris)



*Lord,  
Hear Our  
Prayer*



## **The 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,**

**for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

**Matthew 6:9-13**

**Communion Hymn**

**"Let Us Break Bread Together"**  
**Congregation Please Join**

**Hymn 471**  
**(vv. 1-3)**

### **Communion Blessing**

Now may the power of Christ's body and blood reach deep into your heart, your mind and your body to heal your wounds, to calm your fears and through you to bring healing to Earth. In Jesus' name. Amen

### **Benediction**

Christ calls you to be his disciples, to serve him with love and compassion, to serve Earth by caring for creation, especially that part of the planet and the climate where we live.

**We will remember the climate we enjoy!**

**We will groan when the climate changes!**

**We will wonder at the ways of the weather!**

**Will you care for creation?**

**We will care for creation!**

**We will nurture our planet!**

**We will celebrate with the mysteries of our climate!**

**Closing Hymn "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"**

**Sending**

May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all, fill you with the knowledge of God's wisdom permeating nature on this planet and guiding the course of its climate.

Go in peace!

Serving Christ and loving Earth!

**We go in peace, serving Christ and tending Earth.**

**Postlude**

Susan Berg, Piano



**Daily Bible Readings**

**Sunday:** 1 Corinthians 9-12

**Monday:** Daniel 7-9

**Tuesday:** Daniel 10-12

**Wednesday:** Esther 1-3

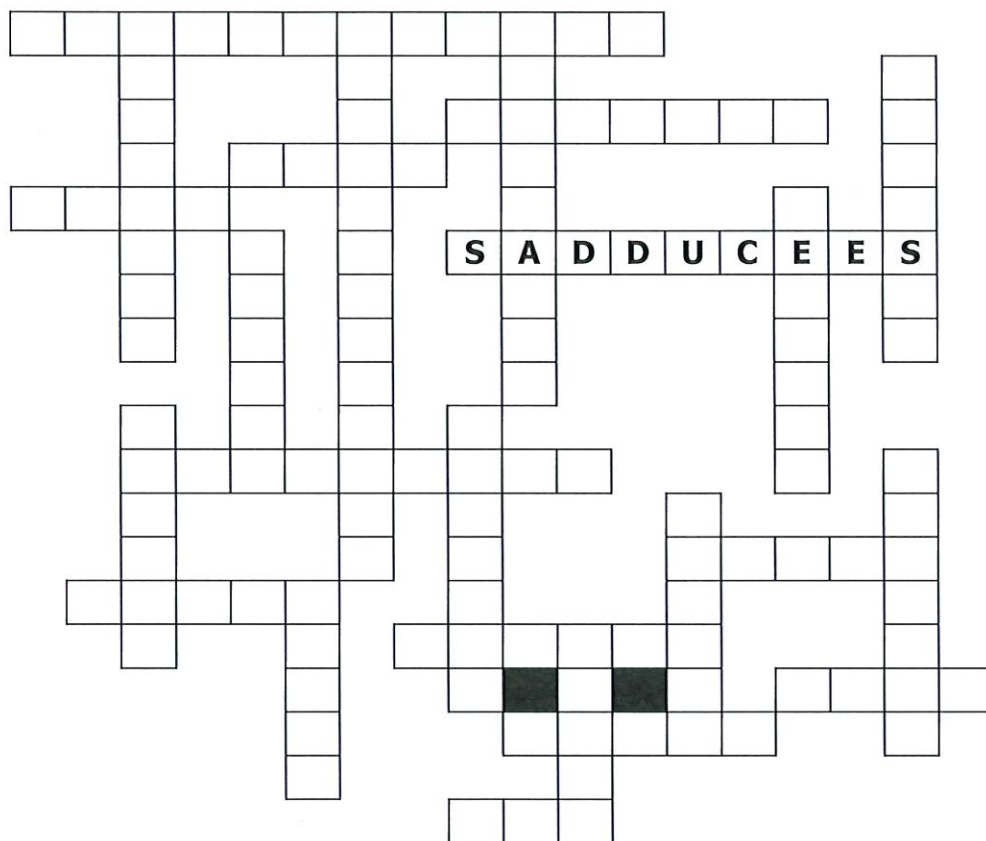
**Thursday:** Esther 4-7

**Friday:** Esther 8-10

**Saturday:** Psalm 119

## CLUELESS CROSSWORD

This crossword has no clues! Fill in the squares according to the length of the words. We've filled in one word to get you started.



### 3-letter words

God

### 4-letter words

holy

John

plot

### 5-letter words

faith

guard

Jesus

Peter

Satan

### 6-letter words

beggar

Israel

nation

Spirit

### 7-letter words

Ananias

miracle

priests

prophet

servant

### 8-letter words

Sapphira

### 9-letter words

ignorance

Sanhedrin

### 12-letter words

resurrection

### 13-letter words

encouragement

**"Autumn is a second spring  
when every leaf is a flower."**

—Albert Camus





“My sheep hear

MY voice

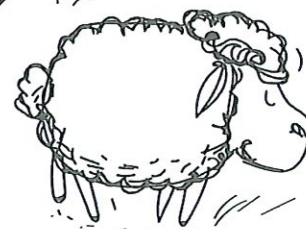
and I know them,  
and they

follow ME.

NO ONE

will snatch them out of

My hand.”



John 10:27-28