

SHEPHERD OF THE DESERT EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



The Eleventh Week after Pentecost August 15, 16, 2020

Mission:

"Created, Redeemed and Called by God, we reach out to all, by sharing our gifts and the unconditional love of Jesus."

Vision:

"To be an intergenerational congregation that puts the Love of Christ into action from one generation to another and from our community to our world".

Welcome to Worship at Shepherd of the Desert

✠ Please stand as you are able when noted.

Prelude "Bourree and Hornpipe in F" (Water Music) G.F. Handel

Words of Welcome and Ministry Moments Pastor Daniel Defassio

Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

A In the presence of God, who sees our hearts and our minds, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

A God our strength,

C we confess that we are captive to the power of sin that dwells within us.

We put ourselves first and others last.

What we think will make us happy leaves us longing for more.

Even when we want to do what is good, we find ourselves doing the opposite.

Rescue us from death's grip on our lives, and raise us up day by day, that we may be alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

P Sisters and brothers, all have fallen short of the glory of God; therefore we are justified by God's grace as a gift.

Nothing can separate us from the love of God in † Christ Jesus, in whom we have forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation.

C Amen.

P Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship...

✠ Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

1st Reading

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

¹Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant - ⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. ⁸Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 67:1-7

L ¹May God be merciful to | us and bless us;
may the light of God's face | shine upon us.

C ²**Let your way be known | upon earth,
your saving health a- | mong all nations.**

L ³Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.

C ⁴**Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na- | tions on earth. R**

L ⁵Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.

C ⁶**The earth has brought | forth its increase;
God, our own | God, has blessed us.**

L ⁷May God | give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe. R

2nd Reading

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

[Paul writes:] ¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a}God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

L The Word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

‡ Gospel Verse

P *Alleluia.* Jesus preached the good news | of the kingdom

C and cured every sickness a- | mong the people. *Alleluia.* (Matt. 4:23)

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 15th Chapter. **C Glory to you O God**

‡ Holy Gospel

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

[¹⁰Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles."¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?"¹³He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit."¹⁵But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us."¹⁶Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding?¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles.¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander.²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."]

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon."²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us."²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me."²⁶He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

P The Gospel of the Lord. **C Praise to you O Christ**

Sermon

Pastor Daniel Defassio

**C Jesus loves the little children,
All the little children of the world.
Red and yellow, black and white,
They are precious in his sight.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.**

**Everything is beautiful in it's own way.
Like the starry summer night, or a snow-covered winter's day.
And everybody's beautiful in their own way.
Under God's heaven, the world's gonna find the way.**

Soloist: There is none so blind as one who will not see.
We must not close our minds; we must let our thoughts be free.
For every hour that passes by, we know the world gets a little bit older.
It's time to realize that beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder.

**C And everything is beautiful in it's own way.
Like the starry summer night, or a snow-covered winter's day.
Ah, sing it children!
Everybody's beautiful in their own way.
Under God's heaven, the world's gonna find the way.**

Soloist: We shouldn't care about the length of ones hair, or the color of ones skin.
Don't worry about what shows from without, but the love that lives within.
And we're gonna get it all together now; everything gonna work out fine.
Just take a little time to look on the good side my friend,
And straighten it out in your mind.

**C And everything is beautiful in it's own way.
Like the starry summer night, or a snow-covered winter's day.
Ah, sing it children!
Everybody's beautiful in their own way.**

✠ Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

✠ Prayers of the Gathered Community

A Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A Lord, you gather the church to be part of your mission as ambassadors of Jesus Christ. As Jesus acknowledged the great faith of a woman from outside his people, help your church discover and find blessing in the faith of people we might reject. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A You have blessed us with the bounty of the earth. Grant your grace to all your creatures, that the earth will flourish. Relieve waters choked by garbage, renew soils stripped of nutrients, and refresh the air all creatures need to live. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A You call the nations to be glad and sing for joy. Let your way be known among all the nations of the world, now divided by competing interests, contending alliances, and consumed by enormous worry. Bless us and make your face shine upon all. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A You show unexpected mercy, kindness, and generosity. We pray for those who do not have enough, for outcasts in our villages, cities, and town, and for those who need your healing (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A In you we live and move and have our being. Grant our congregation (name) grace to find our life refreshed in you. Accompany us in the rhythms of late summer. Give us rest and renewal, and strengthen us for mission in your name. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Your eternal promises are more than we could ever imagine. As you gather all the saints (*especially*), join us also with them on the great day of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

‡ Sharing of the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always

C And also with you.

Offering Prayer

A God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

C Amen.

‡ Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

✠ Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

✠ Sanctus

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

✠ Eucharistic Prayer

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.
In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish,
but have eternal life.
We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared
for us through Jesus Christ.
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P In the night in which he was betrayed
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat;
this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

‡ 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.

‡ Agnus Dei

L Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
C have mercy on us.
L Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
C have mercy on us.
L Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
C grant us peace.

The Communion

Distribution - by continuous tables. All baptized Christians who believe Christ is truly present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion are welcome at Christ's table at Shepherd of the Desert. Please follow the directions of the ushers as you come forward to the altar rail by the center aisle. You may kneel if you are able. Gluten Free wafer are available...let the Pastor know by raising your index finger when served. Once you have been served, you then may return to your seat by the side aisles. You may also share your offerings as you come forward for Holy Communion. Railing cloths are a reminder that area is reserved for the infirmed and handicapped. During this time of the COVID-19 Virus, only the host will be shared. Lutherans historically believe you may receive both in one kind. It is proper to extend your hands, palms up, one on the other as a "throne" and the host will be placed on it.

‡ Post Communion Prayer

A God of the welcome table, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us.
Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.
C Amen.

‡ Benediction

P May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

‡ Dismissal

A Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C **Thanks be to God.**

‡ Postlude “Hornpipe in D” (Water Music)

G.F. Handel

SHEPHERD OF THE DESERT LUTHERAN CHURCH

11025 N 111th Avenue, Sun City, Arizona 85351

Phone: 623.933.1359

Fax: 623.933.1008

Senior Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Daniel R. Defassio

Organist: Dr. Lorraine Miller

Deacon: Chuck Hyland

Pastors in Residence: The Rev. Ed Aho

The Rev. Art Goetz

The Rev. Paul Nordeen

Website: www.shepherdofthedesertlca.org

Email: Kristen: sodsecretary@qwestoffice.net

or

Sue: shepherdofthedes@qwestoffice.net



A STEPHEN MINISTRY CONGREGATION

The Bible – Old Testament

Daily Devotions - Week 6

THEME: JOSEPH AND JEALOUSY: THE COAT OF MANY COLORS

Daily Devotions Daily devotions consist of four elements: 1) opening prayer; 2) Bible reading; 3) intercessory prayer for others; 4) the Lord's Prayer. That is, begin with opening prayer, asking God to open your heart to be receptive to God's voice. Ask God to remove the busyness and clutteredness of your mind and spirit. Then read the designated chapter, slowly, ever so slowly. Don't hurry. That is the key. Have a highlighter to underline words, phrases of verses that you are asked to or that seem important to you. Then briefly answer the thought question. Reading carefully and prayerfully is more important than writing down the answer to the question which is also important. Then close by praying for others and saying the Lord's Prayer.

Day 1: Read Genesis 37. The Story of Joseph and His Brothers. Highlight 37:3, 4, 19, 20. Why did the brothers want to kill Joseph?

Day 2: Read Genesis 39. Joseph and Potiphar's Wife. Highlight 39:2, 3. What did Potiphar try to do to Joseph?

Day 3: Read Genesis 41. Joseph Interprets the King's Dreams. Highlight 42:38, 29, 57. What did Joseph do with the grain during the seven years of plenty?

Day 4: Read Genesis 42. Joseph's Brothers Come to Egypt. Highlight 42:3, 4, 21. In addition to the grain, what did Joseph order to be put into his brother's packs?

Day 5: Read Genesis 43. Joseph's Brothers Return. Highlight 43:7, 30, 34. How did Joseph react when he saw his youngest brother?

Day 6: Read Genesis 44. The Missing Cup. Highlight 44:2. What did Joseph have done with the silver cup?

Day 7: Read Genesis 45. Joseph Tells Who He Is. Highlight 45:5, 8, 14. What was old man Jacob's reaction to the news that his son Joseph was alive?

Discussion questions Read Genesis 37:3-4. Have you experienced "favoritism" as you/other were growing up?

Share stories about favoritism in the family. How was this shown (e.g., the many colored coat of Joseph)?

What are the dangers of showing favoritism? (Write at least one thought from another.)

Explore with others their favorite New Testament stories. Have them write the story out without using the Bible as they would tell the story. Compare the story as they told it with the story as found in scripture.

Note any Similarities, Differences?