

SHEPHERD OF THE DESERT  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



*Forgiveness*

70  
x7

The Fifteenth Week after Pentecost  
September 12, 13, 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 "Sheep May Safely Grace" from Cantata 202 J.S. Bach

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 O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

## 1st Reading

*After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.*

### Genesis 50:15-21

<sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

## Psalm 103:1--13

L Bless the LORD, | O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.

C <sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, | O my soul,  
and forget not | all God's benefits—

L <sup>3</sup>who forgives | all your sins  
and heals all | your diseases;

C <sup>4</sup>who redeems your life | from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy; R

L <sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires | with good things  
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.

C <sup>6</sup>O LORD, you provide | vindication  
and justice for all who | are oppressed.

L <sup>7</sup>You made known your | ways to Moses  
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.

C <sup>8</sup>LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love; R

L <sup>9</sup>you will not al- | ways accuse us,  
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.

C <sup>10</sup>You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.

L <sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.

C <sup>12</sup>As far as the east is | from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.

L <sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion | for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD. R

## 2nd Reading

*This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.*

### **Romans 14:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

<sup>11</sup>For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." <sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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

### ‡ Gospel Verse

P *Alleluia.* We have an advocate, Jesus | Christ the righteous;

C **your sins are forgiven on account | of his name. Alleluia. (1 John 2:1, 12)**

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 18th Chapter. C **Glory to you O God**

‡ Holy Gospel

*When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.*

**Matthew 18:21-35**

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

Sermon

Pastor Daniel Defassio

## ‡ 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 Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

A You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you (*especially John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, whom we commemorate today*). Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through 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 Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.

Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**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

‡ 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 We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever  
**C Amen.**

Blessing for Grandparents Day:

The Altar flowers were given by Emma Strohl's grandchildren in honor of Grandparents day.

‡ 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 "March Upon Handel's "Lift Up Your Head"

Alexandre Guilmant

## Announcements

### **Understanding the New Testament Tuesday at 2:00 pm and Wednesday's at 6:00pm**

Discover the history behind the 27 books of the New Testament and gain insight into the word at the time and the people who produced the text. This is a 30 minute video course with discussion following make plans to come!

P

**Healthy Living:** Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month we have a personal trainer (TJ) that meets with us for a nutritional discussion and light workout tailored to the needs of the class from 6:00pm-7:00pm. Healthy Living does not meet on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month.

**I-Help:** The first 2 Sundays of each month we open Walton Hall to a LSS sponsored group of homeless. The participants are interviewed and selected by LSS. We offer a safe place to spend a monitored night including a hot meal along with breakfast and a sack lunch to go.

**Mission of the Month:** Prayers and Offerings in the month of March: *Pan de Vida* is our recipient this month for our special offerings. This small community church specializes in tending to the spiritual needs of our Hispanic neighbors. *Pan de Vida* is led by Pastor Mitch Eichmann.

### **Best Pancakes in Sun City and they are free! Take out only Due to COVID-19**

Always the last Saturday Month, September 26th. Serving 8:00 am to 10:00 am

### **Candy Donations for Drive through Trunk or Treat**

If you would like to donate individually wrapped candy you can drop it off in the church office or if you would like to donate funds for the purchase candy please note that on your offering envelope. Lets make this year another successful event for the kids! Even during COVID-19

#### **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. George Natonick

The Rev. Paul Nordeen

Website: [www.shepherdofthedesertlca.org](http://www.shepherdofthedesertlca.org)

Email: Kristen: [sodsecretary@qwestoffice.net](mailto:sodsecretary@qwestoffice.net)

Sue: [shepherdofthedes@qwestoffice.net](mailto:shepherdofthedes@qwestoffice.net)



#### **A STEPHEN MINISTRY CONGREGATION**



## The Bible – Old Testament Daily Devotions - Week 10

### **THEME: DAVID (Part 2)**

**DAILY DEVOTIONS:** In our studies, we learn about Samuel as a young boy. He heard a voice calling to him at night, but he wasn't sure what the voice meant. A wise old priest by the name of Eli told him to return to the quietness of his room and say, "Speak to me Lord, for your servant is listening." That is what daily devotions are. It is going to your room, being quiet, and praying, "Speak to me Lord, for your servant is listening." May we daily listen to the voice of God speak to us through the Word.

You know by now that daily devotions consist of four parts: 1. Opening prayer; 2. Bible reading; 3. Intercessory prayer of others; 4. The Lord's prayer. Then highlight the designated verses, reading carefully as you highlight. Then read the whole chapter. The verses that you are highlighting are important verses in the chapter.

- **Day 1:** Read 2 Samuel 1:1-2:7. David learns of Saul's death and becomes king. Highlight 1:10-11, 23, 26. What were David's feelings about Jonathan?
- **Day 2:** Read 2 Samuel 5. Capture of Jerusalem. Highlight 5:4-5, 10, 12, 23. Why did David grow stronger all the time?
- **Day 3:** Read 2 Samuel 6. The ark. Highlight 6:5, 7-8, 14, 16, 21. What was Michal's reactions to David's dancing?
- **Day 4:** Read 2 Samuel 7. The everlasting covenant and David's prayer. Highlight 7:8-10, 16, 22. How long was God's covenant with David to last?
- **Day 5:** Read 2 Samuel 11. David and Bathsheba. Highlight 11:2, 4-5, 26-27. What happened to Uriah?
- **Day 6:** Read 2 Samuel 12. Nathan the prophet. Highlight 12:1, 10-13, 24-25. What did Nathan prophecy would happen to David's family?
- **Day 7:** Read 2 Samuel 23:1-7. David's last words (read three times). Highlight 23:1-6. How is a king to rule?

**Discussion Question:** David sinned with Bathsheba, yet he was a great king. Do you know of any other political leaders, who were Christians, who also had affairs? Give examples of God using imperfect people to do God's work in the political and religious world.