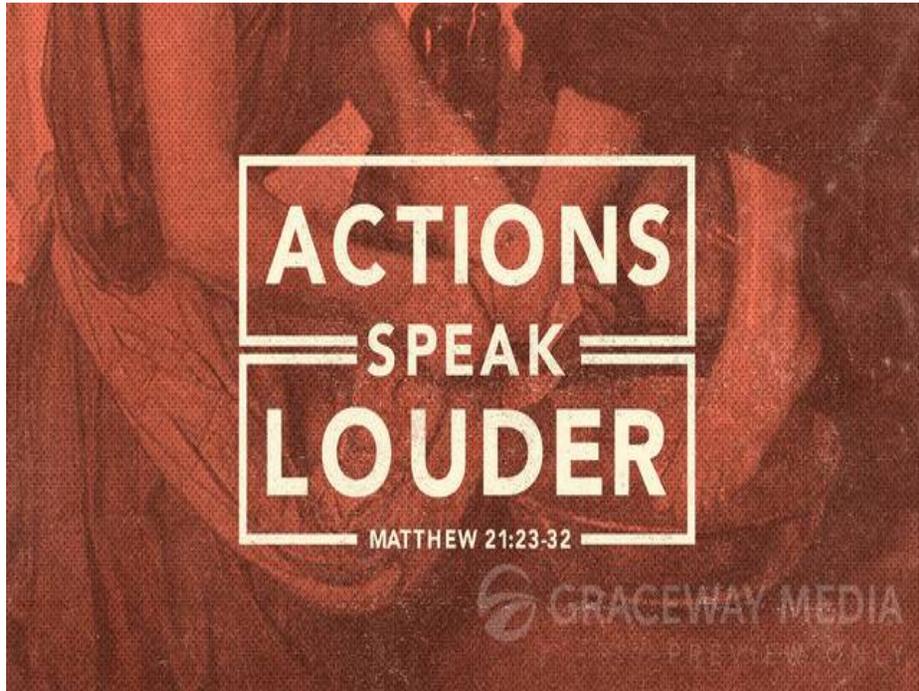


**SHEPHERD OF THE DESERT  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**



**The Seventeenth Week after Pentecost  
September 26, 27, 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 "Fugue in D Minor" BWV 539

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 God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

## 1st Reading

*Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot turn from their wicked ways. God insistently invites people to turn and live.*

### **Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life.

<sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 25:1-9

L <sup>1</sup>To | you, O LORD, I lift | up my soul.

C <sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

L <sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be | put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

C <sup>4</sup>**Show me your | ways, O LORD, and teach | me your paths.**

L <sup>5</sup>Lead me in your | truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you  
have I trusted all | the day long.

C <sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,  
for they are from | everlasting.**

L <sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your  
good- | ness, O LORD.

**C** <sup>8</sup>You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.

**L** <sup>9</sup>You lead the low- | ly in justice  
and teach the low- | ly your way. **R**

## 2nd Reading

*As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.*

### **Philippians 2:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

### **‡ Gospel Verse**

**P** *Alleluia.* My sheep hear my voice, | says the Lord;

**C** **I know them and they | follow me. *Alleluia.* (John 10:27)**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 21st Chapter. **C** **Glory to you O God**

## ‡ Holy Gospel

*After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.*

### **Matthew 21:23-32**

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup>He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

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

Sermon

Pastor Daniel Defassio



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,  
 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;  
 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light  
 4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:  
 still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
 in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,  
 to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;  
 As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
 mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,  
 hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crating to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.  
 by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.  
 stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.  
 that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

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## ‡ 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.

## ⲁ 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 In all the world, give your church unity. Inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ. Where the  
church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love  
may be at work in us. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A Your Son took on all of bodily life in our world, even to death. Preserve and keep your creation, O  
God. Mend and redeem places that are polluted and damaged, so that all of creation confesses  
you as Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A Turn the nations toward life. Where our ways are unfair, give us new hearts and new spirits.  
Where sin permeates our cultures and institutions (*especially*), change our minds and teach us to  
trust your authority. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A Our lives are yours, O God. Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit. De-  
fend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or  
lonely. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A Turn this congregation away from our own interests toward the interests of others. Fill us with your compassion and sympathy. Bless ministries of care in our community (*especially*); make us into signs of your mercy and justice for our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A Thank you for those who have gone into the kingdom ahead of us - tax collectors and prostitutes, likely and unlikely, obedient and slow to learn. By their witness, teach us to confess Jesus Christ as Lord in life and in death. 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

**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 Blessing

A The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you you in His grace.  
**C Amen.**

✠ 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.**

✠ 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 "Partita on Darwall's Psalm 148"

Charles Callahan

## 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!

### **Lutheran 101 The New Testament Thursday evening at 6:00 pm**

**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 September: *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.

**Pet Blessing:** We are having a blessing of Pets if you have a pet you would like to have blessed join us on October 3rd at 10:00am in courtyard between sanctuary and Walton hall.

### **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

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

## The Bible – Old Testament

### Daily Devotions - Week 12

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 I Kings 1. Solomon Made King. Highlight 1:17, 30. When Solomon was made king, what did Adonijah do?
- **Day 2:** Read I Kings 2. Death of David. Highlight 2:1-4, 10-12, 25, 46. What happened to Adonijah? And Shimei?
- **Day 3:** Read I Kings 3. Wisdom of Solomon. Highlight 3:1, 9-14, 28. How did Solomon solve the problem of the prostitutes? Be able to retell this story. Read it two or three times.
- **Day 4:** Read I Kings 10. The Visit of the Queen of Sheba. Highlight 10:1, 6-7, 9, 14, 16. How much gold did Solomon receive each year?
- **Day 5:** Read I Kings 11. The Fall of Solomon. Highlight 11:1-4, 6, 8, 11-12, 31-34, 38. What was the name of the able young man who was given the ten tribes?
- **Day 6:** Read Proverbs 3. The Blessings of Wisdom. Highlight 3:1-4, 6, 12. In this chapter, what is one Proverb you like very much and why?
- **Day 7:** Read Proverbs 8. The Call of Wisdom. Highlight 8:10-11, 19-23. What is wisdom more valuable than?

Discussion Question: Read Proverbs 8. Talking with another, what makes a person "wise"? Are they wise? Are you wise? What is wisdom? What is wise advise?