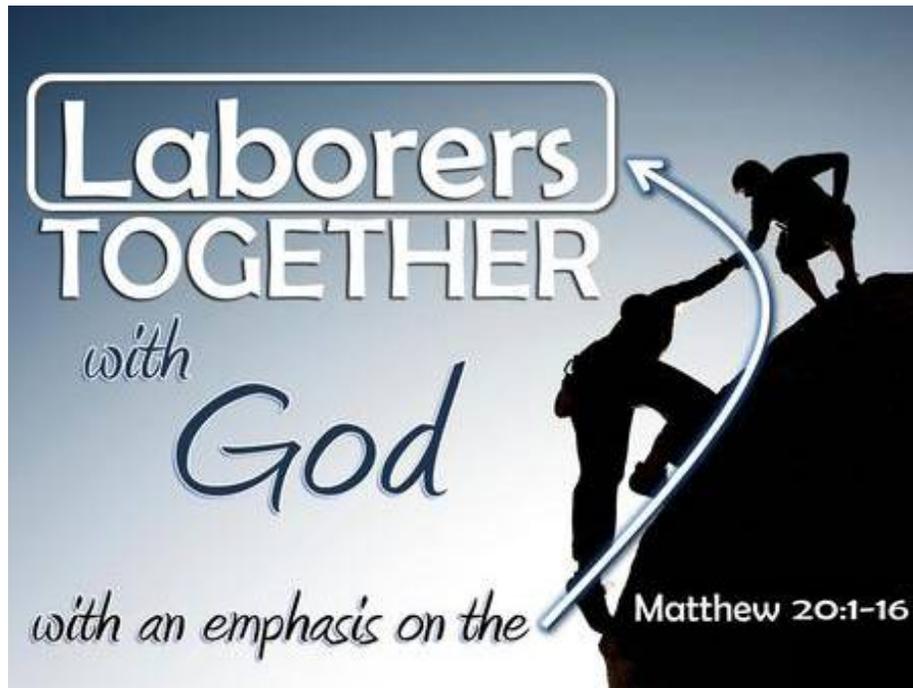


SHEPHERD OF THE DESERT  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



The Sixteenth Week after Pentecost  
September 19, 20, 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      “Allegro from Trio Sonato V in C Major” BWV 529      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** Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

## 1st Reading

*After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?*

### Jonah 3:10--4:11

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. <sup>4:1</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup>And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" <sup>5</sup>Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. <sup>6</sup>The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die."

<sup>10</sup>Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 145:1-8

**L** <sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, my | God and king,  
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.

**C** <sup>2</sup>**Every day | will I bless you  
and praise your name forev- | er and ever.**

**L** <sup>3</sup>Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised!  
There is no end | to your greatness.

**C** <sup>4</sup>**One generation shall praise your works | to another  
and shall de- | clare your power. R**

**L** <sup>5</sup>I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty  
and all your | marvelous works.

**C** <sup>6</sup>**They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,  
and I will re- | count your greatness.**

**L** <sup>7</sup>They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;  
they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.

**C** <sup>8</sup>**The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love. R**

## 2nd Reading

*Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.*

### **Philippians 1:21-30**

<sup>21</sup>For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup>but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup>Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>27</sup>Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well - <sup>30</sup>since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

### **† Gospel Verse**

P *Alleluia.* Open our | hearts, O Lord,

C to give heed to what is said | by your Son. *Alleluia.*

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 20th Chapter. C Glory to you O God

‡ Holy Gospel

*Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.*

**Matthew 20:1-16**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' <sup>7</sup>They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

Sermon

Pastor Daniel Defassio



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no  
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and  
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -  
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in  
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
 man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
 hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

*Refrain*



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

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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.

## ✠ 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 Generous God, you make the last first, and the first last. Where this gospel challenges the church, equip it for its works of service. Strengthen those who suffer for Christ (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A Sun and wind, bushes and worms, cattle and great cities—nothing in creation is outside your concern, mighty God. In your mercy, tend to it all. Give us a spirit of generosity toward all you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A Where we find envy and create enemies, you provide enough for all. Bring peace to places of conflict and violence (*especially*). Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A Reveal yourself to all in need as you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, ready to relent from punishing. Accompany judges and lawyers, victims of crime and those serving sentences. Give fruitful labor and a livelihood to those seeking work. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

- A Even beyond our expectations, you choose to give generously. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**  
*Here other intercessions may be offered.*
- A We praise you for the generations that have declared your power to us. Give us faithfulness to follow them, living for Christ, until you call us to join them in the joyful song around his throne. 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 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 "Allegro Assai Vivace from Sonata I in F"

Felix Mendelssohn

## 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 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.

**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 11

**THEME: DAVID'S PSALMS**

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 Psalms 23. The Lord Our Shepherd. Highlight 23:1-2, 6. What part or verse of this psalms do you like best and why?
- **Day 2:** Read Psalms 51. A prayer For Forgiveness. Highlight 51:1-2, 7, 10-11. What sacrifices does God want from us?
- **Day 3:** Read Psalms 139. God's Complete Knowledge and Care. Highlight 139:1-2, 5, 8, 23-24. How does David describe God's knowledge of us before we were born?
- **Day 4:** Read Psalms 1, 8. True Happiness. Highlight 1:1-2, 8:4-6. What people find true happiness?
- **Day 5:** Read Psalms 149, 150. A Hymn of Praise. Highlight 149:1-3, 150:1-2. How do you personally go about praising God?
- **Day 6:** Read Psalms 49. The Foolishness of Trusting in Riches. Highlight 49:6-9, 13, 15-17. Why do some people trust in wealth more than God?
- **Day 7:** Read Psalms 25:6-10, 36: 5-9, 40:10-11, 59:16-17. God's Constant Love. Highlight the words, "constant love," whenever they or mentioned in these psalms. From your personal life, give one example of how you experience God's constant love.

Discussion Question: Read the verses in Day Seven with another about constant love. How have they experienced God's constant love? Have them give you examples. Share your thoughts as well.