

SHEPHERD OF THE DESERT EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



The Thirteenth Week after Pentecost August 29, 30, 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 "Lord Jesus Christ, Our Ever Present Help" BWV 655 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 God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

1st Reading

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

Jeremiah 15:15-21

¹⁵O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merry-makers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD.

²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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

Psalm 26:1-8

L ¹Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived | with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD and | have not faltered.

C ²**Test me, O | LORD, and try me;**
examine my heart | and my mind.

L ³For your steadfast love is be- | fore my eyes;
I have walked faithful- | ly with you.

C ⁴**I have not sat | with the worthless,**
nor do I consort with | the deceitful. R

L ⁵I have hated the company of | evildoers;
I will not sit down | with the wicked.

C ⁶**I will wash my hands in inno- | cence, O LORD,**
that I may go in procession | round your altar,

L ⁷singing aloud a song | of thanksgiving
and recounting all your won- | derful deeds.

C ⁸**LORD, I love the house in | which you dwell**
and the place where your glo- | ry abides. R

2nd Reading

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

Romans 12:9-21

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

‡ Gospel Verse

P *Alleluia.* May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes | of our hearts

C **so that we may know the hope to which | God has called us. *Alleluia.* (Eph. 1:17, 18)**

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 16th Chapter. C **Glory to you O God**

‡ Holy Gospel

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

Matthew 16:21-28

²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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 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 God of faithfulness, you bid your people to follow Jesus. Set the mind of your church on divine things. Grant us trust in you, that we lose our lives for the sake of Christ and thereby discover joy in life through him. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A God of wonder, the earth is yours and all that is in it. Heal your creation and give us eyes to see the world as you do. As the seasons change, pattern the rhythm of our lives in harmony with all creation. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A God of all nations, you call us to live peaceably with all. Give us ears to hear one another, even those we name as enemies. Fill all leaders with mercy and understanding, that they advocate and genuinely care for those who are poor and most vulnerable in their communities. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A God of salvation, you promise to deliver us. Give those who suffer a strong sense of your presence and love. Accompany those who are uncertain, raise the spirits of those who are despairing, and heal the sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A God of community, you call us to rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, and persevere in prayer. Make our congregation a workshop of your love. When we quarrel, bring reconciliation. Help us overcome evil with good. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A God of all grace, you give us everlasting life. In love we recall your holy ones who now live in your undying light (*especially*). In our remembering, give us a foretaste of the feast to come. 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 “Now Let Us Sing with Joy” BWV 729

J.S. Bach

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

Email: Kristen: sodsecretary@qwestoffice.net

or

Sue: shepherdofthedes@qwestoffice.net



A STEPHEN MINISTRY CONGREGATION

The Bible – Old Testament
Daily Devotions - Week 8

THEME: SAMUEL AND SAUL

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 1 Samuel 9. Saul meets Samuel. Highlight 9:2. What is a prophet sometimes called? _____ When someone wanted to ask a question of God, what would they do?
- **Day 2:** Read 1 Samuel 10. Samuel Anoints Saul as Ruler. Highlight 10:1, 6-10, 22-23. What happened to Saul? In verse 9, what did God give him?
- **Day 3:** Read 1 Samuel 12. Samuel Addresses the People. Highlight 12:1, 13, 20-25. What will happen to the people if they continue to sin?
- **Day 4:** Read 1 Samuel 13. The War Against the Philistines. Highlight 13:3, 5, 13-14, 19, 22. What kept the Hebrews from making swords and spears?
- **Day 5:** Read 1 Samuel 14. Jonathan's Daring Deed. Highlight 14:1-2, 6, 10, 31-33. What did Jonathan do?
- **Day 6:** Read 1 Samuel 15. God rejects King Saul. Highlight 15:3, 9-10, 22, 24-25. What were the soldiers to destroy and how do you feel about that?
- **Day 7:** Read 1 Samuel 16. God chooses David. Highlight 16:1, 7, 13-14, 18, 23. Verse 18, describe David.

Discussion Question: Read 1 Samuel 2:12-17. Eli was very religious but his sons were not. Why does this sometimes happen: a parent is devoutly Christian but their child(ren) are not?

Talk to others about your baptism. What happened? Who was there? Who were your sponsors? Then write them a note and say a prayer for them.