

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
at Swan's Trail

Sunday, September 15, 2024

17th Sunday after Pentecost



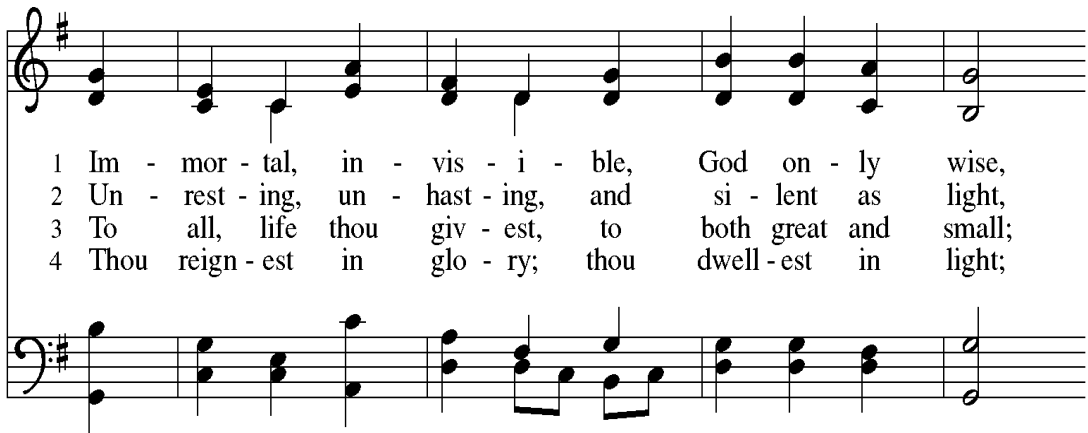
REVEREND JOSEPH PAXTON (PASTOR JP)
ACCOMPANIST JOAN PURSWELL

*Please stand as you are able

WELCOME

*GATHERING HYMN

“IMMORTAL INVISIBLE”



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

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.

SONG OF PRAISE

“LORD, BE GLORIFIED”

1 In my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;
 2 In our song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;
 3 In your church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;
 4 In your world, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;

in my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
 in our song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
 in your church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
 in your world, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. (*Brief silence is kept*) O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

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THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST LESSON **Isaiah 50:4-9a**

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

A reading from Isaiah:

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

The Word of God, the Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 116:1-9 (Read responsively)

¹I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,
²**for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.**
³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon
me; I came to grief and sorrow.
⁴**Then I called upon the name of the LORD:**
“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”
⁵Gracious is the LORD and righteous; our God is full of compassion.
⁶**The LORD watches over the innocent;**
I was brought low, and God saved me.
⁷Turn again to your rest, O my soul.
for the LORD has dealt well with you.
⁸**For you have rescued my life from death,**
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;
⁹I will walk in the presence of the LORD
in the land of the living.

SECOND LESSON James 3:1-12

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

A reading from James:

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

The Word of God, the Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

“SEEK YE FIRST”

Worship & Praise Songbook #122 (found in hymn racks)

HOLY GOSPEL Mark 8:27-38

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

C Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

This is the gospel of our Lord.

C

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

REVEREND JOSEPH PAXTON

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

“WHEN PAIN OF THE WORLD”



1 When pain of the world sur - rounds us with dark - ness and de -
2 We see with . . . fear and trem - bling our ach - ing world in
3 The church is a ho - ly ves - sel the liv - ing wa - ters
4 We praise you . . . for our jour - ney and your a - bun - dant



spair, when search - ing just con - founds us with
need, con - fess - ing to each oth - er our
fill to nour - ish all the peo - ple, God's
grace, your sav - ing word that guid - ed a



false hopes ev - 'ry - where, when lives are starved for mean - ing and
waste - ful - ness and greed. May we with stead - fast car - ing the
pur - pose to ful - fill. May we with hum - ble cour - age be
strug - gling hu - man race. O God, with all cre - a - tion, your



des - ti - ny is bare, we are called to fol - low Je - sus and
hun - gry chil - dren feed. We are called to fol - low Je - sus and
o - pen to God's will. We are called to fol - low Je - sus and
fu - ture we em - brace. We are called to fol - low Je - sus and



let God's heal - ing flow through us.
let God's jus - tice flow through us.
let God's Spir - it flow through us.
let God's chang - es flow through us.

APOSTLES CREED

P God has made us His people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

ALL 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 INTERCESSION

(Between the first and last prayer, congregation please share in reading the prayers)

P Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church throughout the world. Form us into communities of forgiveness and grace. Help us to notice where you are calling us into new relationships, and give us courage to embrace the uncomfortable and unfamiliar. Hear us, O God.

C **your mercy is great.**

We pray for the earth and all its inhabitants. Protect lands at risk of wildfire and heal dying forests. Where fire brings destruction, raise up new growth. Guide us in tending precarious ecosystems. Hear us, O God.

C **your mercy is great.**

We pray for those who govern nations, tribes, and cities. Open them to the cries of people in need. Direct them in shaping policies that prioritize the health and well-being of all who struggle with hunger and housing insecurity. Hear us, O God.

C **your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who are ill, all who are lonely or anxious, and all who grieve (*a brief silence*). Draw them close to you and soothe them with the promise of your enduring love. Hear us, O God.

C **your mercy is great.**

We pray for teachers, professors, librarians, school administrators, staff, and all who support the education of young people. Sustain them as they shape learning communities, rooted in equity and authenticity. We pray for children of all ages in their learning. Hear us, O God.

C **your mercy is great.**

God of Peace, we pray for all those places in the world where there is war and violence. Protect all who are in harm's way and comfort those who mourn. Give wisdom to those in authority, that they put an end to conflict, and work towards peace. Hear us, O God,

C **your mercy is great.**

We remember our beloved dead, who with the great cloud of witnesses bear witness to your saving grace. Accompany us in our pilgrimage of faith, that we too place our hope and trust in you. Hear us, O God.

C **your mercy is great.**

P We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C **Amen.**

***SHARING OF PEACE**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

You are invited to share a sign of God's peace with one another in whatever way you feel most comfortable.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

Offering plates are available to accept your gifts at the front windows of the sanctuary.

*OFFERTORY

“GOD EXTENDS AN INVITATION”



Nues-tro Pa - dre nos in - vi - ta a la me - sa de la
God ex - tends an in - vi - ta - tion to the ta - ble of cre -



vi - da, don - de hay vi - no, luz y pan; y no -
a - tion, where there's wine and light and bread. Here we



so - tros nos reu - ni - mos, y lo nues - tro com - par - ti - mos, pues a -
gath - er in thanks - giv - ing and we of - fer all our liv - ing. Here the



sí es la co - mu - ni - ón; pues a - sí es la co - mu - ni - ón.
feast of life is spread; here the feast of life is spread.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. (*Brief silence is kept*) Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

CELEBRATING THE HOLY SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

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 God thanks and praise.

P 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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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:



You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.



You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

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.

For as often as we eat this bread, and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

P Remembering his command to love one another, his life and death, and his glorious resurrection and ascension, we pray for his coming again even as we cry: Amen! Come, Lord Jesus.

C Amen! Come, Lord Jesus.

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that all of your promises may come to us and your whole creation. Empower us by that same Spirit, to love and forgive, that our lives may anticipate that day when you will make all things new. Amen! Come, Holy Spirit.

C Amen! Come, Holy Spirit.

P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

C Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, O God, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P The risen Christ is in our midst, so with Christ we pray.

C 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

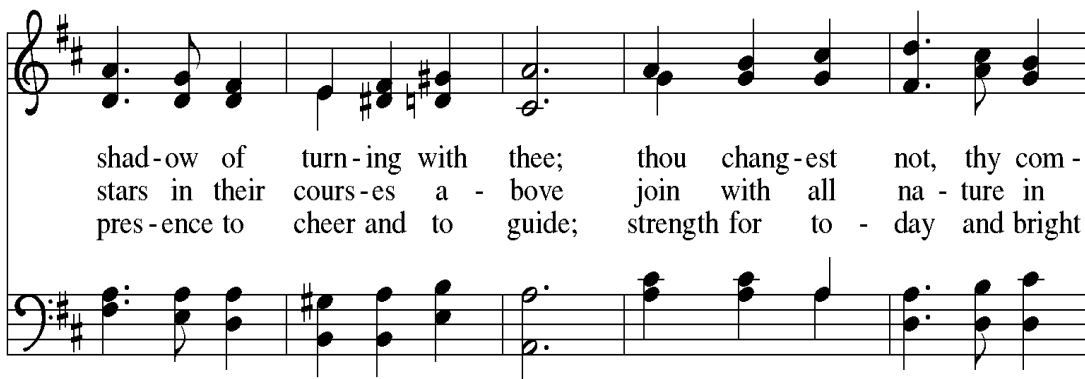
DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMN

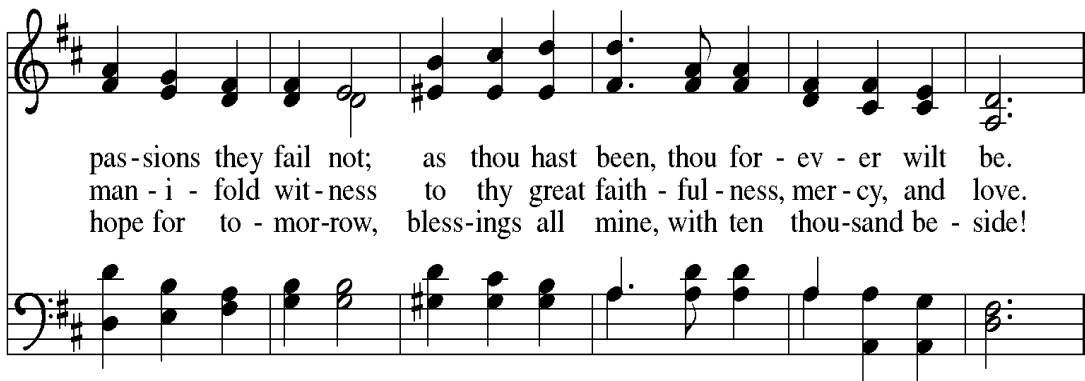
“GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS”



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.

***GOD'S BLESSING**

P The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, † be upon you now and forever.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. (*Brief silence is kept*) Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P And now may the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you, may the Lord look upon you with favor, and grant you peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN "FOR THE WHOLENESS OF THE EARTH"



1 We lift this prayer for the whole-ness of the earth. We lift this
2 We turn our lives to the whole-ness of the earth. We turn our
3 Give thanks to God for the whole-ness of the earth. Give thanks to



prayer for the whole-ness of the earth. We lift this prayer for the
lives to the whole-ness of the earth. We turn our lives to the
God for the whole-ness of the earth. Give thanks to God for the



whole-ness of the earth. Can you feel it ris - ing in you?
whole-ness of the earth. Can you feel it spin - ning in you?
whole-ness of the earth. Can you feel it ris - ing in you?

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

C Thanks be to God.