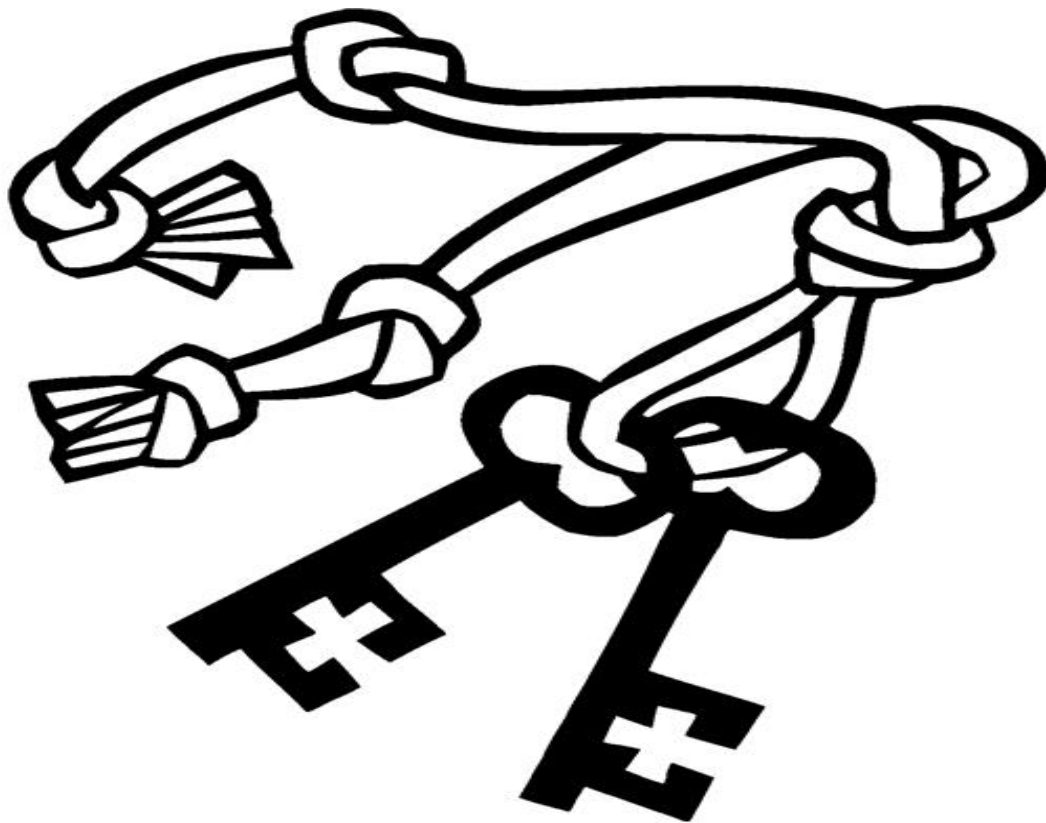


CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 27, 2023
10:30 A.M.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
901 EAST STROOP ROAD
KETTERING, OH 45429-4688
(937) 298-0136

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Introduction

In Isaiah the people are bid to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world, but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

Dare We?

There are lots of possible truthful answers to Jesus' question "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" (Matthew 16:13): prophet, teacher, storyteller, healer, wonder-worker, rabble-rouser, friend, exorcist, Nazarene, Jew, son of Joseph. We come to know one another from many angles: in experiences and relationships; by what others say; on Facebook, Twitter, the six o'clock news; at Monday coffee group, happy hour; through factory newsletters, class yearbooks. One might be, all at once, author, gardener, mother, felon, philanthropist, swimmer.

Jesus begins by asking what people say about him—what's the word on the street? As expected, responses are a mixture of religious, political, and personal perspectives. Then Jesus cuts closer, exacting from his disciples their answer. "Who do you say that I am?" (Matt. 16:15). It might seem that he's quizzing the group with a trick question to see who answers rightly and thus gets rewarded with keys to the kingdom of heaven.

Peter's answer gains him the glory. If that episode was all Matthew's gospel recorded, we might conclude that Peter did, in fact, recognize Jesus more clearly than the others. But every one of the disciples had made that very same confession, "You are the Son of God," in the safety of a seaworthy boat with Jesus on a calmed sea (Matt. 14:33). In this sense, Peter's response was predictable.

However, Matthew bothers to write that this happened in Caesarea Philippi, also known as Paneas, site of a famous shrine to Pan, god of shepherds. Named for Caesar, the emperor, and Philip, ruler of the region, it is identified with imperial power. In the context of tremendous political and religious forces, Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?"

In this sense, it is a brave confession when Peter names Jesus—not Caesar—as Chosen, Lord, and presence of God. Jesus' way of blessing the world contradicts all that empire is about. On that confession the church is called to stand—today. Dare we?

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Jamie Vannoy

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Church Song

(Refrain - All)

**We are the church, the body of our Lord.
We are all God's children. We have been restored.**

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

The church is not a building where people go to pray.
It's not made out of sticks and stones; it's not made out of clay.

(Refrain - All)

**We are the church, the body of our Lord.
We are all God's children. We have been restored.**

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

You can go to worship, but you cannot go to church;
You can't find a building that's alive, no matter how you search.

(Refrain - All)

**We are the church, the body of our Lord.
We are all God's children. We have been restored.**

(Verse 3 - Music Ministers)

The church is not a business, a committee or a board;
It's not a corporation for the business of the Lord.

(Refrain - All)

**We are the church, the body of our Lord.
We are all God's children. We have been restored.**

(Verse 4 - Music Ministers)

The church, it is the people living out their lives,
Called, enlightened, sanctified for the work of Jesus Christ.

(Refrain - All)

**We are the church, the body of our Lord.
We are all God's children. We have been restored.**

OPENING LITANY:

We have come to worship the living God,
who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.

We have come to praise the almighty God,
who casts out hatred and hurt with the power of grace.

We have come to give thanks to the all-gracious God,
who chooses you and me to proclaim the word of life and hope.

GATHERING SONGS

Everlasting God

(Verse)

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord.
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord
Our God, You pp forever,
Our Hope, our strong Deliverer.

(Chorus)

You are the everlasting God,
The everlasting God.
You do not faint,
You won't grow weary.
You're the defender of the weak.
You comfort those in need.
You lift us up on wings like eagles.

(Verse)

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord.
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord
Our God, You reign forever,
Our Hope, our strong Deliverer.

(Final Chorus)

You are the everlasting God,
The everlasting God.
You do not faint,
You won't grow weary.

You're the defender of the weak.
You comfort those in need.
You lift us up on wings like eagles.

Our God, You reign forever,
Our Hope, our strong Deliverer.

You are the everlasting God,
The everlasting God.
You do not faint,
You won't grow weary.
You're the defender of the weak.
You comfort those in need.
You lift us up on wings like eagles.

Jesus, Messiah

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)
He became sin who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness.
He humbled Himself and carried the cross:
Love so amazing, love so amazing.

(Refrain - All)
Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names;
Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.
The Rescue for sinners;
The Ransom from heaven;
Jesus, Messiah: Lord of all.

(Verse 2 - All)
His body the bread, His blood the wine,
Broken and poured out all for love.
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn:
Love so amazing, love so amazing.

(Refrain - All)
Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names;
Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.
The Rescue for sinners;
The Ransom from heaven;
Jesus, Messiah: Lord of all.

(Music Ministers)
All our hope is in You,
All our hope is in You;
All the glory to You, God,
The Light of the world.

(Refrain - All/Music Ministers)
Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names;
Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.
The Rescue for sinners;
The Ransom from heaven;
Jesus, Messiah: Lord of all.
Jesus Messiah: Lord of all,
The Lord of all, the Lord of all.

~~~~~  
*Seek Ye First*

(Verse 1)  
Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
And his righteousness,  
And all these things shall be added unto you;  
Allelu, alleluia.

(Refrain)  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu, alleluia.

(Verse 2)  
Ask, and it shall be given unto you;  
Seek, and ye shall find;  
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you;  
Allelu, alleluia.

(Refrain)  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu, alleluia.

(Verse 3)  
You do not live by bread alone,  
But by every word  
That comes forth from the mouth of God;  
Allelu, alleluia.

(Refrain)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu, alleluia.

(Verse 4)

Where two or three are gathered in my name,  
There am i in their midst;  
And whatsoever you ask I will do,  
Allelu, alleluia.

(Refrain)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu, alleluia.

### **CONFESSION**

Heavenly Father, you are God above and beyond all things! With trust, hope and humility in our hearts, we confess to you our sins,

Eternal God, our judge and redeemer, **we confess that we have tried to hide from you, for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves and apart from you. We have turned from our neighbors and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed.**

**In your great mercy, forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

### **FORGIVENESS**

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### **THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

# WORD

*Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,  
Jesus interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.*

## FIRST READING

**Isaiah 51:1-6**

*Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.*

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

**Psalms 138**

*O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever. (Ps. 138:8)*

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I will sing your praise.

**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;**

**for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

When I called, you answered me;  
you increased my strength within me.

**All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,  
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

They will sing of the ways of the LORD,  
that great is the glory of the LORD.

**The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly,  
perceiving the haughty from afar.**

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

**You will make good your purpose for me;**

**O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**



**\*\* GOSPEL READING**

**Matthew 16:13-20**

*At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**YOUTH MESSAGE**

**MESSAGE**

*Pastor Jamie Vannoy*

**\*\* APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
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,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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 COMMUNITY

### GATHERING OF GIFTS

### OFFERTORY

#### OFFERING PRAYER

God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

#### GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples 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."

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another.

## \*\* LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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

All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

## HOLY COMMUNION - *Receiving the Lord's tangible presence.*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Each person may respond: **Amen.**

**Communion Statement** ~ *If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Redeemer and would like to receive Holy Communion, then come forward to receive the elements. If you would just like to come forward and receive a blessing, then you may do that also.*

*NOTE: We invite everyone to come forward for Holy Communion. If you have a gluten allergy, gluten-free wafers are available upon request when receiving Communion. Also, if you prefer not to receive wine at Communion, apple juice is available upon request.*

## REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION

*As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ, and the amazing gifts of grace and forgiveness that we have been given. As we receive the body and the blood of our Lord, let us reflect upon His sacrifice. Finally, may we take this time to ask the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts, and then to work **in** us and **through** us in the coming days.*

## \*\* TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and always keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## \*\* BLESSING

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

*I Will Follow*

(Music Ministers)

Where you go, I'll go; where you stay, I'll stay;  
Where you move, I'll move. I will follow.

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

All your ways are good, all your ways are sure;  
I will trust in you alone.  
Higher than my sight, high above my life;  
I will trust in you alone.

(Refrain - All)

**Where you go, I'll go; where you stay, I'll stay;  
Where you move, I'll move. I will follow you.  
Whom you love, I'll love. How you serve, I'll serve.  
If this life I lose, I will follow you, yeah.  
I will follow you, yeah.**

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

Light into the world, Light into my life,  
I will live for you alone.  
You're the One I seek, knowing I will find,  
All I need in you alone.

(Refrain - All)

**Where you go, I'll go; where you stay, I'll stay;  
Where you move, I'll move. I will follow you.  
Whom you love, I'll love. How you serve, I'll serve.  
If this life I lose, I will follow you, yeah.  
I will follow you, yeah.**

(Music Ministers)

In you, there's life everlasting.  
In you, there's freedom for my soul.  
In you, there's joy, unending joy,  
And I will follow!

**(All)**

**Where you go, I'll go; where you stay, I'll stay;  
Where you move, I'll move. I will follow.  
Whom you love, I'll love. How you serve, I'll serve.  
If this life I lose, I will follow you, yeah.  
I will follow you, yeah.  
I will follow you, yeah.  
I will follow you, yeah.**

**\*\* DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**Created, saved and gifted by God, we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ.  
Hallelujah! Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

**“W + 2” = Worship Plus Two**

**Make a commitment to not only worship each week  
but also try to find a way to serve in the congregation  
and seek out a way to serve our community.**

**YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD**

## Upcoming Commemorations

### **Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, died 430**

**Monday, August 28, 2023**

Augustine was one of the greatest theologians of the Western church. A native of North Africa, he recovered from a debauched young adulthood through the influence of his mother, Monica, and Bishop Ambrose of Milan. Besides writing influential theological books, he served as bishop of Hippo, in present-day Algeria.

### **Moses the Black, monk, martyr, died around 400**

**Monday, August 28, 2023**

Converted from life as a thief and a robber to Christianity, Moses was an Ethiopian who became a desert monk at Skete. The change in his heart and life had a profound impact on his native country. He was murdered when Berber bandits attacked his monastery.

### **Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872**

**Saturday, September 2, 2023**

Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, one of the two great Danish theologians of the nineteenth century. As a pastor, he battled the prevalent idea that Christianity was more a philosophy than divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.

**NOTES:**

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