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



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 10:30 A.M.

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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Introduction

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life." Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We, having been washed in the word when we were born in the font, return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

What Would Jesus Do?

At the outset, rules seem simple. They divide the world into good and bad and help us restore a measure of order to a chaotic world. Unfortunately, the same rules that we use to bring order out of chaos are often in-sufficient to deal with the complexity of our lives, which is one of the reasons there truly is an exception to every rule. This is also the reason we appoint judges: to interpret the law when it fails to adequately address the circumstance to which it is applied.

In Jesus' day the Pharisees and scribes were known for their strict observance of the law. So when they no-tice the disciples of Jesus eating with defiled hands, the Pharisees and scribes bring this perceived breach of the law to Jesus' attention. The law itself, which requires that people wash their hands before eating, originat-ed from ancient purity laws. Jesus understands this and simultaneously upholds and reframes the law by drawing his listeners' attention away from the washing of hands to what truly defiles. In doing so, Jesus acts as a judge and offers an interpretation of the law that both upholds its original intent of purity and absolves the disciples of wrongdoing. At the same time, he exposes the prioritization of human precepts over God's command and reminds us of God's sovereignty and compassion.

Rules are simple, but our world is not. Through the incarnation, the Word made flesh, God meets us at the intersection of law and life. In Jesus, God the judge enters our world in a new way and interprets the law. And through Jesus, we come to understand God's will in a messy world. Therefore, if we as Christians truly want to live out the will of God, we do well to start with that old and simple question "What would Jesus do?"

^{**} Indicates to stand as you are able.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

El Shaddai by Michael Card Mary Pierce & Mark Shoemaker, soloists

El Shaddai, El Shaddai
El Elyonna Adonai,
Age to age, you're still the same
By the power of the name.
El Shaddai, El Shaddai
Erkamkana Adonai.
We will praise and lift you high,
El Shaddai.

Through your love and through the ram,
You saved the son of Abraham,
Through the power of your hand,
You turned the sea into dry land.
To the outcast on her knees,
You were the God who really sees,
And by your might,
You set your children free.

El Shaddai, El Shaddai
El Elyonna Adonai,
Age to age, you're still the same
By the power of the name.
El Shaddai, El Shaddai
Erkamkana Adonai.
We will praise and lift you high,
El Shaddai.

Through the years you made it clear
That the time of Christ was near,
Though the people couldn't see
What Messiah ought to be.
Though your Word contained the plan,
They just could not understand
Your most awesome work was done
In the frailty of your Son.

El Shaddai, El Shaddai
El Elyonna Adonai,
Age to age, you're still the same
By the power of the name.
El Shaddai, El Shaddai
Erkamkana Adonai.
We will praise and lift you high,
El Shaddai.

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS Pr. Jamie Vannoy

** CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God, we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our

hearts through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

** GATHERING SONG

You Are Holy (Prince of Peace)

(Music Ministers /AII)
You are holy. You are holy.
You are mighty. You are mighty.
You are worthy. You are worthy.
Worthy of praise. Worthy of praise.
I will follow. I will follow.
I will listen.

I will love you, I will love you, All of my days. All of my days.

(All Men)

I will sing to and worship.
The King who is worthy.
And I will love and adore him,
And I will bow down before him.
And I will sing to and worship
The king who is worthy.
And I will love and adore him,
And I will bow down before him.
You're my Prince of Peace,
And I will live my life for you.

(All Women)

You are Lord or lords. You are King of kings.
You are mighty God, Lord of everything.
You're Emmanuel. You're the great I Am.
You're the Prince of Peace who is the Lamb.
You're the living God. You're my saving grace.
You will reign forever, Ancient of Days.
You are Alpha, Omega - beginning and end.
You're my Savior, Messiah, Redeemer and Friend.
You're my Prince of Peace,
And I will live my life for you.

(Men)

I will sing to and worship
The King who is worthy.
And I will love and adore him,
And I will bow down before him.
And I will sing to and worship
The king who is worthy.
And I will love and adore him,
And I will bow down before him.
You're my Prince of Peace,
And I will live my life for you.
You're my Prince of Peace,
And I will live my life for you.

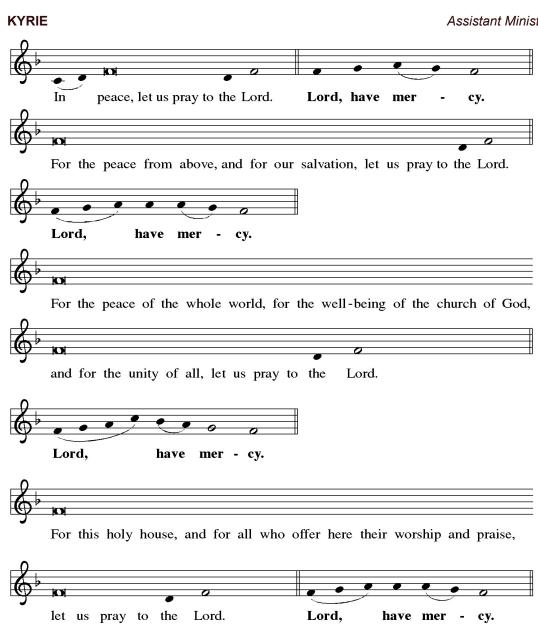
(Women)

You are Lord of lords. You are King of kings.
You are mighty God, Lord of everything.
You're Emmanuel. You're the Great I Am.
You're the Prince of Peace who is the Lamb.
You're the living God. You're my saving grace.
You will reign for ever, Ancient of Days.
You are Alpha, Omega - beginning and end.
You're my Savior, Messiah, Redeemer and Friend.
You're my Prince of Peace,
And I will live my life for you.
You're my Prince of Peace,
And I will live my life for you.

** GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE Assistant Minister





** CANTICLE OF PRAISE





** PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the coverant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you. You have seen for yourselves what the Lord did with regard to the Baal of Peor—how the Lord your God destroyed from among you everyone who followed the Baal of Peor, while those of you who held fast to the Lord your God are all alive today. See, just as the Lord my God has charged me, I now teach you statutes and ordinances for you to observe in the land that you are about to enter and occupy. You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

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

PSALM Psalm 15

Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? (Ps. 15:1)

Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;

they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the Lord.

They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING James 1:17-27

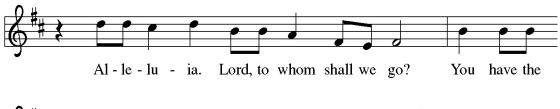
The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

A reading from the book of James.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

The holy gospel according to Mark. Glory to you, O Lord.

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

YOUTH MESSAGE

MESSAGE Pr. Jamie Vannoy





I will go,

Lord,

if you

call-ing in the

night.

** NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

Each intercession concludes: Merciful God, receive our prayer.

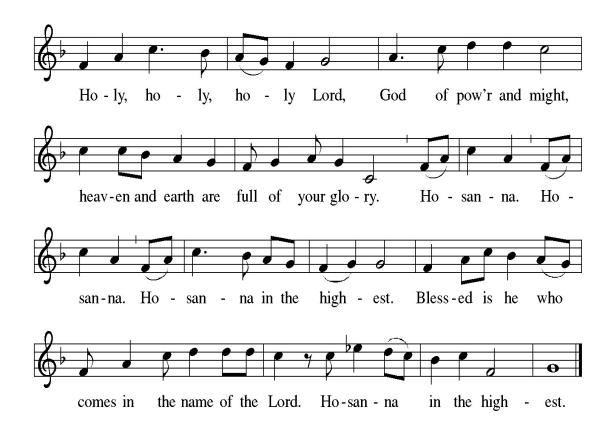
We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

DIALOGUE The Lord be with And al - so with you. you. Lift hearts. We lift them to the Lord. up your Let us give thanks the Lord our God. to right thanks and It is to give our praise.

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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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:



** WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.



** 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.

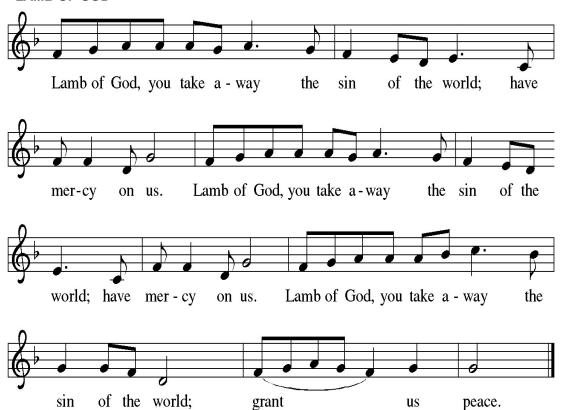
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

** LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMN Seek Ye First

Canon



- 1. Seek ye first the
- 2. Ask, and it shall be
- 3. You do not live by

king - dom of God

giv - en un - to you;

lone, bread a

and his right-eousseek, and ye shall

but by ev - 'rv

4. Where two or three are gath-ered in my name, in their there am Ι



ness, find; word midst:

all these things shall be and knock, and the door shall be comes forth from the that and what-so - ev - er you add-ed un - to you; o-pened un - to you; mouth of God; I will do: ask





TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Prayer by David Foster and Carle Bayer Sager Lisa Donovan, mezzo-soprano Mark Shoemaker, baritone

I pray you'll be our eyes,
And watch us where we go,
And help us to be wise
In times when we don't know.
Let this be our prayer
When we lose our way.
Lead us to a place,
Guide us with your grace,
Give us faith so we'll be safe.

La luce che tu dai The light that you give

I pray we'll find your light,

Nel cuore resterà Will stay in my heart

And hold it in our hearts

A ricordarci che So we can remember

When stars go out each night.

L'eterna stella sei. You are the eternal star.

Nella mia preghiera In this, my prayer

Let this be our prayer

Quanta fede c'è.
There is so much faith.

When shadows fill our day,

Lead us to a place,

Guide us with your grace.

Give us faith so we'll be safe.

Sogniamo un mondo senza più violenza, We dream of a world with no more violence, Un mondo di giustizia e di speranza.

A world of justice and of hope.
Ognuno dia la mano al suo vicino
Everyone shakes the hand of their neighbor.
Simbolo di pace, di fraternità
Symbol of peace, of brotherhood.

La forza che ci dai The strength that you give

We ask that life be kind

È il desiderio che Is the desire that

And watch us where we go.

Ognuno trovi amore Everyone finds love

We hope each soul will find

Intorno e dentro sé Within and around each other

Another soul to love.

Let this be our prayer Just like every child.

Need to find a place, Guide us with your grace, Give us faith so we'll be safe.

E la fede che
And the faith that
Hai acceso in noi
You have kindled in us.
Sento che ci salverà
I feel it will save us.

THANKSGIVINGATTHECONCLUSIONOFACALL

Pr. Jamie Vannoy, on March 4, 2012, we of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church called you to be pastor in this place: to proclaim God's word, to baptize and teach, to announce God's forgiveness, and to preside at the Lord's table. With the gospel you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you and Laura have been important to our life together in the church of Jesus Christ, in our service to this community, and in God's mission to the whole world. As you leave Good Shepherd, we say farewell, and we pray for God's blessing.

People of God, members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, do you release Pastor Jamie Vannoy from service as your pastor?

We do, and we give thanks to God for our ministry together.

Pastor Jamie, do you recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church?

Response: I do, and I give thanks to God for our ministry together.

Thanksgiving and Sending

Let us pray.

Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock.

You equip your people with abilities that differ according to the grace given to them, and you call them to various avenues of service.

We give you thanks for the ministry of Pastor Jamie among the people of God in this place.

You watch over our going out and our coming in:

bless this time of ending and beginning.

You surround your people in every time and place:

keep us close in your love.

You accompany your people in times of joy and times of trial:

prosper all that has been done to your glory in this time together;

heal and forgive all that has fallen short of your will for us.

Help Pastor Jamie and Laura and all of us

to live with courage and gladness in the future you give to us.

As they have been a blessing to us,

so now send them forth to be a blessing to Trinity Lutheran Church and the community of Hixson, Tennessee;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

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

** BLESSING

God all mighty, God most merciful bless you, keep you, and give you peace.. Amen.

SENDING SONG

God Be with You Till We Meet Again (ELW 536)

(The Chancel Choir will sing the first verse and refrain. All are invited to sing verses 2 & 3)

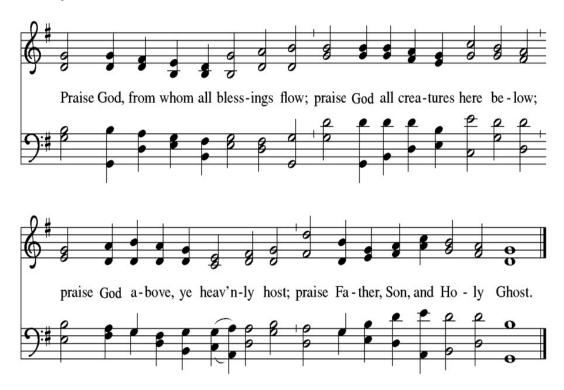




** DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Created, Saved & Gifted by God, we Seek, Serve & Share Jesus Christ. Hallelujah, Thanks Be To God.



"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

Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, died 1153
Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872
Monday, September 2, 2024

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.