

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



NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 10, 2025
10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
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INTRODUCTION

Jesus says, “It is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” It is God’s promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the “little flock” of which we are a part in today’s assembly. Faith, God’s baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

A KINGDOM FOR THE LITTLE FLOCK

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” Jesus promises the kingdom to us, his little flock, straining our minds with this uninhibited generosity. Even to us, so little and undeserving? Even to us, in the face of so many things to be afraid of? Suddenly everything we hold dear in this world is repriced, and the true value of things becomes plainly clear. We are being given the kingdom! So why not sell our possessions and give to those in need? We are being given the kingdom! So why not wait on expectant tiptoes for the master? When he comes he will wait on us! The Father’s free generosity calls forth in us a generosity we have never before known. Fear is now met with anticipation, and tightfistedness with open hands. We are being given the kingdom, so now we know what true treasure looks like. And yet, like our fathers and mothers in faith that the Hebrews reading speaks of, we too “desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.” But in Christ our heavenly country has already arrived. In him, God has freely given us the kingdom.

*** indicates to stand as you are able.*

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

"Shall We Gather at the River"

From the survey of favorite hymns.



1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Judy Treadway

CALL TO WORSHIP

"He Is Exalted"



He is ex-alt-ed, the King is ex-alt-ed on high; I will praise him.



He is ex - alt-ed, for - ev - er ex - alt-ed, and I will praise his



name. Je - sus is Lord, for - ev - er his truth shall



reign; hea - ven and earth re - joice in his ho - ly



name. He is ex-alt-ed, the King is ex - alt - ed on high.

**** OPENING LITANY**

O Bread of heaven,
come down!

Come down, and fill us with your Spirit—
for your Spirit satisfies like no other.

We hunger and thirst for you this morning,
and we long for your love and forgiveness.

We come to this sacred time and place where you nurture and teach,
where our hungers are finally and fully satisfied.

We will wait and listen.

We will receive and share.

**** GATHERING SONGS.**

“One Thing Remains (Your Love Never Fails)”

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

Higher than the mountains that I face.
Stronger than the power of the grave,
Constant in the trial and the change,
One thing remains, one thing remains.
Your love, your love, your love will never change.

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

On and on and on and on it goes.
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul.
And I never, ever have to be afraid.
One thing remains, one thing remains.

(Refrain - All)

**Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me:
Your love.**

(Verse 3 - All)

**On and on and on and on it goes.
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul.
And I never, ever have to be afraid.
One thing remains, one thing remains.**

(Refrain - All)

**Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me:
Your love.**

(Music Ministers/All)

**In death, in life, I'm confident and covered
By the power of your great love.
My debt is paid; There's nothing that can separate my heart
From your great love.
In death, in life, I'm confident and covered
By the power of your great love.
My debt is paid; There's nothing that can separate my heart
From your great love.**

(Refrain - All)

**Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me:
Your love.**

**In death, in life, I'm confident and covered
By the power of your great love.
My debt is paid; There's nothing that can separate my heart
From your great love, your love.**

(Final Verse - Music Ministers)

**Higher than the mountains that I face.
Stronger than the power of the grave,
Constant in the trial and the change,
One thing remains, one thing remains:
Your love.**

"I Give You My Heart"

(Verse - Music Ministers)

This is my desire: to honour you.
Lord, with all my heart, I worship you.
All I have within me, I give you praise.
All that I adore is in you.

(Refrain - All)

**Lord, I give you my heart, I give you my soul.
I live for you alone.
Every breath that I take, every moment I'm awake,
Lord have your way in me.**

(Verse - Music Ministers)

This is my desire: to honour you.
Lord, with all my heart, I worship you.
All I have within me, I give you praise.
All that I adore is in you.

(Refrain - All)

**Lord, I give you my heart, I give you my soul.
I live for you alone.
Every breath that I take, every moment I'm awake,
Lord have your way in me.**

**Lord, I give you my heart, I give you my soul.
I live for you alone.
Every breath that I take, every moment I'm awake,
Lord have your way in me.**

**** CONFESSION**

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✚ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
**you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.
Amen.**

**** FORGIVENESS**

You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ✚ Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.
Amen.

**** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, **you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church.
Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you
wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING

Genesis 15:1-6

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

A reading from Genesis.

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 33:12-22

Let your lovingkindness be upon us, as we place our hope in you. (Ps. 33:22)

Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord!
Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!

**The Lord looks down from heaven,
and sees all humankind.**

God sits firmly enthroned and watches
all who dwell on the earth.

**God fashions all their hearts
and observes all their deeds.**

A king is not saved by the size of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

**The horse gives vain hope for victory;
despite its great strength it cannot save.**

Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O Lord,
upon those who wait for your steadfast love,
**to deliver their lives from death,
and to keep them alive in time of famine.**

Our innermost being waits for you, O Lord,
our helper and our shield.

**Surely, our heart rejoice in you,
for in your holy name we put our trust.**

Let your lovingkindness, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we place our hope in you.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

A reading from Hebrews.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 12:32-40

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

YOUTH MESSAGE

MESSAGE

Pastor Bob Swanson

BACKPACK BLESSING

Pastor Bob Swanson

**** 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 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 INTERCESSION**

Assisting Minister

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

Each petition concludes:

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

Assisting Minister

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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**

The kingdom of God is set before you.

Eat and rejoice.

For those communing at home or in the pew:

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. For those choosing to remain in the pews, there are communion all-in-one cups containing grape juice available in the Narthex.

REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION

As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ, and reflect 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 each and every day.

**** 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**

Assisting Minister

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

**** SENDING OF COMMUNION**

Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent. The presiding minister may lead this prayer of sending.

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

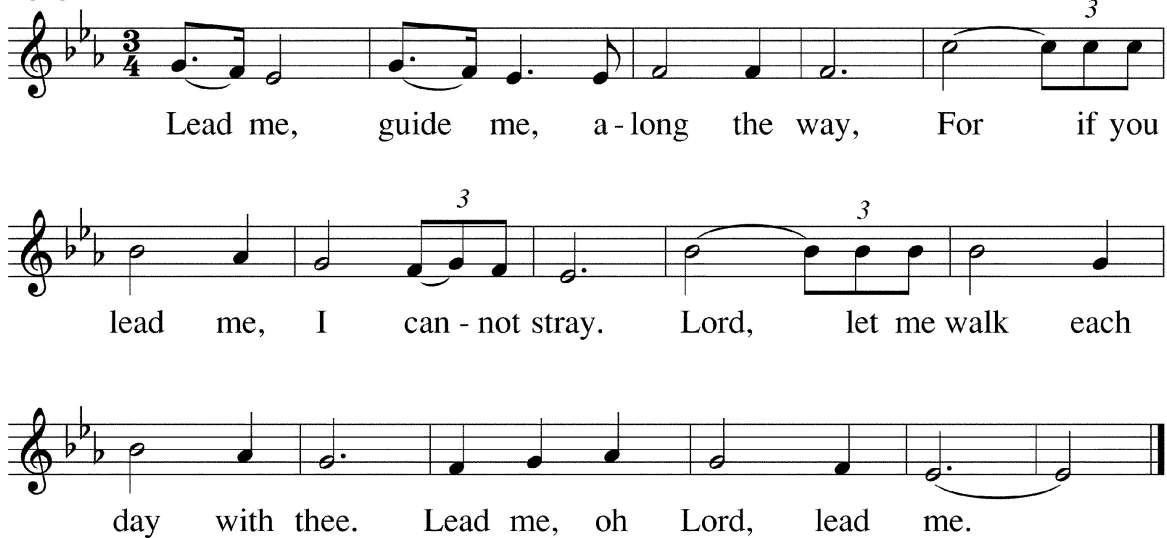
** BLESSING

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ☩ bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

** SENDING HYMN

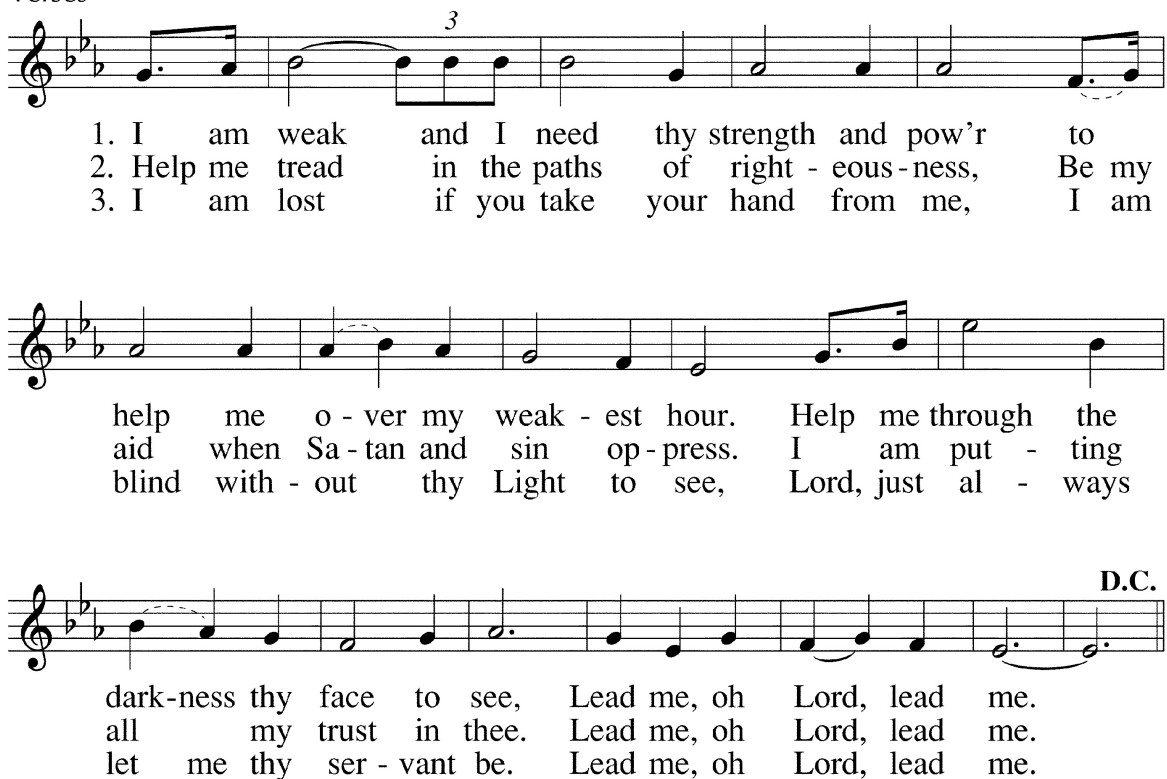
"Lead Me, Guide Me"

Refrain



Lead me, guide me, a-long the way, For if you
lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each
day with thee. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

Verses



1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r to
2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous - ness, Be my
3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am

help me o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the
aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press. I am put - ting
blind with - out thy Light to see, Lord, just al - ways

D.C.
dark-ness thy face to see, Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.
all my trust in thee. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.
let me thy ser - vant be. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live by the spirit.

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 NOT ONLY TO 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

Lawrence, deacon, martyr, died 258

Sunday, August 10, 2025

As one of the seven deacons of the church at Rome, Lawrence was responsible for the church's financial matters and for the care of the poor.

Asked by the emperor to gather the church's treasure, he presented a collection of orphans, lepers, and the like. The enraged emperor had him put to death.

Clare, Abbess of San Damiano, died 1253

Monday, August 11, 2025

A contemporary of Francis of Assisi, Clare and a growing number of companions established a women's Franciscan community, called the Order of Poor Ladies, or Poor Clares. She inspired other women to pursue spiritual goals.

**Florence Nightingale, died 1910; Clara Maass, died 1901; renewers
of society**

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

Nightingale was born in England, and horrified her wealthy family by deciding to become a nurse. She led a group of nurses in ministering in the midst of the Crimean War, and worked for hospital reform. Maass, a native of New Jersey, was also a war nurse, and volunteered as a subject for research on yellow fever. She died of the disease.

Maximilian Kolbe, died 1941; Kaj Munk, died 1944; martyrs

Thursday, August 14, 2025

Father Kolbe was a Franciscan priest arrested by the Nazis and confined in Auschwitz. Kolbe gave generously of his meager resources, and finally volunteered to be starved to death in place of another man. A Danish Lutheran pastor and playwright, Munk strongly denounced the Nazis who occupied Denmark in the Second World War. His sermons and articles helped to show the anti-Christian nature of the movement.

Mary, Mother of Our Lord

Friday, August 15, 2025

The church (including Martin Luther) honored Mary with the title theotokos, meaning "God-bearer," for her role in giving birth to the Son of God. Her song, the Magnificat, speaks eloquently of God's lifting the lowly and feeding the hungry.