Created, saved and gifted by God,
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



TWENTY- FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2026

10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
901 East Stroop Road
Kettering, Ohio 45429
(937) 298-0136

Introduction

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.

Trusting in God, Trusting with God

Human beings are relational creatures. We are created to be in relationship with one another and with God. No one, no matter how independent or disconnected they may feel they are, functions completely outside the context of relationships. From the moment we are born we are thrust into relationship with people around us—the people who delivered us, the people who will be taking care of us in a hospital nursery, our family, and God. When we enter this world we do so forming relationships right from the start.

Relationships, healthy relationships, require a lot of work and care to continue. In particular, relationships require trust to grow and become mature. Relationships rooted in trust can bring out the best in us. Relationships rooted in anything else can bring out the worst.

Today's readings give us the chance to consider the trust required in the relationship between God and God's people. Moreover, we are invited to give thought to the consequences of replacing trust with something else: hubris stemming from trust in one's identity or work (in Amos), or hubris stemming from trust in others to sustain us rather than God (in Matthew). Paul reminds us that our relationship with God is cause for joy even in the midst of sorrow, since we believe (trust) God's promise of eternal life through the living Lord Jesus.

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

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS *Pastor Mallory Morris*

** **CALL TO WORSHIP** "Let Streams of Living Justice"



** **OPENING LITANY**

Children of God, rejoice in your mission as builders of the kingdom!
We gather to encourage one another to keep awake and watch,
for the kingdom of God is at hand.
Sometimes we grow weary in the waiting,
and we wonder if we are watching and working for nothing.
We gather to encourage one another to keep awake and watch,
for the kingdom of God is at hand.
Sometimes God surprises, and we are overwhelmed by joy and wonder at all God is doing among us.
We gather to encourage one another to keep awake and watch,
for the kingdom of God is at hand.
Brothers and sisters in Christ, whether you are weary or energized, worried or filled with wonder, rejoice!
The kingdom of God is all around us!
We gather to encourage one another to keep awake and watch,
for the kingdom of God is at hand. Thanks be to God! Amen.

** **GATHERING SONGS**

"Here I Am To Worship"

(Verse 1 - All)
Light of the world,
You stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made
This heart adore you,
Hope of a life spent with you.

(Chorus - All)
So here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that you're my God.
You're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.

(Verse 2 - All)
King of all days
Oh, so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above,

Humbly you came
To the earth you created,
All for love's sake became poor.

(Chorus - All)
So here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that you're my God.
You're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.

(Music Ministers / **All**)
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross.
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross.

(Chorus - All)
So here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that you're my God.
You're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.

"Open the Eyes of My Heart"
(Verse - Music Ministers/**All**)
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,
Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see you,
I want to see you.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,
Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see you,
I want to see you.

(Refrain - All/Music Ministers**)**
To see you high and lifted up,
Shining in the light of your glory.

Pour out your power and love
As we sing "holy, holy, holy."

(Verse - All)
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,
Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see you,
I want to see you.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,
Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see you,
I want to see you.

(Refrain - All/Music Ministers**)**
To see you high and lifted up,
Shining in the light of your glory.
Pour out your power and love
As we sing "holy, holy, holy."
To see you high and lifted up,
Shining in the light of your glory.
Pour out your power and love
As we sing "holy, holy, holy."

Holy, holy, holy,
Holy, holy, holy,
Holy, holy, holy,
I want to see you.


1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the
sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the
taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.
Refrain
It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul,

** **CONFESSION**

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,
our dwelling place for all generations,
whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess that we have trusted in our preparation
instead of your invitation.
We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved.
We trust the voice of our shame and fear,
which keeps us from entering fully
into relationship with you and others.
We are not awake to the coming of your reign.
Rouse us and rescue us,
that we may enter into your joy.
Amen.

** **FORGIVENESS**

Inherit the riches of God's grace.
☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.
You are forgiven.
Blessed are you. **Amen.**

** **PRAYER OF THE DAY** *Assisting Minister*

O God of justice and love, **you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, 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 Amos 5:18-24

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

A reading from Amos, the fifth chapter.

Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord!
Why do you want the day of the Lord?
It is darkness, not light,
as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

PSALM Psalm 70

You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry. (Ps. 70:5)

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O Lord, make haste to help me.
Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.
Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me
turn back because of their shame.
Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the Lord!"
But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry.

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

A reading from First Thessalonians, the first chapter.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

** **GOSPEL READING** Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

YOUTH MESSAGE

MESSAGE *Pr. Mallory Morris*

** **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*

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

After each petition concludes:
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**

GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER *Assisting Minister*

Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

A PRAYER FOR FIRST COMMUNION

"Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs'" (Matt. 19:14)

God of All,

We give you thanks for all the ways you demonstrate your love for us. We give you thanks that, in communion, we see you feeding, forgiving, and loving us. Today, especially, we celebrate as these children come to experience that love and forgiveness in a new way.

Thank you that Chris, Harper, and James as they share this meal with us and with you. As you feed them, may they know you forgive them, grow in their faith, and encounter your love that makes a place for them, as well.

We pray in the name of the one who gave body and blood for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

** **DIALOGUE**

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.**

** **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

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 ~ We believe that the communion table is not Pr. Mallory's table, Good Shepherd Lutheran's table, or even the ELCA's table. This is God's table. And because this is God's table, we believe that anyone who wishes to receive communion can come forward and do so without condition or qualification.

Please note that we provide a non-alcoholic option (white) for those who do not want to partake of the communion wine (red). We also have gluten-free wafers available for those who need them. Simply let Pr. Mallory and the communion assistants know that you need something different when they come to you.

If anyone wishes to come forward and receive a blessing instead of communion elements, you are welcome to come forward to the communion rails with your arms crossed over your chest in the shape of an "X" instead.

If mobility concerns make it difficult to come forward for communion, you can alert the ushers, and they will let Pr. Mallory know to come to you.

REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION

As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ and ponder 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*

Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. **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 holy Trinity,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God,
today and always.
Amen.

** **SENDING SONG** "Blessed Assurance"



** **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Encourage one another.
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

Martin, Bishop of Tours, died 397

Wednesday, November 11, 2026

Martin's pagan father enlisted him in the Roman army. Approached by a beggar, Martin cut his cloak in half and gave part to the man, whom he later understood as representing Christ. He asked to leave the army, but was jailed instead. After his release, he became a preacher, and later a bishop.

Søren Aabye Kierkegaard, teacher, died 1855

Wednesday, November 11, 2026

Kierkegaard was a Danish theologian whose writings also gave rise to the modern philosophy of existentialism. He frequently attacked the complacency of the state church of his day, as well as its desire to be accepted by polite society rather than be a stumbling block.