



**GOOD
SHEPHERD**
LUTHERAN CHURCH



September 5, 2021
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Building up God's people through His word for His world

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James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

Flowers and plants in our sanctuary are supported by financial donations to the Flower Fund. These floral offerings beautify the chancel (area around the altar), uplift the service participants, and remind us all of God's good creation. You can find information about being a flower sponsor on the bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall and at gslcva.org/ministries/worship, under "Flower sponsorships." Flowers this week are sponsored by Steven Huang in honor of Elizabeth's birthday.

PRELUDE "Whatever God Ordains is Right" J. S. Bach & J.G. Walther

WELCOME Pastor James

(Please stand)

OPENING HYMN "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" **Hymn No. 790**

INVOCATION, CONFESSION, AND FORGIVENESS

(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination. Please kneel/stand.)

P God our comforter:

C like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

P All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in † Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

C Amen.

(Please stand)

SERVICE OF THE WORD

KYRIE [Lord, have mercy]

Music in Hymnal, Pages 152–153

HYMN OF PRAISE — *This Is the Feast*

Music in Hymnal, Page 155

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Music in Hymnal, Page 156

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

C Amen.

(Please sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:4–7a

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

L ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷^athe burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

James 2:1–10, 14–17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

L ¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks

daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

ALLELUIA VERSE

Music in Hymnal, Page 156

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 7:24–37

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Music in Hymnal, Page 157

In Mark’s gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus’ ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophoenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

P ²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁸But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” ²⁹Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.

³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Music in Hymnal, Page 157

(Please sit)

KIDS’ MESSAGE

“Jesus Heals a Deaf Man”

Pastor James

HYMN OF THE DAY

“What God Ordains Is Always Good”

Hymn No. 760

(Please stand)

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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He 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.

(Please sit)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANTHEM

"Grace Alone"

Scott Wesley Brown and Jeff Nelson

(Kathy Otterbacher, mezzo-soprano)

Every promise we can make
Every prayer and step of faith
Every difference we can make
Is only by His grace
Every mountain we will climb
Every ray of hope we shine
Every blessing left behind
Is only by His grace

Every soul we long to reach
Every heart we hope to teach
Everywhere we share His peace
Is only by His grace
Every loving word we say
Every tear we wipe away
Every sorrow turned to praise
Is only by His grace

Grace alone

Which God supplies

Strength unknown

He will provide

Christ in us

Our cornerstone

We will go forth in grace alone

Refrain (2X)

We will go forth in grace alone

(Please stand)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

C God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

At the end of each petition, the prayer leader will say "Lord in Your mercy."

The congregation responds "Hear our prayer!"

Please see the News and Announcements sheet for a listing of intercessions.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE AND PROPER PREFACE

Music in Hymnal, Page 160

SANCTUS [Holy, holy, holy]

Music in Hymnal, Page 161

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PAX DOMINI [The peace of the Lord]

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

AGNUS DEI [Lamb of God]

Music in Hymnal, Page 163

(Please sit)

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

DISTRIBUTION

We **believe** that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine, according to His Word: "This is My body ... this is My blood" (Matthew 26:26–27), and that in this sacrament our Lord gives us forgiveness of our sins, unity with God, and strength for a life of service.

We **invite** all baptized Christians who have made their First Communion, examined themselves, discern the body and blood of Christ in the sacrament for the forgiveness of their sins, and sincerely seek to amend their lives to join us at His Table.

Distribution procedure: Pastor James will instruct the congregation on this procedure.

(Please stand)

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

- P** Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C** Amen.

BLESSING

- P** People of God, you are Christ’s body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, ✠ one God, bless you now and forever.
- C** Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *“O Christ, Our Hope, Our Hearts’ Desire”* **Hymn No. 553**

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.
- C** Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *“Lobe den Herren”* J. G. Walther

+ + +

Note: Please join us for coffee fellowship following the service.

We hope you will continue to connect with us by liking our Facebook page and following our Instagram account. Find them by searching @gslcva within those social media platforms. We also encourage you to subscribe to our YouTube channel and follow us on Vimeo so that you don’t miss any of our virtual services, kids’ messages, and more! If you have any questions, please reach out to jeff@gslcva.org.

Worship Assistants

Worship Leader & Preacher	Pastor James
Organist	Julie Stone
Reader	Georgia Thorstenson
Cantor	Kathy Otterbacher
Guest Welcome	Donna Harper
Greeters	Deanine Thrash
Projectionist	Jeff Donahue
Usher	Jim Micsan
Building Closer	*

* = worship assistant needed

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BOARD OF SERVANT LEADERS

Vicki Peter, Chair

June McGurn, Vice-Chair

Kathy Eickelberg, Secretary

Allen Hodges

Leta Kent

Ted Lillestolen

John Stoothoff

CORE MINISTRY AREAS

Worship

Team Leaders: Georgia Thorstenson and Julie Schorfheide;

Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

music, seasonal celebrations, arts, worship schedule, Sanctuary Choir, Children's Choir (Laura Owens), traditional, contemporary, physical space, support personnel (e.g., ushers, greeters, acolytes)

Discipleship

Team Leader: Pastor James (temporary)

adult education, Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, family ministry, children's ministry, youth ministry

Parish Life

Team Leader: Brian Cors; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

Life Groups (Brian Cors), member engagement, fellowship events, new member inclusion (Melinda DeWan), concerts, public events, picnics, intergenerational events

Administration

Team Leader: Pastor Johann

property (Roger Thorstenson), financing the mission (Mike DeWan), stewardship (Don Kidwell), human resources/personnel (Matt Franker), communications, contracts, church office, calendar/program management, technology

Mission

Team Leader: Vacant; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

world missions, synod, outreach, social ministry, community service, evangelism, publicity, media, social media

Congregational Care

Team Leader: Marilyn Voigt; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

member care visits, emergency transportation, maintain roster of the willing, guest follow-up

Good Shepherd is a member congregation of the Southeastern District
of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

About Good Shepherd...

Our vision

We will be a congregation known for building up God's people through His Word for His world.

Worship

During worship, God comes to us through his gifts of Word and Sacrament. What a joy to respond with prayer and songs of praise. Our worship services give us opportunity to listen to God's word and meditate upon it, thus feeding our faith; and express our concerns for our friends, families, community, and the world through prayer.

Serve

We are called to actively share the Good News of Jesus Christ through word and deed. One way we share is by serving one another and our neighbors in our community and throughout the world. Look at our Community Service Opportunities listing to find a way to serve.

Grow

We are committed to spiritual growth through the weekly gathering for prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, and through lifelong learning. In addition to growing in knowledge, we want to grow in love and service to others within and beyond our church community.

Connect

As we grow in our love for Jesus and our neighbors, as we serve our neighbors near and far, we help and encourage one another, challenge one another, and share one another's joys and sorrows. We build strong ties when we gather for worship as well as for events throughout the week. Look inside for many opportunities for connection.



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