

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

945 W. Round Bunch Rd., Bridge City, TX 77611

(409) 735-4573

Worshiping at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Beaumont



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 19, 2021

WELCOME

PRELUDE Variations on *Two Oaks* - Aaron David Miller

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God our comforter: **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.

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. **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN

“Give to our God Immortal Praise”

ELW 848



1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise! Mer - cy and
 2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and
 3 Give to the Lord of lords re - nown; the King of



truth are all his ways. Won - ders of grace to
 dark - ness and the grave. Won - ders of grace to
 kings with glo - ry crown. His mer - cies ev - er



God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
 God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
 shall en - dure when lords and kings are known no more!

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

ELW S184



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, ev - 'ry day.

*For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord.***

*That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord.***

*For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord.***

*For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord.***

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. **Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 11:18-20

¹⁸It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.

¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,
“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!”

²⁰But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,

let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

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

PSALM 54

All worshipers are invited to sing the refrain as indicated below. The choir will chant the psalm text.



God is my help-er. It is the Lord who sus-tains my life.

Save me O God by your name; in your might defend my cause. Hear my prayer O God; give ear to the words of my mouth. For the arrogant have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life, those who have no regard for God. Behold, God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life. REFRAIN

Render evil to those who spy on me; in your faithfulness destroy them. I will offer you a free-will sacrifice and praise your name O lord, for it is good. For you have rescued me from every trouble, and my eye has seen the ruin of my foes. REFRAIN

SECOND LESSON

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom.

¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.^{4:}

¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you

engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

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

Please stand if you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Worshippers are invited to join the choir in singing the refrain; the choir will chant the proper.



God has called us through the proclamation of the good news, that we may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL

Mark 9:30-37

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

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷“Whoever welcomes one such

child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand if you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“All Are Welcome”

ELW 641



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Let us profess our faith in the words of the 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 Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
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

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you. Help us overcome our divisions, that we are encouraged to work together for your sake. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for this world and empower us to support

agencies, organizations, and individual efforts to heal our environment. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of cooperation, we pray for nations of the world embroiled in conflict. Inspire leaders to listen to each other and work towards peaceful solutions to disagreements. Protect the vulnerable, especially children, who cannot find safety in their home or country. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of comfort, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness. Help them find appropriate care. Bring healing and wholeness when the path forward seems bleak. Today, we remember... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, we pray for the young people of this congregation. Renew in us your call to welcome the children in our midst. As they grow, strengthen their faith and our commitment to them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of consolation, we give you thanks for our loved ones who have died and pray for all who grieve today. Shine your grace on all your saints. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

RECEIVING THE OFFERING

ANTHEM “For the Least” - Wayne L. Wold

OFFERTORY PRAYER *Please stand if you are able.*

Let us pray. 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.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:

SANCTUS

ELW 193



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the



high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the



name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

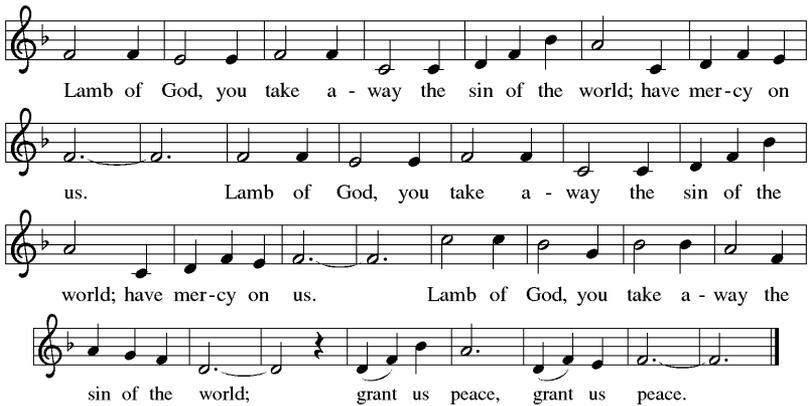
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW 195



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

“O God, Beyond all Praising” - Michael Perry / Gustav Holst

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand if you are able.

Let us pray. 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. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

ELW 781



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kån - da näs - tet.
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace; serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Voluntary”

- Maurice Greene

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Hurricane Ida Relief

Hurricane Ida slammed into the Louisiana coastline near Port Fourchon as a Category 4 hurricane on Sunday August 29, 2021. In LaPlace, Louisiana, which is about 30 miles west of New Orleans and tucked between Lake Pontchartrain and the Mississippi River, floodwaters and high winds devastated the town.



Galilean LaPlace

As we begin the process of assessment and recovery from the impact of Hurricane Ida, here are ways you can help:

PRAY: Keep all those affected by the impact of Hurricane Ida in your personal and congregational prayers. Pray for first responders, government officials, Lutheran Disaster Response and other relief organizations, and for your synod's disaster team and staff.

DONATE: Financial contributions are the best way to assist pastors and deacons, congregations, and communities to get back up on their feet. You are encourage to donate to the **Gulf Coast Synod Disaster Fund** or to **Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR)**. The synod disaster fund provides immediate care and assistance to pastors, deacons, and congregations. LDR supports long-term case management and care during recovery. Both are essential work.

IN-KIND DONATIONS: As we make initial assessments, we will be able to better understand what may be needed in terms of supplies and in-kind donations. Initial recovery efforts are best supported by a financial donation to the synod disaster fund or to LDR. An **Amazon wish list** has been created for water and power drinks for Hurricane Ida relief. Items will be delivered to First Lutheran, Lafayette who will distribute them (see address below). As we are aware of more needed items, we will add them to the list.

We are currently most in need of any type of bottled water or power type drinks (Gatorade, Powerade, no energy drinks please)

Shipping to:
First Lutheran Church
301 W Farrel Rd
Lafayette, LA 70508

VOLUNTEER: ****PLEASE DO NOT COME TO LOUISIANA JUST YET**** It is too early for volunteers to descend upon the impact area. First responders are still doing search and rescue, clearing roads, and handling initial recovery efforts. When the time comes, we will update you with ways you can volunteer. For more information on ways you can help, keep watching for updates here, on our **[Gulf Coast Synod Disaster facebook page](#)**, email **disaster@gulfcoastsynod.org** or call the synod office at 281-873-5665.



Opportunities for Service



Good Shepherd congregation is involved in the following activities each month and always welcomes additional help.

Check with the church office for more information.

**Preparing and serving lunch at First Presbyterian Church,
Orange**

Serving lunch at Some Other Place, Beaumont

**Preparing sack lunches and distributing them in Orange, First
Presbyterian Church**

Operating the Seek and Find resale shop

**Supporting the Bridge City Orangefield Ministerial Alliance
Hurricane Relief**

The Greatest

In today's gospel from Mark, the disciples have just witnessed Jesus' transfiguration atop the high mountain. Riding high on this experience, they are now traveling with him through the countryside, processing what they have seen, contrasting it with the story of crucifixion and death Jesus keeps hinting at. They begin to argue about which of them is the greatest—who will be given the highest honors for hanging out with Jesus? But Jesus stops them in their tracks. It isn't about the highest honors, or about who shines most brightly: "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all" (Mark 9:35).

Jesus' words to the disciples and to us are a reminder that God flips upside-down the way the world judges greatness. As Christians, most of us know this almost instinctively. We talk about avoiding "works righteousness" and rejecting the need to earn our salvation or prove our faith. And yet, even within the "servant of all" framework, we too often compete with one another to be the greatest servant. We hold ourselves up as examples of charity and justice, patting ourselves on the back for our works of service, hoping that the world—and God—will be impressed. Even when we know that this isn't how God works, we still get sucked into the ways of the world.

But Jesus' statement to the disciples is not just about them: it is also about himself. It is a reminder that Jesus' greatness is precisely because on the cross, he has become "last of all and servant of all." Our own efforts at service and humility will always pale in comparison to the Son of God. To be sure, we are called to love and serve our neighbors; but we are called to trust Jesus, "last of all and servant of all," for our salvation. This is good news, for now our competitions and attempts to impress are no more. We simply receive from the Lord and pass it along.