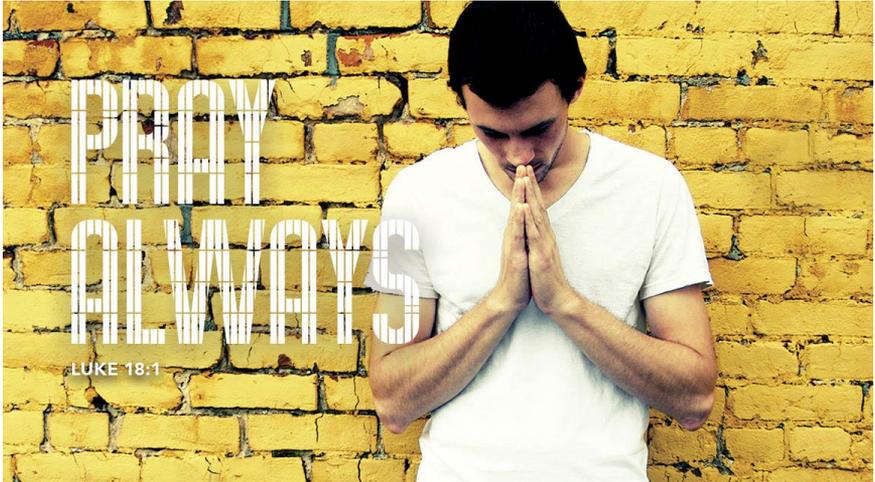


Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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

(409) 735-4573



Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 16, 2022

WELCOME

PRELUDE Variations on *Festal Song* - Jacob Weber

CONFESSION AND 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, who is eager to forgive and who loves us beyond our days. **Amen.**

Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy and forgiveness,
we confess that sin still has a hold on us.

**We have harmed your good creation.
 We have failed to do justice, love kindness,
 and walk humbly with you.
 Turn us in a new direction.
 Show us the path that leads to life.
 Be our refuge and strength on the journey,
 through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.
 Amen.**

Beloved of God: your sins are forgiven ✝ and you are made whole. God points the way to new life in Christ, who meets us on the road. Journey now in God’s abiding love through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN “Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”
ELW 886



1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er’s praise,
 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
 4 He speaks, and lis-t’ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



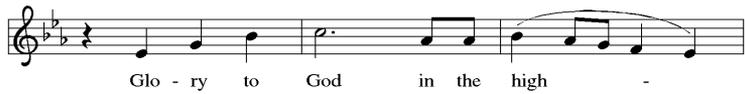
the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
 to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
 sings mu-sic in the sin-ner’s ears, brings life and health and peace.
 the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

5 Look unto him, your Savior own, O fallen human race! Look and be saved through faith alone, be justified by grace!	6 To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever giv’n by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heav’n.
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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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE “Glory to God” **ELW S99**



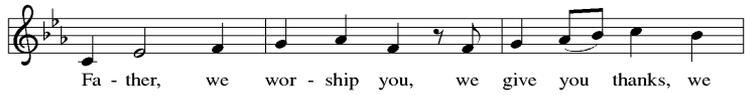
Glo - ry to God in the high -



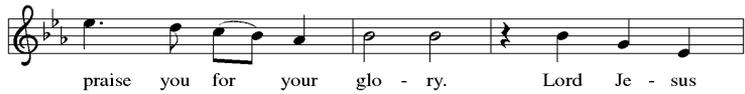
est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



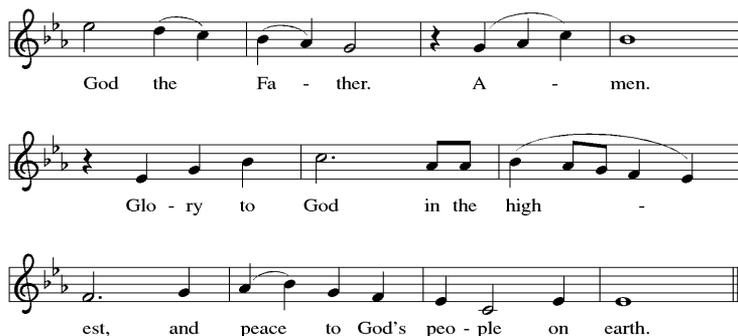
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -



lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,



Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. **Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 32:22-31

²²The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." ²⁹Then Jacob asked him,

“Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. ³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.” ³¹The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

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

PSALM HYMN

“Unto the Hills”

LBW 445

(a paraphrase of Psalm 121)

The cantor will sing the stanzas 1 – 3; all worshipers are invited to sing stanza 4.



1 Un - to the hills a - round do I lift up my long - ing eyes;
 2 He will not suf - fer that thy foot be moved; safe shalt thou be.
 3 Je - ho - vah is him - self thy keep - er true, thy change - less shade;
 4 From ev - 'ry e - vil shall he keep thy soul, from ev - 'ry sin;



oh, whence for me shall my sal - va - tion come, from whence a - rise?
 No care - less slum - ber shall his eye - lids close, who keep - eth thee.
 Je - ho - vah thy de - fense on thy right hand him - self hath made.
 Je - ho - vah shall pre - serve thy go - ing out, thy com - ing in.



From God the Lord doth come my cer - tain aid,
 Be - hold, he sleep - eth not, he slum - b' reth ne'er,
 And thee no sun by day shall ev - er smite;
 A - bove thee watch - ing, he whom we a - dore



from God the Lord, who heav'n and earth hath made.
 who keep - eth Is - rael in his ho - ly care.
 no moon shall harm thee in the si - lent night.
 shall keep thee hence - forth, yea, for - ev - er - more.

SECOND LESSON

II Timothy 3:14-4:5

¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from

childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

^{4:1}In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ²proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

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

Please stand if you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Worshippers are invited to sing the refrain as indicated below. The choir will chant the proper.



The word of God is living and active, able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

GOSPEL

Luke 18:1-8

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

¹Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ²He said, “In a certain city there was a judge

who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my opponent.’ ⁴For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’” ⁶And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them?” ⁸I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand if you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Rise Up, O Saints of God” ELW 669



- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
- 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
 as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
 re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
 stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
 and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

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

In gratitude and humility, let us join together in prayer on behalf of all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

For all the baptized, that they become skilled in compassion and grace and equipped to share the good news with all. Grant your followers persistence in proclamation and prayer. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

For air and sky, clouds and sun, that they provide rain to parched land and relief to flooded ground. Renew and restore our polluted atmosphere and empower us to be worthy stewards of creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For judges, juries, and all who work in the judicial system, that they desire wisdom, seek truth, rule with fairness, and have the

courage to do what is right. Eliminate oppression and injustice in our criminal justice system. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For all who are lonely, especially those who have newly arrived in an unfamiliar city or country, political prisoners without recourse to justice, hospital patients without visitors, and any who are ill or grief-stricken. We pray especially for... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For those in our congregation and community engaged in advocacy work, that with the persistence of the widow, they lift their voices in seeking justice on behalf of others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For those who have taught us faith and now rest in your heavenly peace, that we remember and give thanks for these saints who shared the gospel through word and deed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With grateful hearts we commend our spoken and silent prayers to you, O God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**



SHARING THE PEACE

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

RECEIVING THE OFFERING

ANTHEM “Loving Savior, Hear Our Prayer” - Gabriel Faure

OFFERTORY PRAYER *Please stand if you are able.*

Let us pray. Gracious God, in your great love you richly provide for our needs. **Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all. 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 S108



pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

Christ invites you to this table. Come, taste and see.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW S112

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

“Voluntary 1”

- George F. Handel

After all have communed, please stand if you are able.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. **Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our 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

“Day By Day”

ELW 790



1 Day by day, your mer-cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens



to my anx-ious soul. Day by day, the bless-ings, Lord, you send me
wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



draw me near - er to my heav'n-ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter



mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur-dens of my quest; Sav-ior,
of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav-ior,
what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav-ior,



lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

“Diapason Movement”

- John Alcock

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

Connections with Creation

Jacob sends his wives and children on ahead and stays alone through the night. He's on the run and alienated from his brother. He has every reason to regard his situation as one of distance from God. After a night of struggle comes a theophany: "I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved" (Gen. 32:30). In a previous nighttime episode, Jacob said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" (Gen. 28:16). Jacob's insight has much to say to us about God's presence in creation, especially in places we might think of as distant or unimportant to God. In his poem "How to Be a Poet," Wendell Berry writes, "There are not holy and unholy places. There are only holy places and desecrated places." Our contempt for creation is the defiling of the Holy of Holies. Yet even in the desolated and unloved landscapes, holiness might be rediscovered and God's promised healing realized.

Youth & Family Events – Bridge City

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY is back in full force. We gather every Wednesday beginning at 6:00 pm until 7:15 pm. We eat and break out into two groups.

This Wednesday night, we will have a game night. So join us for some mid-week fun and bring your favorite game to share!

Another event with the youth group from St. Paul Lutheran Church, Baytown will be on Saturday, November 12 at 10:00 am. We will be traveling to Cedar Hill Park near Wallisville for some outdoor fun. For more details, talk to Intern Andrew. Please join us.

Every month, we will be having several events so check your email.

Praying Like It Matters

The unjust judge in Jesus' parable admits that he eventually decides to grant the persistent widow justice because she has worn him out by continually "bothering" him (Luke 18:5). And this is the character to whom Jesus compares God? Is Jesus trying to tell us that God feels worn out and bothered by our prayers? That's not a very comforting notion.

Of course, that interpretation misses the very first line of this passage, in which Jesus specifically says the parable is meant to underscore the importance of prayer. The widow's diligence is set as a spiritual example. She is confident in her case. She knows she deserves justice, and she will not stop until she is heard. What would it look like if we prayed with the kind of conviction this woman displays? We would know that our prayers matter, that they can make a real difference in our lives. Like the widow, we too would believe that justice can and will become reality.

Actually, we do pray this way every time we say the Lord's Prayer. When we call out to God, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven," we are praying like the persistent widow in Jesus' parable. We can be certain God hears that prayer and shares that dream for humanity. It is not prayer that wearies God, but human sinfulness and injustice.

God is nothing like the unjust judge because God's vision for our world is one that centers on generosity, compassion, and care for the vulnerable. The unjust judge may need to be hassled repeatedly before he will relent, but God is already overflowing with abundant mercy, even before our prayers are spoken. So, let us take heart and pray always, with our words and with our actions, as we join God's mission for a more just world.

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