

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

Midweek Service: The Hand of the Lord Who Creates and Saves
March 12, 2025 | 12:00 p.m.

The God who is Creator of all came to save us from sin and death in the incarnate Son of Mary, Jesus, the Christ, the Son of the living God. He is God. He first revealed Himself to Moses with the holy name "I am," saying, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I am has sent me to you'" (Exodus 3:14). When Jesus came to His disciples walking on the crashing waves of the Sea of Galilee, He said, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid" (Matthew 14:27). "It is I" is the same term for the divine name, "I am." As He reached out His hand and grabbed the fearful, doubting, sinking Simon Peter, so does His compassionate hand save you in times of despair and helplessness. His greatest deliverance was when He allowed His hands to be nailed to a cross for your sins. As we are helpless like drowning Peter, our repentant prayer this day is in the words of the hymn, "Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to Thy cross I cling" (LSB 761:3).

Prelude

Please stand

Opening Sentences

P: O Lord, open my lips,
C: **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**
P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C: **make haste to help me, O Lord.**
C: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

Psalmody

Psalm 8



O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in | all the earth!*
You have set Your glory above the | heavens.
Out of the mouth of babes and infants, You have established strength because | of
Your foes,*
to still the enemy and the a- | venger.
When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your | fingers,*
the moon and the stars, which You have | set in place,
what is man that You are mind- | ful of him,*
and the son of man that You | care for him?
Yet You have made him a little lower than the heavenly | beings*
and crowned him with glory and | honor.

You have given him dominion over the works | of Your hands;*
You have put all things under | his feet,
all sheep and | oxen,*
and also the beasts | of the field,
the birds of the heavens, and the fish | of the sea,*
whatever passes along the paths | of the seas.
O | Lord our Lord,*
how majestic is Your name in | all the earth!

Hymn “The Word That Spoke in Darkness”

see insert

Please sit

First Reading

Job 9:1-12

R: ¹Then Job answered:
²“Indeed I know that this is so;
 but how can a mortal be just before God?
³If one wished to contend with him,
 one could not answer him once in a thousand.
⁴He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength
 —who has resisted him, and succeeded?—
⁵he who removes mountains, and they do not know it,
 when he overturns them in his anger;
⁶who shakes the earth out of its place,
 and its pillars tremble;
⁷who commands the sun, and it does not rise;
 who seals up the stars;
⁸who alone stretched out the heavens
 and trampled the waves of the Sea
⁹who made the Bear and Orion,
 the Pleiades and the chambers of the south;
¹⁰who does great things beyond understanding,
 and marvelous things without number.
¹¹Look, he passes by me, and I do not see him;
 he moves on, but I do not perceive him.
¹²He snatches away; who can stop him?
 Who will say to him, ‘What are you doing?’”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

R: ¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at

work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 14:22-33

P: ²²Immediately [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."
²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Lent Responsory

P: Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C: **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

P: In You, O Lord, do I put my trust; leave me not, O Lord, my God.

C: **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

P: Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C: **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

Please sit

Hymn “What Wondrous Love Is This” **Hymn No. 543**
Message “The Hand of the Lord Who Creates and Saves” Pastor James

Musical Reflection

Please stand

Antiphon

P: Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
C: **and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

Magnificat

P: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;
C: **for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.**
P: For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.
C: **For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;**
P: and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.
C: **He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.**
P: He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.
C: **He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.**
P: He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.
All: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Offering Moment

Offerings will be placed in the plate by the entry doors.

Kyrie

C: Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

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.**

Collects

P: O Lord, hear my prayer,

C: and let my cry come to You.

P: Let us pray.

O God, our Creator and Redeemer, "Not the labors of my hands can fulfill Thy Law's demands." Therefore "nothing in my hand I bring; simply to Thy cross I cling." Increase our faith and trust in You that we may walk confidently amid the troubles and reverses of life, knowing that Your gracious hands are evermore leading us, guiding us, and saving us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the Promised Land. Guide the people of Your church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

C: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You are graciously keeping me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this coming night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

P: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Benedicamus

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn "Glory Be to Jesus"

Hymn No. 433

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

As your schedule permits, please be seated during the postlude for a time of prayer and reflection.

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Serving Today	
Worship Leader	Pastor James
Preacher	Pastor James
Scripture Reader	Henry Eickelberg
Ushers	Martin Farley (lead) John Purtillo
Organist	Anne Lee
Projectionist	Jeff Donahue
Audio Engineer	Matt Hardy
Greeter	Dick Orth (door) Georgia Thorstenson (welcome center)
Engagement	Heidi Cooper

We hope you will continue to connect with us by liking our Facebook page and following us on Instagram. Find them by searching @gslcva on those 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. Questions? Contact Communications Director Jeff Donahue, jeff@gslcva.org

Board of Servant Leaders

Laura Blackburn, chair
Rob Fekete, vice-chair
Drew Lipman, secretary

Larry Austin
Paul Kasulis
Jennifer Pelletier
Deanine Thrash

Core Ministry Areas

Worship

Team Leaders: Georgia Thorstenson and Julie Schorfheide; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

The Worship Team encompasses music, seasonal celebrations, arts, worship schedule, Sanctuary Choir (Anne Lee), Handbell Choir (Anne Lee), traditional worship, and contemporary worship (Matt Hardy), the worship spaces, and support personnel (e.g., ushers, greeters, acolytes).

Discipleship

Team Leader: Pastor James

The Discipleship Team oversees adult education, Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, children's ministry (Michelle Tenhaeff), and youth ministry (Holly Vanderhoof).

Parish Life

Team Leader: Brian Cors; Staff Liaison: Heidi Cooper

The Parish Life Team helps foster our community through Life Groups, member engagement, fellowship events, new member inclusion, concerts, public events, picnics, and intergenerational events, and reaches out to guests who worship at Good Shepherd.

Mission

Team Leader: Pastor Johann

Through this core ministry area, Good Shepherd supports a variety of mission efforts: financial and prayerful partnering with missionaries, worldwide and local (Bill and Lisa Schuler); synod/district, social ministry, and community service (Holly Vanderhoof); evangelism, publicity, media, and social media (Jeff Donahue).

Congregational Care and Nurture

Team Leader: June McGurn; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

The Congregational Care and Nurture Team helps support the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health of the congregation through literature, programs, and opportunities to serve others at Good Shepherd. This ministry's volunteers help in many ways: at memorial services and receptions; through member care visits and transportation; by sending cards for life events; and by arranging meals ("Take Them a Meal" team) for the sick and infirm, for their families, and for families with newborns.

Administration

Team Leader: Pastor Johann

This team is in charge of property and contracts (Roger Thorstenson), financing the mission (Mike DeWan), stewardship (Don Kidwell), human resources/personnel (Matt Frankner), communications (Jeff Donahue), and technology (Gary Budzier).

Good Shepherd's Staff

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Please note that the church office is closed on Mondays.

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