

Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Building up God's people through His word for His world

Christ the King
November 23, 2025

Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death, Jesus opens the door to paradise.

We especially welcome our guests who are worshipping here today. What a privilege to greet you! If you have no church home in the area, we invite you to participate in the life and ministry of Good Shepherd. For information about our congregation, visit gslcva.org. Also, please fill out a Welcome card, which you'll find near the hymnals, and place it in the basket on the Welcome/resource table or hand it to an usher.

Our worship reflects the liturgical tradition of the Christian church. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first, third, and fifth Sundays at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Our informal worship service features contemporary music and is held in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, with communion celebrated on fourth Sundays.

To all worshippers: The presence of children in worship is a gift to the Body of Christ and a reminder that our congregation is growing. Remember that Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." Please welcome our young ones and give their parents a smile of encouragement or a helping hand, if needed.

To the parents of young ones, here are a few suggestions for worshipping with your children: Relax! God put the wiggles and giggles in kids; don't feel that you have to suppress them in His house. All are welcome! Sit toward the front, where it is easier to see and hear what's going on. Quietly explain the parts of the worship service and actions of the pastor, ushers, communion assistants, etc. Sing the hymns and songs, pray, and voice the responses aloud. Children learn worshipful behavior by copying you. If you have to leave the worship service with your child or stand up and walk around the back of the sanctuary, feel free to do so, but please come back! And finally, if you so choose, . . .

You are welcome to use our nursery, as well as our parents' room next to the nursery, if your young ones need a break from the service. The Parents' Room is also a comfortable place where mothers may nurse their babies. The worship service is livestreamed to a monitor in the Parents' Room.

We offer Sunday School and a variety of Bible studies and spiritual growth opportunities for children, youth, and adults on Sunday mornings. All Sunday School classes meet at 9:30 a.m. See News and Announcements for class information.

Flowers and plants in our worship areas are supported by financial donations to the Flower Fund. These floral offerings beautify the church, uplift service participants, and remind us 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/giving (look for the sponsorship form at the bottom of that page).

SUNDAY/**PRAISE**

GATHERING SONG "Praise"

I'll praise in the valley
Praise on the mountain
I'll praise when I'm sure
Praise when I'm doubting
I'll praise when outnumbered
Praise when surrounded
'Cause praise is the water
My enemies drown in

Pre-Chorus:
As long as I'm breathing
I've got a reason to

Chorus 1:
Praise the Lord oh my soul
Praise the Lord oh my soul

I'll praise when I feel it
And I'll praise when I don't
I'll praise 'cause I know
You're still in control
'Cause my praise is a weapon
It's more than a sound
My praise is the shout
That brings Jericho down

Pre-Chorus:
As long as I'm breathing
I've got a reason to

Chorus 2:
Praise the Lord oh my soul
Praise the Lord oh my soul

I won't be quiet
My God is alive
How could I keep it inside
Praise the Lord oh my soul

I'll praise 'cause You're sovereign
Praise 'cause You reign
Praise 'cause You rose and defeated the
grave
I'll praise 'cause You're faithful
Praise 'cause You're true
Praise 'cause there's nobody greater
than You

(Repeat)

Chorus 3:
Praise the Lord oh my soul
Praise the Lord oh my soul
Praise the Lord oh my soul
Praise the Lord oh my soul

I won't be quiet
My God is alive
How could I keep it inside
I won't be quiet
My God is alive
How could I keep it inside
I won't be quiet
My God is alive
How could I keep it inside
Praise the Lord oh my soul

"Praise." Brandon Lake, Chandler Moore, Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Pat Barrett, Steven Furtick. © Brandon Lake Music; For Humans Publishing; Maverick City Publishing; Capitol CMG Genesis; Capitol CMG Paragon; Housefires Sounds; Writer's Roof Publishing; Music by Elevation Worship Publishing. CCLI #858354.

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

SONG OF PRAISE "You Never Let Go"

Even though I walk through the valley
Of the shadow of death
Your perfect love is casting out fear
And even when I'm caught in the middle
Of the storms of this life
I won't turn back I know You are near

Pre-Chorus:

*And I will fear no evil
For my God is with me
And if my God is with me
Whom then shall I fear
Whom then shall I fear*

Chorus:

*Oh no You never let go
Through the calm and through the storm
Oh no You never let go
In ev'ry high and ev'ry low
Oh no You never let go*

*Lord You never let go of me
And I can see a light that is coming
For the heart that holds on
A glorious light beyond all compare
And there will be an end to these troubles
But until that day comes
We'll live to know You here on the earth*

Pre-Chorus

Chorus

*Yes I can see a light
That is coming for the heart that holds on
And there will be an end to these troubles
But until that day comes
Still I will praise You
Still I will praise You*

Chorus

Lord You never let go of me

"You Never Let Go." Beth Redman, Matt Redman. © 2005 Thankyou Music. CCLI #858354.

RESPONSIVE READING FROM GOD'S WORD

Psalm 46

P: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

C: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;

P: though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

C: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

P: God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

C: The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.

P: The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

C: Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;

P: behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

C: Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."

P: The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

READING FROM GOD'S WORD

Luke 23:33-43

³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ [Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." ⁴³ He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

KIDS' MESSAGE

"The King's Hat"

Pastor James

RESPONSE SONG:

"Lift You High"

Come let us sing to the Lord
Come let us bow down before him
His banner is love over us
His mercies are new every morning

Chorus:
So we lift you high
Forever lift you high
High within our hearts
High within our minds

Jesus you alone
Our rock our cornerstone
High within our hearts
High within our minds

Come let us sing to the Lord
Come let us bow down before him
His banner is love over us
His mercies are new every morning

Chorus (2x)

"Lift You High." Dante Bowe, Jonathan Jay, Kirby Kaple, Matt Armstrong. © Bethel Worship Publishing, Heritage Worship Music Publishing (Admin. by Bethel Music Publishing); Capitol CMG Genesis, Lovelizabeth Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); Let There Be Songs, Maverick City Publishing (Admin. by Heritage Worship Publishing); Curb Wordspring Music, Eyes Up Songs (Admin. by W.C.M. Music Corp.). CCLI #858354.

MESSAGE

"The King on a Cross"

Pastor James

MUSICAL REFLECTION

OFFERINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

Pastor Johann

Please take this opportunity to fill out the Welcome Card and hand it to one of the ushers or place it in the basket on the Welcome/resource table as you leave.

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

After the pastor says "Lord, hear our prayer," we respond by singing:

Band: You hear us calling, You hear us calling, Abba Father
You hear us calling, You hear us calling, Abba Father

People: ***Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy***
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

[We confess together] **God of grace and mercy, we confess that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions; time and time again we have failed to love You with all that we have; we have failed to love our neighbors and those in need. Forgive the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. For our sins we deserve separation from you. But Lord, You are overflowing with mercy. Bring back to life within us the joy of Your saving grace; heal our brokenness, give light to our path, and rest to our souls. Give us the desire and the power to grow in Your image, through Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Amen.**

COMMUNION

Some notes about Holy Communion

We believe that Jesus 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 received their First Communion, examined themselves, acknowledge the true body and blood of Jesus Christ in the sacrament for the forgiveness of their sins, and sincerely seek to amend their lives to join us in this holy meal.

The cups in the innermost circle of the communion tray contain juice for those who do not wish to drink wine.

COMMUNION SONG "Holy Spirit"

There's nothing worth more that will ever
come close
No thing can compare You're our living
hope
Your Presence, Lord

I've tasted and seen of the sweetest of loves
Where my heart becomes free and my
shame is undone
In Your Presence, Lord

Chorus:
Holy Spirit You are welcome here
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere
Your glory God is what our hearts long for
To be overcome by Your Presence Lord
Your Presence, Lord

There's nothing worth more that will ever
come close
No thing can compare You're our living
hope
Your Presence, Lord

I've tasted and seen of the sweetest of loves
Where my heart becomes free and my
shame is undone
In Your Presence, Lord

Chorus
Let us become more aware of Your
Presence
Let us experience the glory of Your
goodness (sing 4x)

Chorus

"Holy Spirit." Bryan Torwalt, Katie Torwalt. © 2011 Capitol CMG Genesis; Jesus Culture Music. CCLI #858354.

BLESSING & SENDING

SENDING SONG

"Forever Reign"

You are good You are good
When there's nothing good in me
You are love You are love
On display for all to see
You are light You are light
When the darkness closes in
You are hope You are hope
You have covered all my sin

You are peace You are peace
When my fear is crippling
You are true You are true
Even in my wandering
You are joy You are joy
You're the reason that I sing
You are life You are life
In You death has lost its sting

Chorus 1:
(Oh) I'm running to Your arms
I'm running to Your arms
The riches of Your love will always be
enough
Nothing compares to Your embrace
Light of the world forever reign

You are more You are more
Than my words will ever say
You are Lord You are Lord
All creation will proclaim
You are here You are here
In Your presence I'm made whole
You are God You are God
Of all else I'm letting go

Chorus 1

Chorus 2:
I'm running to Your arms
I'm running to Your arms
The riches of Your love will always be
enough
Nothing compares to Your embrace
Light of the world forever reign

My heart will sing no other Name
Jesus Jesus
(Repeat 4x)

Chorus 1

Chorus 2

Light of the world forever reign

"Forever Reign." Jason Ingram, Reuben Morgan. © 2009 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia; Spirit Nashville Three; So Essential Tunes; Spirit Nashville Three. CCLI #858354.

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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' message, and more. Questions? Contact Communications Director Jeff Donahue, jeff@gslcva.org

Serving Today	
Worship Leader	Pastor Johann
Preacher	Pastor James
Ushers	Jim Micsan (lead) David Johns
Greeter	Jeannie Johns (door)
Guest Welcome	*
Engagement	Heidi Cooper
Praise Team	Tara Planeta (violin) MaryAnn Perkel (cello) Peter Revell (bass) Jackie Huffman (vocals) Matt Hardy (leader; drums)
Altar Care	Sharon Gurtz
Projectionist	Jen Pelletier
Audio Engineer	Scott Shepherd
Livestream Manager	Adam Sherman
Closer	Martin Farley
Kitchen Cleanup	Jan Morgan

* = unfilled as of November 20

Be a part of the SUNDAY/PRAISE community by serving in our worship gatherings as greeters, ushers, singers, instrumentalists, AV support, and others. Interested? Contact us by emailing gslc@gslcva.org or calling 703-437-5020.

Board of Servant Leaders

Rob Fekete, chair
Tony Esse, vice-chair
John Purtilo, secretary

Larry Austin
Drew Lipman
Jennifer Pelletier
Bernie Schoch

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 (Randy and Melanie Stockman); 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

Jotham Johann, Senior Pastor

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Georgia Thorstenson, Business Manager

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Anne Lee, Organist & Director of Choirs

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Michele Clair, Administrative Assistant

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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

ADDITIONAL READINGS FOR THIS WEEK FROM GOD'S WORD

From the Old Testament

Jeremiah 23:1-6

This reading builds on the common, ancient Near Eastern metaphor of the king as shepherd. Judah's unjust rulers have caused their people, their "flock," to be scattered. Nevertheless, God will raise up a new and righteous shepherd who will rule a restored Judah.

¹ Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. ² Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. ³ Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴ I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

⁵ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

From the New Testament

Colossians 1:11-20

An early Christian hymn praises the mystery of the political, personal, and mystical Christ, the one who was present at creation and is eternally reigning with God.

¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.