

Big Church Words: Forgiveness



September 13, 2026 | 10:00am



Welcome! We're glad you're here!



*If you are a guest and are interested in knowing more about this community and the ministries that Holy Shepherd is engaged in, please add your information on the clipboard located at the **Information Center** kiosk. You may add as much information as you'd like to share. We look forward to getting to know you!*

Trusting God + Loving the World

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Pause for silence and reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

God's work, our hands: working together,
building a future, repairing the world,
raising up homes, planting new gardens,
feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
sharing the good news of your gospel.

God's work, our voice: singing together,
praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,
praying for peace, shouting for justice,
claiming God's love for the lost and the least.
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
sharing the good news of your gospel.

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.**

Prayer of Day

O Lord God, merciful judge, **you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness.**
Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight
in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching & song

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

Scripture Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong

they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

Scripture Reading

Romans 14:1-12

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

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

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

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

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?'

³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

Song

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

+ Children's Time +



Children's Church

Children age 3yrs – 4th grade.
After children's message, meet
the leader in back of church.



Message

Silence for reflection follows the sermon

Song

I Come with Joy

ELW 482 1,3,4,5

**I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.**

**As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.**

**The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known, alive among us here,
alive among us here.**

**Together met, together bound, by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world, the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.**

Prayers of the People

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers,
confident that God hears us.

Sung before and after all prayers



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever
else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Sharing God's Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

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 God thanks and praise.**

Eucharistic Prayer

Response:

Blessed are you, Lord our God: **Blessed are you, Lord our God.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, our Father in heaven, the Rock on which we build, the
Dove alighting on us all. We worship you and sing our praises, today and to the end
of the age. Amen. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!



+ *All Are Welcome at the Table* +

Options for receiving Holy Communion

Please come forward to the front where the pastors are standing. Come forward starting with the front pews, there will be no ushers. After you have received communion please exit by the side aisles and put your empty cup in the basket. There are kneelers on each side where you are free to kneel and pray before you return to your seat. Bread (gluten-free) and wine or grape juice (center of the tray) will be given to you with the words spoken:

"The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you."

If you would like communion served in the pew, please signal to a pastor or let the usher in the back know.

You are invited... To bring **offering** forward during Holy Communion or before or after worship
The offering is gathered in front of the church in front of the communion table (altar) where we are reminded of
God's gifts given to us in Christ and our response to these gifts.

Communion Song

One Bread, One Body

ELW 496

**One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.**

Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more. *Refrain*

Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all. *Refrain*

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all. *Refrain*

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

ELW 708

***Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.***

**Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them. *Refrain***

**Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race,
neighbors are nearby and far away. *Refrain***

**These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. *Refrain***

**Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet:
this is the way we will live with you. *Refrain***

Prayer after Communion

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**



Quilt Blessing



Blessing

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song

I'm Gonna Live So

Spiritual

**I'm gonna live so, God can use me
anywhere, Lord anytime!**

**I'm gonna live so, God can use me,
anywhere, Lord anytime!**

**I'm gonna work so....
I'm gonna sing so...**

Sending

Go in peace, God's reign is near.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Worship Leadership

Pastors	Julie Brooks, Kim Gonia
Pianist/Organist	Chris Johnson
Assisting Minister	Amy Evancheck
Reader	Bonnie Yockstick
Communion Assistants	Shirley & Larry Bradsby
Greeters	Open
Usher	Open
Altar Guild	Judy Ekberg
Children's Church	Children's Church Team
Worship Technology	Judy Ekberg, Mark Lee
Fellowship (September 13 th).....	GWOH Sandwich Lunch
Fellowship (August 20 th).....	Open



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WORSHIP SERVICE NOTES

THANK YOU for being considerate of disabled worshippers and their families. Please leave the pew cuts and several adjoining seats available for those with walkers & wheelchairs.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES are located at the sound booth located in the back of the sanctuary on the east side. You can also download the app WaveCast Receiver which is designed for hearing aids with Bluetooth capability. See our sound engineer Mark, in the sound booth if you have any questions. (*Back of the sanctuary, SE corner*).

CANDLE STATION is available for candle-lighting. (*In the back of the sanctuary*).

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING (FELLOWSHIP)

After worship, you are invited to get to know one another for the first – or 100th time, in the narthex (behind the sanctuary) or in the fellowship hall with coffee and snacks.

OFFERING



Your financial gifts support Holy Shepherd and its vision to nurture trusting relationships with God and with one another, along with its vision to engage in generous activities that serve to love the world as Jesus has shown us. Cash, or checks made out to Holy Shepherd, can be placed in the front bowl by the front pews on your way to communion. (Envelopes are available in your pews if you'd like.) You can also scan the QR code to the left and give through Tithely. *Thank you for your generosity.*

KIDS

Kids Zone (un-staffed) is available your family to use if you need a place to step out with kids during the service. It is located off the hallway west of the sanctuary and has a television available for watching the worship live-stream.

Kid busy bags are located in the narthex (outside the sanctuary) and contain kid friendly items for families to take into worship. Please return to the stand after worship.

Children's Church is offered after the kids, typically 3 years old to 4th grade, come up for *Children's Time* with the pastor. This optional activity is during the pastor's message and is led by an adult. It is located in the room just through the nursery off the west hallway of the sanctuary.

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