

# Big Church Words: Mercy



September 20, 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.**

# Opening Song

## Lord of Light

ELW 688 vs. 1,2,4

Lord of light, your name outshining  
all the stars and suns of space,  
use our talents in your kingdom  
as the servants of your grace;  
use us to fulfill your purpose  
in the gift of Christ your Son:

### *Refrain*

**Father, as in highest heaven,  
so on earth your will be done.**

By the toil of faithful workers  
in some far outlying field,  
by the courage where the radiance  
of the cross is still revealed,  
by the victories of meekness,  
through reproach and suff'ring won: *Refrain*

By the prayers of faithful watchers,  
never silent day or night;  
by the cross of Jesus, bringing  
peace to all and healing light;  
by the love that passes knowledge,  
making all your children one: *Refrain*

## 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

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

## Scripture Reading

Jonah 3:10-4:11

<sup>10</sup> When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

<sup>4:1</sup> But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup> He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. <sup>3</sup> And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup> And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" <sup>5</sup> Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup> But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup> When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

<sup>9</sup> But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup> Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup> And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

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

<sup>21</sup> For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. <sup>23</sup> I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, <sup>24</sup> but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup> Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup> so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

<sup>27</sup> Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel <sup>28</sup> and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup> For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, <sup>30</sup> since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup> "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup> and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. <sup>5</sup> When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup> And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' <sup>7</sup> They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' <sup>8</sup> When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' <sup>9</sup> When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup> And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup> saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' <sup>13</sup> But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? <sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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 – 4<sup>th</sup> grade.  
After children's message, meet  
the leader in back of church.*



# Message

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon*

## Song

***There's a Wideness in God's Mercy***

ELW 588 vs. 1,2,4

**There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows, are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is no place where earth's failings, have such kindly judgment giv'n.**

**There is welcome for the sinner, and a promised grace made good;  
there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.  
There is grace enough for thousands, of new worlds as great as this;  
there is room for fresh creations, in that upper home of bliss.**

**'Tis not all we owe to Jesus; it is something more than all:  
greater good because of evil, larger mercy through the fall.  
Make our love, O God, more faithful; let us take you at your word,  
and our lives will be thanksgiving, for the goodness of the Lord.**

## 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

### 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

Setting 10



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

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### ***Just As I Am, without One Plea***

ELW 592

**Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, though tossed about, with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come,**

**Just as I am; thy love unknown, has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

## 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.**

*God blesses us and sends us out in mission to the world.*

## 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

***Rise Up, O Saints of God!***

ELW 669 + Refrain

**Rise up, O saints of God! From vain ambitions turn;  
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts, with nobler zeal might burn.**

*Refrain*

***Rise up! (clap, clap) The Lord is calling  
Rise up! (clap, clap) This is the day  
Rise up! (clap, clap) And seize the moment  
Rise up! (clap, clap) O friend of faith.***

**Speak out, O saints of God! Despair engulfs earth's frame;  
as heirs of God's baptismal grace, the word of hope proclaim. *Refrain***

**Commit your hearts to seek, the paths which Christ has trod;  
and, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God! *Refrain***

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 .....                      | Jon Johnson                 |
| Reader .....                                  | Brian Bennett               |
| Communion Assistants .....                    | Christi Young, Susan Linner |
| Greeters .....                                | Open                        |
| Usher .....                                   | Bosak-Simmons Family        |
| Altar Guild .....                             | Donna Madsen                |
| Children's Church .....                       | Children's Church Team      |
| Worship Technology .....                      | Mike Madsen, Mark Lee       |
| Fellowship (September 20 <sup>th</sup> )..... | Open                        |
| Fellowship (September 27 <sup>th</sup> )..... | Open                        |

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## WORSHIP SERVICE NOTES

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**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*).

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## RELATIONSHIP BUILDING (FELLOWSHIP)

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

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## OFFERING

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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.*

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## KIDS

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**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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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