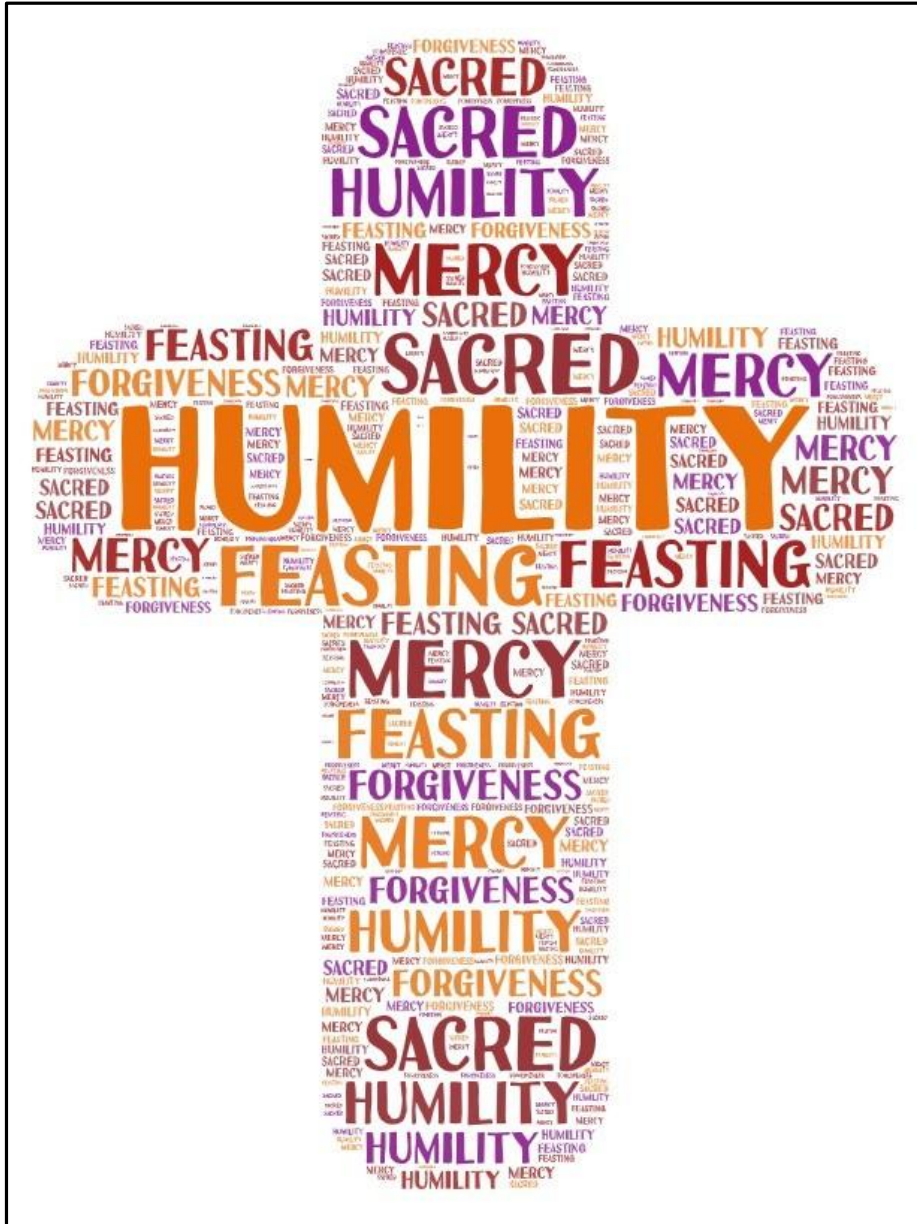


# Big Church Words: Humility



September 27, 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

*The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing*

ELW 531

The trumpets sound, the angels sing,  
The feast is ready to begin.  
The gates of heav'n are open wide,  
And Jesus welcomes you inside.

*Refrain*

*Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight.  
Come and revel in heaven's love and light.  
Take your place at the table of the King.  
The feast is ready to begin, the feast is ready to begin.*

Tables are laden with good things,  
Oh, taste the peace and joy he brings.  
He'll fill you up with love divine,  
He'll turn your water into wine. *Refrain*

The hungry heart he satisfies,  
Offers the poor his paradise.  
Now hear all heav'n and earth applaud,  
The amazing goodness of the Lord. *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.**

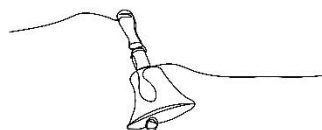
## Prayer of Day

God of love, giver of life, **you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## Musical Offering

*The Timeless Canon*

arr. Eithun



## God speaks to us in scripture, preaching & song

*Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.*

### Scripture Reading

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

<sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup> What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? <sup>3</sup> As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup> Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

<sup>25</sup> Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup> When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. <sup>27</sup> Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup> Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup> Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup> Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup> Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup> For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

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

### Scripture Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

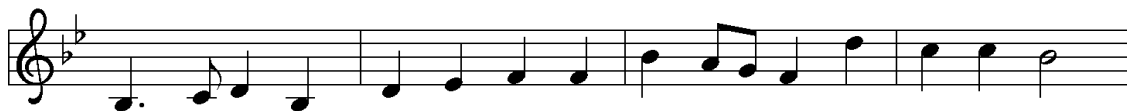
<sup>1</sup> If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup> who, though he existed in the form of God,  
 did not regard equality with God  
 as something to be grasped,  
<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,  
 taking the form of a slave,  
 assuming human likeness.  
 And being found in appearance as a human,  
<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself  
 and became obedient to the point of death—  
 even death on a cross.  
<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him even more highly  
 and gave him the name  
 that is above every other name,  
<sup>10</sup> so that at the name given to Jesus  
 every knee should bend,  
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess  
 that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
 to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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 21:23-32

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

<sup>23</sup> When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup> Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup> Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?'" <sup>26</sup> But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup> "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup> He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup> The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. <sup>31</sup> Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup> For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."

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*

Lord, whose love in humble service, bore the weight of human need,  
who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed.  
We, your servants, bring the worship, not of voice alone, but heart;  
consecrating to your purpose, ev'ry gift which you impart.

Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;  
still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As you, Lord, in deep compassion, healed the sick and freed the soul,  
by your Spirit send your power, to our world to make it whole.

As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light  
in its height and depth and greatness, dawns upon our quickened sight,  
making known the needs and burdens, your compassion bids us bear,  
stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.

## 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.**

## 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

ELW 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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### Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

ELW 605

**"Forgive our sins as we forgive," you taught us, Lord, to pray;  
but you alone can grant us grace, to live the words we say.**

**How can your pardon reach and bless, the unforgiving heart  
that broods on wrongs and will not let, old bitterness depart?**

**In blazing light your cross reveals, the truth we dimly knew:  
how trifling others' debts to us; how great our debt to you!**

**Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls, and bid resentment cease;  
then, by your mercy reconciled, our lives will spread your peace.**

## 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

*He Leadeth Me*

LBW 501

**He leadeth me: oh, blessed thought!  
Oh, words with heav'nly comfort fraught!  
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,  
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.**

*Refrain*

***He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me.  
His faithful foll'wer I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.***

**Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,  
sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,  
by waters calm, o'er troubled sea,  
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me. *Refrain***

Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,  
nor ever murmur nor repine;  
content, whatever lot I see,  
since 'tis my God that leadeth me. *Refrain*

And when my task on earth is done,  
when by thy grace the vict'ry's won,  
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee,  
since God through Jordan leadeth me. *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 ..... Scott Ikenberry  
Reader ..... Patti Leppert  
Musical Offering.....Handbell Choir  
Communion Assistants ..... Gail Walkowich, Kelli Marko  
Greeters ..... Tom & Kristin Knapp  
Usher ..... Bob Mohrbacher  
Altar Guild ..... Susie DiPaolo  
Children's Church ..... Children's Church Team  
Worship Technology ..... Mike Madsen, Mark Lee  
Fellowship (September 27<sup>th</sup>)..... Christi, Wanda, Bradsby's  
Fellowship (October 4<sup>th</sup>)..... Set up: Open  
Clean up: Ed Haynes, a few more helpers needed

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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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