



## Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

*"Encouraging faith and proclaiming God's love by Gathering, Growing and Giving."*

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

*Service of the Word*

September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

**This worship is being livestreamed. Your presence in the sanctuary signifies your agreeing to be on our live broadcast.**

*NOTE: **Bold text** indicates worshippers' response, and \* means please stand as able.*

PRELUDE

Michelle Young

WELCOME & MINISTRY MESSAGES

Pastor Ron Gerl

Lector: *Kris Jenson* Acolyte: xxxxxx Video: *Dave Young* Ushers: *Dave Blicher & Tim Jenson*

### **GATHERING**

\* GREETING The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **All: And also with you.**

\* GATHERING HYMN *O Jesus, I Have Promised* #503-all verses

#### **O Jesus, I Have Promised**

O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
remain forever near me, my master and my friend.  
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ever near.  
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.  
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;  
but, Jesus, then draw near to shield my soul from sin.

Oh, let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still  
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.  
Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;  
now speak and make me listen, O Guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you  
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.  
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
oh, give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt

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\* CONFESSION Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ☩ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. Amen. Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Steadfast and faithful God,

**you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

\* FORGIVENESS Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ☩ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

**Amen.**

\* PRAYER OF THE DAY O God, **we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

GOOD NEWS FOR KIDS

*"Character Building"*

\* HYMN OF PRAISE *Praise God from whom All Blessings Flow* #564

**Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

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**GROWING**

Please join in reading Psalm 26 responsively

**Psalm 26:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

<sup>2</sup>**Test me, O LORD, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.**

<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

<sup>4</sup>**I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful. R**

<sup>5</sup>I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

<sup>6</sup>**I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, that I may go in procession round your altar,**

<sup>7</sup>singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

<sup>8</sup>**LORD, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.**

Our reading today is from the 12<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Romans

**Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21** *Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.*

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. <sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup>No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

*Here ends the reading. Thanks be to God*

*Please stand as you are able.*

The Holy Gospel according to Mathew the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter **Glory to you, O Lord**

**Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28** *After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."*

<sup>21</sup>From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

<sup>27</sup>"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

MESSAGE **"Talk the Talk and Walk the Walk"**

*Pastor Ron Gerl*

\* HYMN OF THE DAY *Just as I Am* #296- first 4 verses

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

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, and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot,  
to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, come, 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, poor, wretched, blind; sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
yea, all I need in thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871

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\*THE APOSTLES' CREED (*professed together*)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.\* On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\*\* Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

\*Or, He descended to the dead. \*\* universal

\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

*A brief silence.*

God of life, your words are the joy at the heart of your church. Draw the seeker to you, place messages of hope and healing in the mouths of your witnesses, and open your children to your truth when we stumble. **Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

God of steadfast love, renew the earth by your Spirit, that lands and oceans reveal the beauty of your creation. Challenge us to live humbly and peaceably as part of your world. **Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

God of patience, recovery is often long and ask your kindness upon those receiving help due to disaster in Maui, southern California, and Malawi. May aid workers show honor and respect to the people in their care, and may those with resources willingly provide help. **Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

God of deliverance, remember all who are suffering, lonely, and in pain. Liberate your people from anger toward others and find way to build bridges of hope. Give endurance to workers who persevere on this Labor Day and insure fair wages and safe working environments. **Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

God of justice, equip this congregation to boldly follow you in uncertain times and to remain faithful in prayer when facing challenges. Show us how best to love and care for one another and our communities. Hear us as we pray silently for those we care about in need. Let us pray for Connie and for Evie and others in our hearts. **Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

*The OFFERING PLATE is located at the entrance of the church sanctuary. Your generous giving supports God's ministry at Shepherd of the Hill.*

\* OFFERING PRAYER God of power, **God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

\* 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 our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and salutary.....

\* WORDS OF INSTITUTION

\* 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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

\* INVITATION All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat and drink what is good.

HOLY COMMUNION – *All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Jesus Christ in the bread and wine are welcome to commune with us. Gluten-free wafers available and give "thumbs up" for grape juice. Children who do not yet receive Holy Communion may come forward for a blessing. If you or a family member would like communion brought to them, please tell an usher.*

\* POST COMMUNION PRAYER: We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

\* ANNOUNCEMENTS

\* BLESSING The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed ✚ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. **Amen.**



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**RALLY DAY and BLESSING OF BACKPACKS-** Sunday September 10<sup>th</sup> 8:45 am & 10 am.

*Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup> SOTH is serving at the Community Table in Eau Claire- details to come. Confirmands encouraged to sign up to help.*

**Norge Harvest Dinner-** Saturday September 16<sup>th</sup>, 3-7:30 pm @ Big Elk Creek Lutheran Church

**L.E. Phillips Senior Center Resource Fair** -- The L.E. Phillips Senior Center is hosting a Resource Fair on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM. Over 40 vendors will participate along with a craft sale, a bake sale, T-shirt sales, Center tours, massages, door prizes, and a cafe with fresh treats for sale. Free admission and all ages are welcome. The Center is located at 1616 Bellinger St; Eau Claire.

## **SOTH Autumn Fest- October 1<sup>st</sup>, from 11 am-2 pm.**

*Volunteer and basket sign-ups in gathering area.*

SIGN UP TO HOST A SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP (do with your family or friends) Entails: Making/serving coffee, cut/serve summer sausage and cheese, and crackers (found in the church refrigerator/cabinets), and bring one treat (fruit or sweets or popcorn...you choose). Then just clean up after the event. *This is only sustainable if people volunteer ☺*

MAILING ADDRESSES for those folks who you may want to send words of care/concern.

*Please let the secretary know if you would like to be added and/or know someone who might like to be.*

- Faylene Howe 314 W Menomonie St., Elk Mound, WI 54739 (*recovering from hip surgery*)
- Evie Silvernale 3435 Fairfax St. #13, Eau Claire, WI 54701-5817 (*recovering from shoulder surgery*)

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# Join Us



## Danny Gokey Virtual Concert & Interview

Join Thrivent for a special virtual concert with Grammy nominated singer-songwriter, Danny Gokey. In honor of Life Insurance Awareness Month, Danny will share his powerful testimony during an exclusive interview followed by an awe-inspiring session of worship and praise.



## Event Details

Wednesday, September 6th  
7:30 PM  
Big Elk Creek Lutheran Church  
6118 County Rd M  
Elk Mound, WI 54739



## RSVP

Call Kari @ 715-235-2660 or Email [RedCedarTeam@thrivent.com](mailto:RedCedarTeam@thrivent.com)

### Hosted by

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