



## Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

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

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

Service of the Word

September 17<sup>th</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: Hailey Webb

Video: *Dave Young*

Ushers: *Renee & Randy Simpson, & 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. **C: And also with you.**

\* GATHERING HYMN *Abide with Me* LBW #272- first 4 verses

#### **Abide with Me**

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour;  
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?  
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me!

\* 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 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.**

KIDS CHURCH

\* 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

Public Domain

**GROWING**

Please join in reading Psalm 103 responsively

**Psalm: Psalm 103:1-7, 8-13**

<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

<sup>2</sup>**Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all God's benefits—**

<sup>3</sup>who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases;  
<sup>4</sup>**who redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**  
<sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.  
<sup>6</sup>**O LORD, you provide vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.**  
<sup>7</sup>You made known your ways to Moses  
and your works to the children of Israel.  
<sup>8</sup>**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**  
<sup>9</sup>you will not always accuse us,  
nor will you keep your anger forever.  
<sup>10</sup>**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**  
<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.  
<sup>12</sup>**As far as the east is from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**  
<sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.  
**he place where your glory abides.**

Our reading today is from the 14<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Romans

**Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12**

*This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.*

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants 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.

<sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." <sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

*Here ends the reading.*

**C: Thanks be to God**

*\* Please stand as you are able.*

The Holy Gospel according to Mathew the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter     **C: 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."

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE     **"Unlimited Forgiveness"**

*Pastor Ron Gerl*

\* HYMN OF THE DAY     *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*- WOV#721 all 4 verses

**Go, My Children, with My Blessing**

    "Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.  
    Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.  
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.  
    Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

    "Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.  
    Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Here you heard my dear Son's story, here you touched him, saw his glory.  
    Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

    "Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.  
    Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit's power filled you, here his tender comfort stilled you.  
    Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

    "I the Lord will bless and keep you, and give you peace.  
    I the Lord will smile upon you, and give you peace.  
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter and Brother.  
    Go, my children, I will keep you, and give you peace."

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing" was reprinted with Permission under  
One License #A-724679 and CCLI #1727740. All rights reserved.

\*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.*

We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. **Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. We pray for the countries and people affected by flooding in Libya and Hong Kong. **Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. **Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy (*especially*). **Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. **Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world. Especially we remember the families of Evie Silvernale and Fred Winger.

**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 HYMN *We are an Offering* ELW#692

### **We are an Offering**

We lift our voices we lift our hands we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord use our voices, Lord use our hands, Lord use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering.

Text: Dwight Liles, b. 1957

"We are an Offering" was reprinted with Permission under One License #A-724679 and CCLI #1727740. All rights reserved.

\* 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: Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

\* ANNOUNCEMENTS

\* BLESSING The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

\* SENDING HYMN *Glories of Your Name Are Spoken* LBW#487- all verses

**Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus**

Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure,  
through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure.  
Onward in his footsteps treading, pilgrims here, our home above,  
full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Father’s bidding.  
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where you guide.

Let us suffer here with Jesus, and with patience bear our cross.  
Joy will follow all our sadness; where he is there is no loss.  
Though today we sow no laughter, we shall reap celestial joy:  
all discomforts that annoy shall give way to mirth hereafter.  
Jesus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.

Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death he conquered death,  
he will free us from destruction, give to us immortal breath.  
Let us mortify all passion that would lead us into sin;  
then by grace we all may win untold fruits of his creation.  
Jesus, unto you I die, there to live with you on high.

Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead  
that to life we may awaken. Jesus, since you are our head,  
we are your own living members; where you live, there we shall be  
in your presence constantly, living there with you forever.  
Jesus, if I faithful be, life eternal grant to me.

Public Domain

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.

\* DISMISSAL Go in peace and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

\* BELLS/POSTLUDE

Michelle Young

^^

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH AND BEYOND OUR DOORS

- TODAY 9/17- 8:45 am - Sunday School
- 10 am -16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost worship with communion
- 1-5 pm -Serving at the Community Table
- MONDAY 9/18- 7 pm - AA Meeting
- TUESDAY 9/19- 4-6 pm - Food Pantry
- WEDNESDAY 9/20- 3:15 pm - Confirmation
- 6 pm -Autumn Fest Meeting
- FRIDAY: 9/22- 10-Noon - Food Pantry
- SUNDAY: 9/24- 8:45 am -Sunday School
- 10 am - 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Worship
- Fellowship following Worship?
- 11 am -Church council

Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church 207 University St, Elk Mound, WI 54739 Pastor Ron Gerl: revgerl@hotmail.com  
Office Phone: 715-879-5115 Email: [sothlc@sothem.org](mailto:sothlc@sothem.org) Website [www.sothem.org](http://www.sothem.org) On Facebook  
Secretary: *Kris Jenson* [krisjens4@hotmail.com](mailto:krisjens4@hotmail.com) 715-563-1402 Custodian: *Terry Stamm* 715-379-3728  
Sunday school Coordinators: *Jaime Folczyk* [mjfolczyk@yahoo.com](mailto:mjfolczyk@yahoo.com) and *Holly Sweeney* [hollysweeney65@gmail.com](mailto:hollysweeney65@gmail.com)  
Giving questions contact: *Barb Vadnais* [barbvadnais1@gmail.com](mailto:barbvadnais1@gmail.com)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

***L.E. Phillips Senior Center Resource Fair*** -- The L.E. Phillips Senior Center is hosting a Resource Fair on Tuesday, September 19th 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.

**Wednesday 9/27 6:30 pm -Transition Team Meeting**

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

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

***\*\*BASKETS DUE TO CHURCH 9/19\*\****

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

- John Silvernale 3435 Fairfax St. #13, Eau Claire, WI 54701-5817

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS028313. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. One License Podcast / Streaming License A-724679/ CCLI Streaming License #1727740