

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Shepherd of the Hill ELCA

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



Your presence in the sanctuary signifies your agreement to be on our live broadcast.

INTRODUCTION

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

GATHERING

Please stand for the parts of the service designated with †

The congregation's parts are in **bold type**.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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.

LITANY FOR PENTECOST

The Spirit descends like a dove,
bringing peace to unite the world in a just and caring community.

**The Spirit comes like a breath,
bringing life to renew the people of God.**

The Spirit spreads like fire,
bringing energy for witnessing to the love of God.

**Spirit of the living God,
come to us and transform our lives by your power.**

~ from the United Church of Christ. Posted on Life in Liturgy, from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). <https://lifeinliturgy.wordpress.com/>

† REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

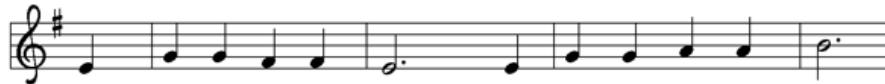
Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

† KYRIE



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

† HYMN OF PRAISE



1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo - ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac - claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might - y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

† PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all peoples, **your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

† HYMN

Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

LBW 559

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

¹ Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it and hold fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. ⁸ Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel: I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 67

We will read Psalm 67 responsively.

¹ May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us.

² **Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

³ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁴ **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁶ **The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.**

⁷ May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

† GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



† GOSPEL: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

† The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

[¹⁰ [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³ He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶ Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."]

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

† HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus Shall Reign

LBW 530

† CONFESSION OF FAITH- Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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

† PRAYERS OF THE INTERCESSION

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Prayers followed by: God of Grace **receive our prayer**

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God,
through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

† GREETING OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

(Please share God's peace with each other)

† OFFERING and OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely
of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through
the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

MEAL

† DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

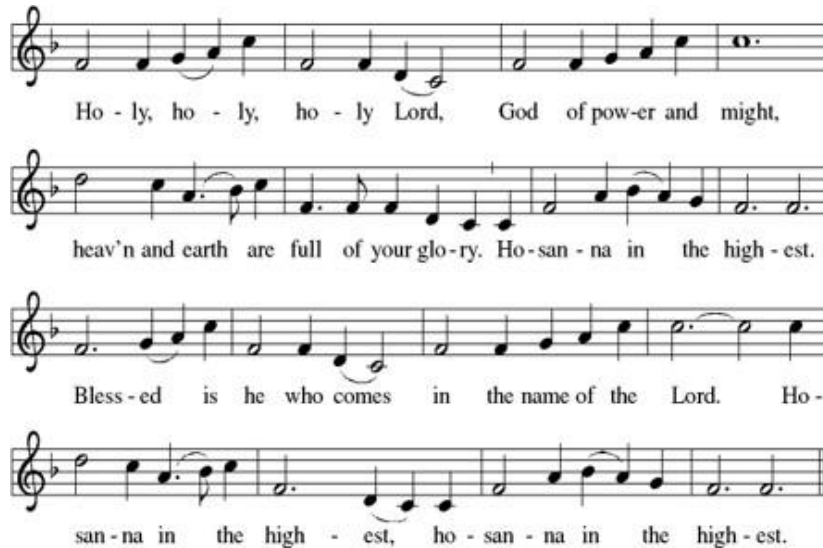
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

† PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



† THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

† LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day 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 TO COMMUNION

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

† BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. Amen.

† SENDING HYMN

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

LBW 290

† DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SENDING MUSIC

WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding Leader

Musician

Usher

Video

Reader

Pastor Natalie Leske

Michelle Young

Bob Dempski, Tim Jenson

Billy Heltne

Kris Jenson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The church council is calling a Congregational meeting on Sunday, August 30th following worship for approval of the bid for finishing the flex area of the basement.

Worship Leaders Needed

- Ushers
- Readers
- Communion Assistants
- Livestream Helpers
- Advance Slides for screen

Thank you to everyone who donated and or helped in any way with the Shepherd of the Hill Pie and Ice Cream Social!

Confirmation Campfire
August 19, 7:30-10:00pm
7-9 Grades

Location Change: E9468 690th Ave.

Bring a lawn chair if your can.

Raffle Tickets for Sale
(2) 1st Prizes: ½ Processed Hog
(1) 2nd Prize: \$100
1 ticket for \$5, 6 tickets for \$20

Who's Going to Kiss the Pig?



Pastor Natalie? Keith? Terry?

Tickets 1- \$1, 6 - \$5, 12 - \$10,

for tickets see Betty H, Kris J, Pastor, Keith L, Judy D or Lisa W

Welcome to all visitors!

We are grateful that God brought you here today.

Please share your name and contact information in either the Guest Book or on a purple Visitor info sheet found in the Gathering Area.

Let us know if we can serve you in any way or if you have any questions.

Pastor Natalie's Office Hours:

Pastor Natalie's office hours are Wednesday from 10 am to 2 pm or by appointment.
You may call Pastor Natalie's cell phone 715-829-8324 to see if she can meet you Monday - Thursday.

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH AND BEYOND OUR DOORS

SUNDAY	8/16	10 am	- 12 th Sunday after Pentecost, communion
MONDAY	8/17	6:30 pm	- Church Council Meets
		7 pm	- AA Meeting
TUESDAY	8/18	4-6 pm	- Food Pantry
WEDNESDAY	8/19	7:30-10 pm	- Confirmation Campfire
FRIDAY	8/21	10 - Noon	- Food Pantry
SUNDAY	8/23	10 am	- 13 th Sunday after Pentecost

Elk Mound Community Food Pantry

Tuesdays: 4-6 pm

Fridays: 10-Noon

**** Faith Formation Follows the Elk Mound School Calendar ****

Sunday School~ 3 years through 6th grade

Sunday mornings- 8:45 to 9:45 am.

Confirmation Classes~ 7th & 8th grade

Class meets right after school on Wednesdays.

Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church

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and Holly Sweeney

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Giving questions contact: Ali Sullivan

bookkeeper@sothem.org