

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
September 20th, 2026

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude *“Two Chorale Preludes” by J. S. Bach*

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Acclamation** *God is Here! vs. 3*

ELW 526

*Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here, as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.*

***Confession**

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.

Silence is kept for 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.

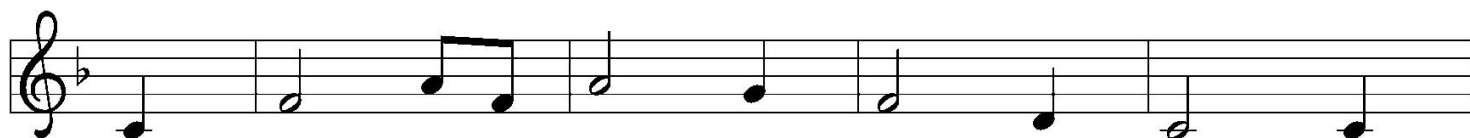
**Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Hear this good news:

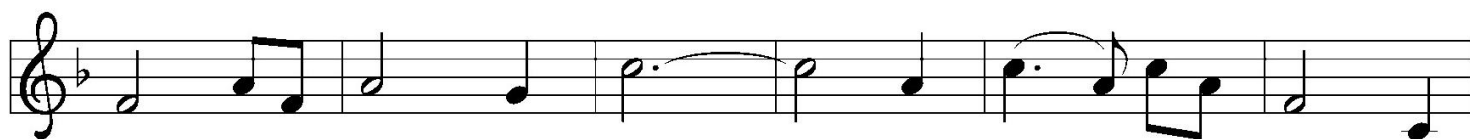
We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

***Gathering Hymn** *“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”*
(LCGS Favorite) ELW 779



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

***Prayer of the 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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Children's Sermon – Katie Rich

Jonah 3:10—4:11

A reading from Jonah: ¹⁰ 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.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² 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. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ 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.

⁶ 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. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ 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.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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.

*O friends, in gladness let us sing,
supernal anthems echoing: Alleluia! Alleluia!
To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

***Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16**

The holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“ The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right. ’So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ 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? ’⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us. ’He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard. ’⁸ 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. ’⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² 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. ’¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I

choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous? '16 So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon -Pastor Liz

Hymn of the Day *"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"* ELW 588
 sung to the tune Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory ELW 561
 Verse 1 will be led by the choir. All join in verse 2.

2 *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.*

*** Prayers of the People**

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,
let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation:

We pray for the church in every land. Give us the courage to live your radical generosity for our neighbors, so that all might wonder at your grace. Guide us here at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. As programs launch this fall, we pray especially for our Sunday school children, for Katie as she leads this ministry, and all who volunteer to show Jesus' love to the kids.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all the nations of the world. Bring peace where there is conflict, and mutually beneficial solutions where there is discord. We pray especially for Israel, the Palestinian people, Iran, Yemen, Lebanon, Ukraine, Russian, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the United States of

America. As a nation, help us do what is best for the majority. Watch over our military service members both here and overseas.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all in need of healing, especially those we name aloud and, in our hearts, ———. Bless and give strength to all students, teachers, and staff who are returning to school.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray in thanksgiving for all who have died. Grant that their faithfulness would continue to inspire us. Give us strength to trust in your promise of resurrection.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

~Our prayers come from this community. Please join in crafting them by writing on the bulletin insert titled Prayers of the People. If you have a prayer request you would like to be kept confidential, please drop a note into the prayer request box on the welcome desk.~

***Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering

Amazing Grace

***Offering Presentation Verse:**

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow ELW 885

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise God, all creatures here below;

praise God above, ye heav'nly host;

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

***Words of Institution**

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.**

DISTRIBUTION

In communion, we experience Jesus for us. The simple elements of bread and wine/juice convey Jesus' love, forgiveness, and grace. All are welcome to receive communion or a blessing. Ushers will invite your pew; continue forward to the communion server on your side of the sanctuary. Please put a hand over your heart for a blessing only. If you wish to receive communion, hold open your hand to receive a wafer. Please tell the server if you need a gluten-free wafer. Dip the wafer in the wine (red) or juice (clear). You may immediately eat the wafer. Continue along the outside of the pews to return to your seat.

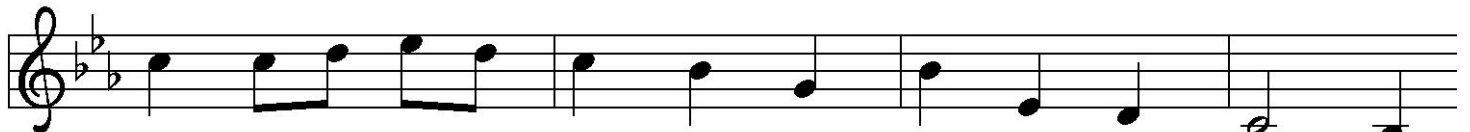
Hymn during communion: “Be Thou My Vision” (LCGS favorite) ELW 793



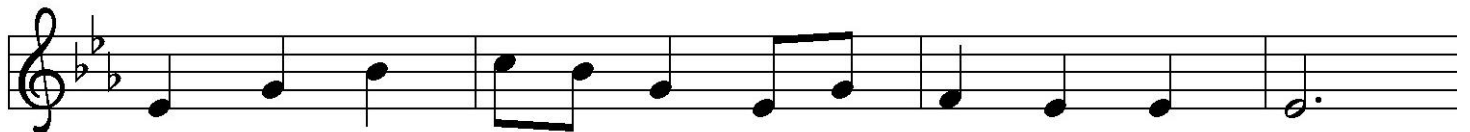
1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

SENDING

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

***Blessing**

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***Sending Hymn:**

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

ELW 705



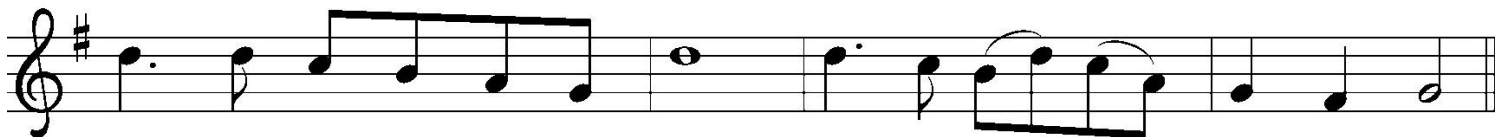
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

***Dismissal**

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Postlude**

"God of Grace" by Paul Manz

~Thank you for sharing your favorite hymns and songs! Favorite hymns of LCGS will be noted in the bulletin. We would love to hear and share your stories about hymns that are important to you; please contact Pastor Liz or Parker.~

This Week at LCGS

Sept, 20 Sunday

8:45AM Sunday School

8:45AM Choir rehearsal

9:30AM Worship

10:30AM Coffee Fellowship

1:30PM Serving @ Damiano

Sept 21, Monday

9:00AM –3:30:00PM Quilters

10:30AM Prayer Shawl ministry

6:00PM – Austin Story Project

Sept 22, Tuesday

8:30AM Laundry Love

6:00PM Intergenerational Choir

Sept 23, Wednesday

7:00AM Men's Bible Study

11:30AM Staff Meeting

6:00PM Confirmation Kick-off

Sept 24, Thursday

1:00PM Al-Anon

7:00PM AA

Sept 25, Friday

8:00AM Women's "Son"rise Bible
Conversation (ZOOM)

Sept 26, Saturday

Sept 27, Sunday – Bible Milestone

8:45AM Choir Rehearsal

8:45AM Sunday School

9:30AM Worship

10:30AM Coffee Fellowship

**Thank you all our volunteers who signed up this morning
and the following who prepared ahead!**

Altar Guild

Projections Preparer

Projectionist

Streaming

Hospitality

Lois Opseth

Bruce Johnson

Jody Keppers

Brian Fischer

Nan Asperheim

Next Week: Ruthie Tryon

The ELAVATOR IS WORKING! HOORAY!!

UPCOMING SPECIAL SUNDAYS!

Sunday, September 27th Bible Milestone for 3 year olds and 3rd graders and adults!

Sunday, October 4th during worship, Pastor Liz Davis will be Installed as Pastor!

Sunday, October 11th Confirmation Sunday!

Austin Story Project: Connect with God, self, and others as we gather around our stories and



Jesus' story. Limited-term small group gathering

Mondays at LCGS 6pm: Sept 21, 28, October 5, 12, 26, and Nov

2. Please RSVP to Pastor Liz: 525-1922 or

pastor@lcsduluth.org

TOMORROW! Are you a knitter or crocheter? Prayer Shawl ministry will be meeting again on the 3rd Monday of every month (Sept. 21) at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Prayer shawls are created by members, prayed over, then given to anyone who needs some extra love. Please let us know if you know someone you would like to gift a shawl!

LCGS Office is open: M – Th: 9am-4pm Friday: 9am – noon

Pastor Liz Davis: pastorliz@lcsduluth.org, 218-216-2522

Katie Rich, Director of Faith Formation: KatieRich.lcgs@gmail.com

Parker Hinnenkamp: music@lcsduluth.org

Christine Whitcomb: office@lcsduluth.org, 218-525-1922

Amie Abenth: communications@lcsduluth.org