

**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Sunday, September 20, 2020**  
**9:00am**



**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
**1910 34<sup>th</sup> Ave SE**  
**Albany, Oregon 97322**  
**(541) 926-4875**

Email: [office@goodshepherdalbany.org](mailto:office@goodshepherdalbany.org)

Website: [www.goodshepherdalbany.org](http://www.goodshepherdalbany.org)

Church Office Hours: Tuesday – Thursday 10am – 12pm

**PASTOR: LAURA O'BRIEN**  
**WORSHIP ASSISTANT: ELLIE CARSON**

**“The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,” writes Paul, “but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Corinthians 1:18, NRSV). This is why we’re here!**



## **Gathering**

### **Prelude**

### **Announcements**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates us and forms us, who redeems us and calls us, who unites us and sends us.

**C: Amen**

**P:** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

**P:** Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**P:** God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C: Amen.**

## **GATHERING SOLOIST KRIS ESKRIDGE**

### **PASTORAL GREETING**

**P:** 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**

**KYRIE BASED ON PSALM 145**

A: I will exalt you, God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

**C: Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

A: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

**C: Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

A: One generation shall praise your works to another and declare your power.

**C: Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10--4:11**

L: The First Lesson is from Jonah the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter, beginning at the 10<sup>th</sup> verse:

<sup>10</sup>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.

<sup>4:1</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>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 God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup>And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" <sup>5</sup>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.

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

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

L: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30**

L: The Second Lesson is from Philippians the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter, beginning at the 21<sup>st</sup> verse:

<sup>21</sup>For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup>but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup>Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>27</sup>Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>30</sup>since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

**L:** The Word of the Lord

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**C:** **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter, beginning at the 1<sup>st</sup> verse:

**C:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>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?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup>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.’ <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they

grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>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.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY – SOLOIST BY KRIS ESKRIDGE

### APOSTLE’S CREED

A: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

C: **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 Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
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 CHURCH

A: Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Generous God, you make the last first, and the first last. Where this gospel challenges the church, equip it for its works of service. Strengthen those who suffer for Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Sun and wind, bushes and worms, cattle and great cities—nothing in creation is outside your concern, mighty God. In your mercy, tend to it all. Give us a spirit of generosity toward all you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Where we find envy and create enemies, you provide enough for all. Bring peace to places of conflict and violence. Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Reveal yourself to all in need as you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, ready to relent from punishing. Accompany judges and lawyers, victims of crime and those serving sentences. Give fruitful labor and a livelihood to those seeking work. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord God, watch over and care for all persons who serve in the military. Today we especially remember..... Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Even beyond our expectations, you choose to give generously. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: We praise you for the generations that have declared your power to us. Give us faithfulness to follow them, living for Christ, until you call us to join them in the joyful song around his throne. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us greet one another with a sign of God's peace.  
The congregation is invited to greet one another with a gesture of peace (bow to one another or use the peace sign. Please no handshakes or hugs and stay in your area, thank you) using these or similar words – *God's peace be with you.*

## OFFERING

**Gathering of Offerings**

**Offertory**

**Presentation of our Gifts**

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray.....God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

**C: Amen**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

P: 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:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**



## THANKSGIVING

- P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.  
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.  
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
- C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- P: With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.
- C: Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
- C: Come, Holy Spirit.**
- P: All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**P:** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**C: 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,**

**and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## **DISTRIBUTION**

**P:** We welcome you to the Lord's Table to share the Sacrament of Holy Communion with us. Holy Communion is served with individual grape juice and a wafer.

## **COMMUNION**

**C: O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;**

**You suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;**

**You set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;**

**Eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.**

## ***PIANO MUSIC***

## **COMMUNION BLESSING**

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**A:** Let us pray..... We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

## **SENDING**

## **BLESSING**

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**C: Amen**

## **SENDING SOLOIST BY KRIS ESKRIDGE**

## **DISMISSAL**

**A:** Go in peace. Share the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **CHURCH NOTES & NEWS**

Good Shepherd Lutheran School and Childcare is now open, so we ask that church members still not be entering the church unless completely necessary. Each person is required to wear a mask and have a health screening at the time of entering the building. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 541-926-4875

Come join us for an Outdoor Worship Service on Sundays at 9:00am in the front yard of the church. Please bring your own lawn chair and masks are required!

Each week we will have a different soloist, if you interested in singing please contact Serena Lodes. Each week we will also need an Assistant Minister to assist pastor and read the lessons (NO singing required).

If you are interested, please contact Nancy Whitley

### **Sunday, September 20th @ 9am**

-Soloist: Kris Eskridge

-Assistant: Ellie Carson

### **Sunday, September 27th @ 9am**

Soloist: Dave VanDepas

Assistant Linda Passmore

**\*\*Are you interested in bringing flowers on Sunday?  
Please sign up at the check-in table\*\***

## Leftovers

The last laborers to join the vineyard had spent their day being picked over. They were the hiring process leftovers. Like the last kids remaining in a gym class team selection, these laborers were for one reason or another deemed less valuable workers by the other landowners. Perhaps they were less physically capable than others. Maybe their strengths were not easily visible. Not being hired for work that day, they were standing around with no purpose or potential for growth.

But we have a generous landowner who does not overlook anyone. This landowner spends his entire day scouring the market for those who have been left behind and securing a place for them in his vineyard. He gives them value and meaning. Jesus will not rest until every lost and idle bystander has a place in the kingdom of heaven.

This radical generosity scandalizes the system that rewards people based on their merits and outputs. But Jesus rewards people of all abilities and work ethics equally. In God's commonwealth, the leftover workers have as much value as those chosen first.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver was keenly aware of how people with intellectual disabilities were defined by what they couldn't do. She wanted to provide opportunities for them to develop physical fitness, display courage, and find joy on the playing field. Her vision grew into the Special Olympics movement. This inclusive and expansive glimpse into the kingdom of heaven celebrates the athletic achievements of those who are often excluded from the vineyard.

In worship, we practice leaning into Jesus' vision as we gather around the table. Regardless of our status or position, we are all on equal footing at Christ's meal. We are given the same portions of bread. We drink from the same cup. It does not matter if we arrived late or early, young or old, grateful or ungrateful. Jesus has invited each of us here. We have not been overlooked. We have been given our work for this day.