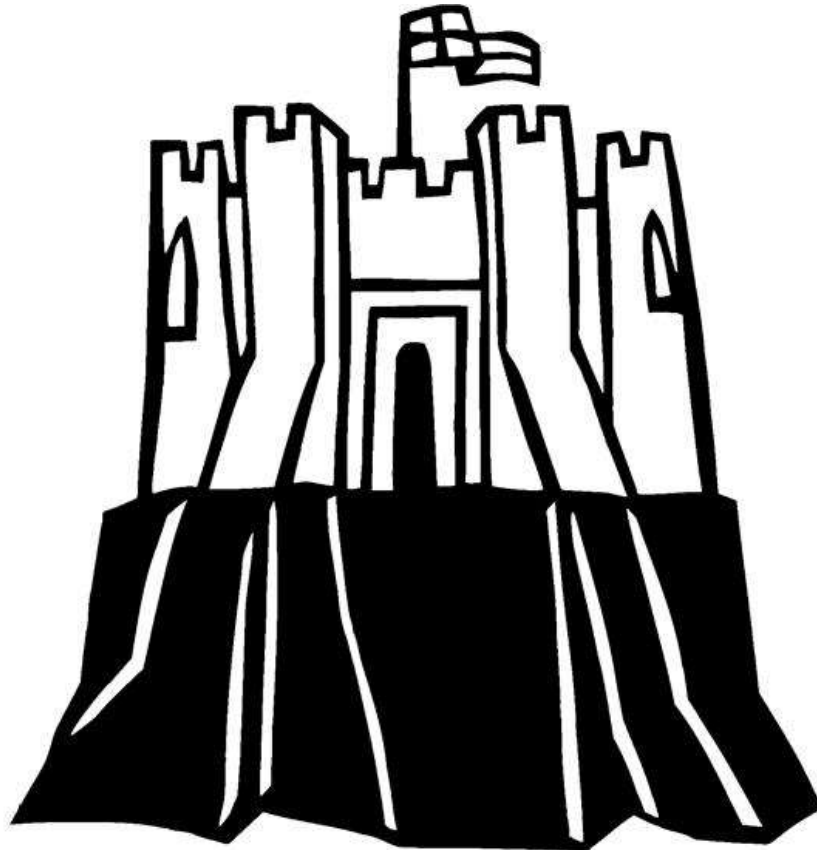


21st Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, October 25, 2020
10:00am



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
1910 34th Ave SE
Albany, Oregon 97322
(541) 926-4875

Email: office@goodshepherdalbany.org

Website: www.goodshepherdalbany.org

PASTOR: LAURA O'BRIEN
WORSHIP ASSISTANT: SUE LAMP

The greatest commandments are to love God and neighbor. Welcome to worship, where we're strengthened in God's love so we can better love others. May God's grace nourish you.



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 DAVE VANDEPAS

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 46

A: We will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;

C: The Lord is our refuge and strength, a very present help in a time of trouble.

A: Though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with tumult.

C: The Lord is our refuge and strength, a very present help in a time of trouble.

A: God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

C: The Lord is our refuge and strength, a very present help in a time of trouble.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

L: The First Lesson is from Jeremiah the 31st chapter, beginning at the 31st verse:

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their

hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

L: The Second Lesson is from Romans the 3rd chapter, beginning at the 19th verse:

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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: John 8:31-36

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 8th chapter, beginning at the 31st verse:

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY – SOLOIST BY DAVE VANDEPAS

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: With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Renew and inspire the church in the freedom of the gospel, O God. Where the church is in error, reform it. Where the church speaks your truth, strengthen it. Where the church is divided, unify it. Ignite in us the working of the Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: As the earth changes, as mountains shake and the waters roar, may we care for this planet as a holy habitation for all living things. Sustain all peoples and lands recovering from natural disasters of any kind. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Guide areas of the world divided or traumatized by conflict, especially in our own land. Free all from slavery and human trafficking, and protect all in harm's way. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Release those living in bondage to debts, chronic pain, or addiction. Grant healing touch to those who are ill..... 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: In this family of faith we give thanks for courageous voices that have remained firm in their commitment to the one who frees us from sin and death. Centered in your grace, unify us in the hope of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Even in death, you free us and give us a place in your house. We give thanks for our ancestors who have shown us truth and freedom, especially Martin Luther and those who work for the renewal of the church. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus 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 DAVE VANDEPAS

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Church News & Notes

Join us on Wednesdays for a Drive Thru Community Dinner!! PLEASE call the church office at 541-926-4875 to reserve the number of meals you will be picking up. You will enter in the driveway off 34th Ave and pull-up next to the Kitchen/MPR area. Someone will be outside to ask the number of meals you are picking up and then will get them for you. Please make sure that we are being courteous when forming a line as there will be parents picking up their children that will need to get by the line.

10/28 Chicken & Rice Casserole

11/4 Soup Supper



For next week's dinner we are looking for donations of cream of chicken soup, rice, salad mix and desserts. Desserts can be anything pumpkin (bread, bars, cookies, etc). Main fixing, we need by Monday afternoon to start cooking Tuesday. Desserts can be dropped off any time before Tuesday at 2:30.

COVID has wreaked chaos on schools and childcare centers and Good Shepherd is caught right in the middle of the storm. The regulations for providing emergency childcare drastically slashes the number of children allowed in the classroom while requiring the same number of staff. This means that each classroom can only have 1/3 of their pre-COVID students, but 100% of the pre-COVID staff. The numbers do not add up and other forms of revenue are needed. Currently the school board and school director are applying for grants to help cover payroll costs. Good Shepherd Preschool has served Albany for more than fifty years and we are reaching out to the greater community through a "Go Fund Me" page to raise funds. These are just two of the projects that we are working on to help us through this time. If you would like to make a donation, please send a check to the church in care of the school. You can also turn in a donation during Sunday worship just make the check out to Good Shepherd School. Once again I realize that this is a huge ask on our part. You have been incredibly generous and gracious these last few months and I and the council thank you. We will get through this time of anxiety as long as we keep Jesus and mission of the church as our focus.



*****Volunteers needed for November and December!!! If you are interested in being the Worship Assistant in November or December, please reach out to Nancy Whitley at 541-979-8614. If you are interested in singing please contact Serena Lodes at 458-210-8247 or Pastor Laura at 503-440-0644.*****

Before the Truth Is Finished

“You will know the truth,” Jesus said, “and the truth will make you free” (John 8:32).

“The truth will set you free,” David Foster Wallace wrote, “but not until it’s finished with you.”

Before the truth is finished with us, it demands that we admit that we are not already free. We are enslaved to sin. This is the part of the truth that Luther called the law: the hard part that points out that we are controlled by our fears and desires, our self-absorption and self-doubt, our addictions and facades.

Here’s the truth: You are not your Sunday best or your Facebook profile. You are broken, and enslaved by your attempts to cover it up. That can be hard to hear, but until it sinks in we are unable to be released and receive the truth of the gospel, the good news of grace.

Today we celebrate Reformation Day, and in the spirit of Martin Luther the church must be always reforming, always pointing beyond itself to God’s grace. The temptation is always there to settle for so little: a cozy collective of our most presentable selves, the right side of social issues, pat answers to incomprehensible mysteries of the universe.

Jesus’ invitation is to bring the mess that we’re in, the mess that we *are*. We are called to show up as our true selves, fears and regrets and doubts and all. God can handle it. The communion of saints—that is, *us*, the people of God—can handle it. You are loved. You are forgiven. You are free.

The truth of God that sets us free first tears us open. Church can and must be a place where we bring our broken-open selves and encounter the healing power of a God who sees us, knows us, loves us as we are, and sets us free.