

Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Building up God's people through His word for His world

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 10, 2024

Widows are visible everywhere in today's readings. Jesus denounces those scribes who pray impressive prayers but devour widows' houses. He commends the poor widow who in his view gave far more than the major donors. Jesus doesn't see her simply as an object of compassion or charity. She, like the widow of Zarephath who shares her last bit of food with Elijah, does something of great importance.

We especially welcome our guests who are worshipping here today. What a privilege to greet you! If you have no church home in the area, we invite you to participate in the life and ministry of Good Shepherd. For information about our congregation, visit gslcva.org. Also, please fill out a Welcome card, which you'll find near the hymnals, and place it in the offering plate near the doors to the sanctuary.

Our worship reflects the liturgical tradition of the Christian church. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first, third, and fifth Sundays at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Our informal worship service features contemporary music and is held in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, with communion celebrated on fourth Sundays.

To all worshippers: The presence of children in worship is a gift to the Body of Christ and a reminder that our congregation is growing. Remember that Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." Please welcome our young ones and give their parents a smile of encouragement or a helping hand, if needed.

To the parents of young ones, here are a few suggestions for worshipping with your children: Relax! God put the wiggles and giggles in kids; don't feel that you have to suppress them in His house. All are welcome! Sit toward the front, where it is easier to see and hear what's going on. Quietly explain the parts of the worship service and actions of the pastor, ushers, communion assistants, etc. Sing the hymns and songs, pray, and voice the responses aloud. Children learn worshipful behavior by copying you. If you have to leave the worship service with your child or stand up and walk around the back of the sanctuary, feel free to do so, but please come back! And finally, if you so choose, . . .

You are welcome to use our nursery, as well as our parents' room next to the nursery, if your young ones need a break from the service. The Parents' Room is also a comfortable place where mothers may nurse their babies. The worship service is livestreamed to a monitor in the Parents' Room.

We offer Sunday School and a variety of Bible studies and spiritual growth opportunities for children, youth, and adults on Sunday mornings. All Sunday School classes meet at 9:30 a.m. See News and Announcements for class information.

Flowers and plants in our worship areas are supported by financial donations to the Flower Fund. These floral offerings beautify the church, uplift service participants, and remind us of God's good creation. You can find information about being a flower sponsor on the bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall and at gslcva.org (enter "flowers" in the search area on the homepage). Today's flowers are sponsored by June McGurn in memory of Barbara McGurn.

Prelude	“Carillon”	A. Herbert Brewer
Welcome		Pastor Johann
<i>Please stand</i>		
Opening Hymn	“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”	Hymn No. 790 Verses 1-4

Invocation, Confession, and Forgiveness

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, our refuge, our delight, our beginning and our end.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us come in truth before the one who loves us and has freed us from our sin.

Silence for reflection on God's word and for self-examination. You may kneel or remain standing.

P: Eternal One, robed in majesty and mercy,

C: **we confess that sin has taken hold of us and we are complicit in its power. We are disturbed in spirit and our hearts cannot rest. Unbind us and set us free. Lead us again to the waters of rebirth, that we may live just and generous lives for the good of your world and the care of our neighbors, following in the servant way of Jesus. Amen.**

P: These words are trustworthy and true: Christ bore our sins once, for all, on the cross, swallowing up death forever. For his sake, you are ✠ forgiven and God remembers your sin no more. Let your heart be glad again, and rejoice in your salvation.

C: **Amen.**

Please stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Kyrie [Lord, have mercy]	Music in hymnal, pages 168-69
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Hymn of Praise	“Glory to God in the Highest”	Music in hymnal, page 170
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Salutation and Prayer of the Day	Music in hymnal, page 172
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P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

O God, you show forth your almighty power chiefly by reaching out to us in mercy.
Grant us the fullness of your grace, strengthen our trust in your promises, and bring all the world to share in the treasures that come through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Please sit

First Reading

1 Kings 17:8-16

This chapter begins the story of Elijah. God sends a drought on Israel because of the sins of King Ahab. This passage depicts God's saving acts not only on behalf of Elijah, but also on behalf of those who are associated with the prophet, even a foreigner, the widow of Zarephath.

L: ⁸The word of the LORD came to [Elijah,] saying, ⁹"Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you." ¹⁰So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink." ¹¹As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." ¹²But she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." ¹³Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth." ¹⁵She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Hebrews 9:24-28

The letter to the Hebrews describes Christ as a high priest who offers himself as a sacrifice for our sin. Christ does not die again and again each year. He died once, is alive with God, and will reveal himself on the last day.

L: ²⁴Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; ²⁶for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, ²⁸so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Alleluia

Music in hymnal, page 173

Holy Gospel

Mark 12:38-44

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the twelfth chapter.

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

Music in hymnal, page 173

*After engaging in a series of public arguments with religious leaders in the temple,
Jesus contrasts the proud and oppressive ways of those leaders
with the sacrificial humility and poverty of the widow.*

P: ³⁸As [Jesus] taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, ³⁹and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

⁴¹He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴²A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Music in hymnal, page 173

Please sit

Kids’ Message

Elizabeth Huang

Hymn of the Day “Take My Life and Let It Be”

Hymn No. 783

If you think your child might be unable to sit through the entire service, this would be an appropriate time to take him/her to the nursery.

Message “Giving Our Two Cents”

Pastor Johann

Musical Reflection

Please stand

Apostles’ Creed

C: **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.**

Please sit

Announcements

Communications Director Jeff Donahue

Please fill out a Welcome card and place it in the offering plate.

Anthem

“Prayer of St. Francis”

Allen Pote/arr. Robert Delgado

Sanctuary Choir

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace
Where there is hatred, let me sow love
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord
Where there is doubt, let there be faith

Oh Lord, make me an instrument of thy
peace

Where there's despair, let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, let there be light
Where there is sadness, let there be joy

O Divine Master, grant that I may not seek
To be consoled as to console

To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace
Where there's despair, let me bring hope
Where there is hatred, let me sow love

For it is in giving that we receive
And it is in pardoning that we are pardoned
And it is in dying that we are born to
eternal life, to eternal life

Lord make me an instrument of thy peace
Amen

Please stand

Offertory Prayer

**C: Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup, you offered yourself in love for the world. Fill
us with your abundance, that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger,
trusting in your name. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

At the end of each petition, the prayer leader will say, “Merciful God...”

The congregation responds, “receive our prayer.”

Please see the News and Announcements sheet for a listing of intercessions.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Blessing

P: The Ancient One, enthroned, the Crucified One, now risen, the Indwelling One, poured out,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

“Come, We That Love the Lord”

Hymn No. 669

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Encourage one another in Christ.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

arr. Don Hustad

As your schedule permits, please be seated during the postlude for a time of prayer and reflection.

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Please join us for coffee and conversation in the Fellowship Hall following the service.

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We hope you will continue to connect with us by liking our Facebook page and following us on Instagram. Find them by searching @gslcva on those platforms. We also encourage you to subscribe to our YouTube channel and follow us on Vimeo so that you don't miss any of our virtual services, kids' messages, and more. Questions? Contact Communications Director Jeff Donahue, jeff@gslcva.org

Serving Today

Worship Leader	Pastor Johann
Preacher	Pastor Johann
Crucifer	David Huang
Acolyte	*
Scripture Reader	Geoff Lunt
Prayer Leader	Chris Miller
Cantor	Ted Lillestolen
Ushers	Ron Voigt (lead) Bernie Schoch Jeff Peterson John Purtilo
Choir Director	Anne Lee
Organist	Anne Lee
Altar Guild	Joey Tempel
Projectionist	Jeff Donahue
Livestream Manager	Matt Hardy
Audio Engineer	Adam Sherman
Greeters	Kelly Nield (door) *(welcome center)
Guest Welcome	Brian Cors
Opener	Allen Millman
Closer	Goodwyn Morgan
Coffee Setup	Janet Lillestolen
Kitchen Cleanup	Jan Morgan

* = unfilled as of November 5

Board of Servant Leaders

Laura Blackburn, chair
Rob Fekete, vice-chair
Drew Lipman, secretary

Larry Austin
Paul Kasulis
Jennifer Pelletier
Deanine Thrash

Core Ministry Areas

Worship

Team Leaders: Georgia Thorstenson and Julie Schorfheide; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

The Worship Team encompasses music, seasonal celebrations, arts, worship schedule, Sanctuary Choir (Anne Lee), Handbell Choir (Anne Lee), traditional worship, and contemporary worship (Matt Hardy), the worship spaces, and support personnel (e.g., ushers, greeters, acolytes).

Discipleship

Team Leader: Pastor James

The Discipleship Team oversees adult education, Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, children's ministry (Michelle Tenhaeff), and youth ministry (Holly Vanderhoof).

Parish Life

Team Leader: Brian Cors; Staff Liaison: Heidi Cooper

The Parish Life Team helps foster our community through Life Groups, member engagement, fellowship events, new member inclusion, concerts, public events, picnics, and intergenerational events, and reaches out to guests who worship at Good Shepherd.

Mission

Team Leader: Pastor Johann

Through the Mission Team, Good Shepherd supports a variety of mission efforts: world and local (Bill and Lisa Schuler), synod/district, social ministry and community service (Holly Vanderhoof). Evangelism, publicity, media, and social media (Jeff Donahue) support these efforts.

Congregational Care and Nurture

Team Leader: June McGurn; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

The Congregational Care and Nurture Team helps support the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health of the congregation through literature, programs, and opportunities to serve others at Good Shepherd. This ministry's volunteers help in many ways: at memorial services and receptions; through member care visits and transportation; by sending cards for life events; and by arranging meals ("Take Them a Meal" team) for the sick and infirm, for their families, and for families with newborns.

Administration

Team Leader: Pastor Johann

This team is in charge of property and contracts (Roger Thorstenson), financing the mission (Mike DeWan), stewardship (Don Kidwell), human resources/personnel (Matt Frankner), communications (Jeff Donahue), and technology (Gary Budzier).

Good Shepherd's Staff

Jotham Johann, Senior Pastor

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Gary James, Assisting Pastor

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Georgia Thorstenson, Business Manager

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Jeff Donahue, Communications Director

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Heidi Cooper, Director of Engagement

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Anne Lee, Organist & Director of Choirs

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Michele Clair, Administrative Assistant

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Holly Vanderhoof, Community Service Coordinator & Youth Ministry Director

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Matt Hardy, Praise Band Director & Video Production Specialist

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Michelle Tenhaeff, Children's Ministry Coordinator

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Reid Otterbacher, Communications Assistant

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Chloe Vanderhoof, Social Media Assistant

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Please note that the church office is closed on Mondays.

Good Shepherd is a member congregation of the Southeastern District
of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod