

Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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

First Sunday in Lent
March 9, 2025

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

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 basket on the Welcome/resource table or hand it to an usher.

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 Arlisa Ferrara in memory of her mother, Leah H. D. Richard.

SUNDAY/PRAISE

GATHERING SONG "Forever Reign"

You are good You are good
When there's nothing good in me
You are love You are love
On display for all to see
You are light You are light
When the darkness closes in
You are hope You are hope
You have covered all my sin

You are peace You are peace
When my fear is crippling
You are true You are true
Even in my wandering
You are joy You are joy
You're the reason that I sing
You are life You are life
In You death has lost its sting

Chorus 1:
(Oh) I'm running to Your arms
I'm running to Your arms
The riches of Your love will always be
enough
Nothing compares to Your embrace
Light of the world forever reign

You are more You are more
Than my words will ever say
You are Lord You are Lord
All creation will proclaim
You are here You are here
In Your presence I'm made whole
You are God You are God
Of all else I'm letting go

Chorus 1

Chorus 2:
I'm running to Your arms
I'm running to Your arms
The riches of Your love will always be
enough
Nothing compares to Your embrace
Light of the world forever reign

My heart will sing no other Name
Jesus Jesus
(Repeat 4x)

Chorus 1

Chorus 2

Light of the world forever reign

"Forever Reign." Jason Ingram, Reuben Morgan. © 2009 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia; Spirit Nashville Three; So Essential Tunes; Spirit Nashville Three.
CCLI #858354.

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

SONG OF PRAISE "You Never Let Go"

Even though I walk through the valley
Of the shadow of death
Your perfect love is casting out fear
And even when I'm caught in the middle
Of the storms of this life
I won't turn back I know You are near

Pre-Chorus:
And I will fear no evil
For my God is with me
And if my God is with me
Whom then shall I fear
Whom then shall I fear

Chorus:

*Oh no You never let go
Through the calm and through the storm
Oh no You never let go
In ev'ry high and ev'ry low
Oh no You never let go
Lord You never let go of me*

And I can see a light that is coming
For the heart that holds on
A glorious light beyond all compare
And there will be an end to these troubles
But until that day comes
We'll live to know You here on the earth

Pre-Chorus

Chorus

Yes I can see a light
That is coming for the heart that holds on
And there will be an end to these troubles
But until that day comes
Still I will praise You
Still I will praise You

Chorus

Lord You never let go of me

"You Never Let Go." Beth Redman, Matt Redman. © 2005 Thankyou Music. CCLI #858354.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

[We confess together] **Holy Lord, we confess that we have fallen short. We turn our backs when we could embrace. We remain silent when we could speak. We speak when we could listen. We close the door when we could fling it wide open. We judge when we could seek understanding. We cling when we could give. Forgive us, O God, for being sinful, and help us to continue to grow into the people you created us to be, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

RESPONSIVE READING FROM GOD'S WORD

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

¹ You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—

² **you will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I put my trust."**

⁹ Because you have made the Lord your refuge, and the Most High your habitation

¹⁰ **no evil will befall you nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**

¹¹ For God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways.

¹² **Upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

¹³ You will tread upon the lion cub and viper; you will trample down the lion and the serpent.

¹⁴ **I will deliver those who cling to me; I will uphold them, because they know my name.**

¹⁵ They will call me, and I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.

¹⁶ **With long life will I satisfy them, and show them my salvation.**

READING FROM GOD'S WORD

Luke 4:1-13

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴ Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.
⁶ And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸ Jesus answered him, “It is written,
 ‘Worship the Lord your God,
 and serve only him.’”
⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written,
 ‘He will command his angels concerning you,
 to protect you,’
¹¹ and
 ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
 so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”
¹² Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

KIDS’ MESSAGE

Elizabeth Huang

RESPONSE SONG: “O Come to the Altar”

Are you hurting and broken within
 Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
 Jesus is calling
 Have you come to the end of yourself
 Do you thirst for a drink from the well
 Jesus is calling

Chorus:
O come to the altar
The Father’s arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
 Come today there’s no reason to wait
 Jesus is calling
 Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy

From the ashes a new life is born
 Jesus is calling
Chorus (2x)

Oh what a Savior
 Isn’t he wonderful
 Sing alleluia Christ is risen
 Bow down before him
 For he is Lord of all
 Sing alleluia Christ is risen
 (Repeat)

Chorus (2x)
 Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
 Tell the world of the treasure you’ve found

“O Come to the Altar.” Chris Brown, Mack Brock, Steven Furtick, Wade Joye. © 2015 Music by Elevation Worship Publishing (Essential Music Publishing LLC). CCLI #858354.

MESSAGE

“The Crown—Without the Cross?”

Pastor James

MUSICAL REFLECTION

OFFERINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

Pastor Johann

Please take this opportunity to fill out the Welcome Card and hand it to one of the ushers or place it in the basket on the Welcome/resource table as you leave.

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

After the pastor says "Lord, hear our prayer," we respond by singing:

Band: Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, hear our cry and heal our land.
Let kindness lead us to compassion, bring us back again.

People: ***Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy on us now.***

"Kyrie Eleison." Words and music by Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, Matt Maher, and Matt Redman. © 2016 S.D.G. Publishing, Said and Done Publishing, Sixsteps Music, Sixsteps Songs, Thankyou Music, Worship Together Music, worshiptogethersongs.com (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); Be Essential Songs, Fellow Ships Music, I Am A Pilgrim Songs, So Essential Tunes (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC). CCLI #858354.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

SENDING SONG

"The Wonderful Cross"

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride
See from His head His hands His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown

Chorus:

O the wonderful cross

O the wonderful cross

Bids me come and die and find

That I may truly live

O the wonderful cross

O the wonderful cross

All who gather here by grace

Draw near and bless Your name

Were the whole realm of nature mine

That were an offering far too small

Love so amazing so divine

Demands my soul my life my all

Chorus

O the wonderful cross

O the wonderful cross

Bids me come and die and find

That I may truly live

"The Wonderful Cross." Chris Tomlin, Isaac Watts, J. D. Walt, Jesse Reeves, Lowell Mason. © 2000 Rising Springs Music; Vamos Publishing; worshiptogether.com songs. CCLI #858354.

BLESSING & SENDING

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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' message, and more. Questions? Contact Communications Director Jeff Donahue, jeff@gslcva.org

Serving Today	
Worship Leader	Pastor Johann
Preacher	Pastor James
Ushers	Paul Devine (lead) Goodwyn Morgan
Greeter	Brian Cors (door)
Guest Welcome	Sally Cors
Engagement	Heidi Cooper
Praise Team	Tara Planeta (violin) Maryanne Perkel (cello) Peter Revell (bass) Julian Berkowitz (drums) Matt Hardy (leader; guitar, vocals)
Projectionist	Jeannie Johns
Audio Engineer	Scott Shepherd
Livestream Manager	Adam Sherman
Closer	Martin Farley
Kitchen Cleanup	Jan Morgan

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 this core ministry area, Good Shepherd supports a variety of mission efforts: financial and prayerful partnering with missionaries, worldwide and local (Bill and Lisa Schuler); synod/district, social ministry, and community service (Holly Vanderhoof); evangelism, publicity, media, and social media (Jeff Donahue).

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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Michele Clair, Administrative Assistant

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Matt Hardy, Praise Band Director & Video Production Specialist

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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

Be a part of the SUNDAY/PRAISE community by serving in our worship gatherings as greeters, ushers, singers, instrumentalists, AV support, and others. Interested? Contact us by emailing gslc@gslcva.org or calling 703-437-5020.

ADDITIONAL READINGS FOR THIS WEEK FROM GOD'S WORD

From the Old Testament

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

¹ When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

From the New Testament

Romans 10:8b-13

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

^{8b} "The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."