

Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Building up God's people through His word for His world

Midweek Service: The Hand of the Lord Who Holds All Things
April 9, 2025 | 12:00 p.m.

To the faithless, unrepentant world, taken together with the events of Holy Week, Jesus would appear to be just another disappointment, dead and gone. The eyes of faith, however, see all His deeds, including His suffering and death, as God's most powerful and mighty act, by which He redeems and saves the world—and us! By faith in Jesus, we know that we are forgiven, renewed, redeemed, and destined for eternal glory.

Prelude

Please stand

Opening Sentences

P: O Lord, open my lips,
C: **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**
P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C: **make haste to help me, O Lord.**
C: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

Psalmody

Psalm 95:1-7a

P: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
C: **Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving;**
let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!
for the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In His hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are His also.
The sea is His, for He made it,
and His hands formed the dry land.
Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
For His is our God,
and we are the people of His pasture,
and the sheep of His hand.

Hymn

"How Firm a Foundation"

Hymn No. 728

Verses 1-4

Please sit

First Reading

Daniel 7:13-14

R: ¹³As I watched in the night visions,
 I saw one like a human being
 coming with the clouds of heaven.
And he came to the Ancient One
 and was presented before him.
¹⁴To him was given dominion
 and glory and kingship,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
 that shall not pass away,
and his kingship is one
 that shall never be destroyed.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Revelation 1:9-20

R: ⁹I, John, your brother who share with you in Jesus the persecution and the kingdom and the patient endurance, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰I was in the spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ¹¹saying, "Write in a book what you see and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

¹²Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³and in the midst of the lampstands I saw one like the Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across his chest. ¹⁴His head and his hair were white as white wool, white as snow; his eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵his feet were like burnished bronze, refined as in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters. ¹⁶In his right hand he held seven stars, and from his mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining with full force.

¹⁷When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, ¹⁸and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever; and I have the keys of Death and of Hades. ¹⁹Now write what you have seen, what is, and what is to take place after this. ²⁰As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches."

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Holy Gospel

John 3:11-18, 22-36

P: ¹¹[Jesus said,] “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.” ²²After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he spent some time there with them and baptized. ²³John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim because water was abundant there; and people kept coming and were being baptized ²⁴—John, of course, had not yet been thrown into prison. ²⁵Now a discussion about purification arose between John’s disciples and a Jew. ²⁶They came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, the one who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you testified, here he is baptizing, and all are going to him.” ²⁷John answered, “No one can receive anything except what has been given from heaven. ²⁸You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, ‘I am not the Messiah, but I have been sent ahead of him.’ ²⁹He who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. For this reason my joy has been fulfilled. ³⁰He must increase, but I must decrease.” ³¹The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks about earthly things. The one who comes from heaven is above all. ³²He testifies to what he has seen and heard, yet no one accepts his testimony. ³³Whoever has accepted his testimony has certified this, that God is true. ³⁴He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. ³⁵The Father loves the Son and has placed all things in his hands. ³⁶Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but must endure God’s wrath.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Lent Responsory

P: Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C: **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

P: In You, O Lord, do I put my trust; leave me not, O Lord, my God.

C: **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

P: Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C: **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

Please sit

Hymn	"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"	Hymn No. 802
Message	"The Hand of the Lord Who Holds All Things"	Pastor James

Musical Reflection

Please stand

Antiphon

P: Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
C: **and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

Magnificat

P: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;
C: **for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.**
P: For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.
C: **For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;**
P: and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.
C: **He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.**
P: He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.
C: **He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.**
P: He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.
All: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Kyrie

C: Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

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.

Collects

P: O Lord, hear my prayer.

C: **And let my cry come to You.**

P: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, all things are in Your hands, both creation and our very lives. Turn our eyes to follow the finger of John the Baptist pointing to Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Jesus has received nails into His hands for our sins to bring us forgiveness. When and where You will, use us to point others to Jesus and where He promises to be found in His Word and Sacraments; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

P: Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

P: Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

C: **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You are graciously keeping me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this coming night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

P: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Benedicamus

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

P: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

Hymn No. 739

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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

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Serving Today	
Worship Leader	Pastor James
Preacher	Pastor James
Scripture Reader	Melinda DeWan
Ushers	Martin Farley (lead) Ron Voigt
Organist	Anne Lee
Projectionist	Jeff Donahue
Video Manager	Matt Hardy
Audio Engineer	Adam Sherman
Greeter	Dick Orth (door) Jeannie Johns (welcome center)
Engagement	Heidi Cooper

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

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

Room 201; pastorjo@gslcva.org; 703-439-2754

Gary James, Assisting Pastor

Room 209; pastorgary@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020

Sarah Brazell, Preschool Director

Room 101; preschool@gslcva.org; 703-437-4511

Georgia Thorstenson, Business Manager

Room 212; georgia@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020 x803

Jeff Donahue, Communications Director

Room 209; jeff@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020 x811

Heidi Cooper, Director of Engagement

heidi@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020

Anne Lee, Organist & Director of Choirs

Room 215; anne@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020 x807

Michele Clair, Administrative Assistant

Room 210; michele@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020 x806

Holly Vanderhoof, Community Service Coordinator & Youth Ministry Director

Room 208; holly@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020 x213

Matt Hardy, Praise Band Director & Video Production Specialist

matt@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020

Michelle Tenhaeff, Children's Ministry Coordinator

childministry@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020

Julie Schorfheide, Communications Assistant

julie@gslcva.org

Reid Otterbacher, Communications Assistant

commassist@gslcva.org

Chloe Vanderhoof, Social Media Assistant

chloe@gslcva.org

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