

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

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
November 16, 2025

The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today's texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: "Do not be weary in doing what is right."

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.

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/giving (look for the sponsorship form at the bottom of that page). Today's flowers are sponsored by Tom and Carol Kubic in thanks for God's blessing.

Prelude (8:00)	“Spirit Song”	ed. Jane Holstein
Prelude (11:00)	“Creation Will Be at Peace” <i>Handbell Choir</i>	Anna Laura Page

Welcome Pastor Johann

Please stand

Opening Hymn	“O Holy Spirit, Enter In”	Hymn No. 913
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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, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

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

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

P: Faithful God,

C: you have shown us the ways of your heart, yet we stray from your paths. We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression and do not embrace the freedom of your faithful promises. We ignore our neighbors. We exploit the earth. We reject your abundance, trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love. Repair our relationships, restore what we have broken, renew our hearts, and bring us to new life. Amen.

P: Hear the good news: God the Faithful One loves you, + in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven, and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free.

C: Amen.

Please stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Kyrie ~ Lord, have mercy	Music in hymnal, pages 152-53
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Hymn of Praise	“This Is the Feast”	Music in hymnal, page 155
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Salutation and Prayer of the Day	Music in hymnal, page 156
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P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Please sit

First Reading

Malachi 4:1-2a

Malachi, whose name means "my messenger," warns that "the day is coming." On that day, the evil will be destroyed like stubble in a fire, but the "sun of righteousness" will shine on those who honor God.

R: ¹ See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ^{2a} But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Some members of the Thessalonian community, because of their belief in the nearness of Christ's return, had ceased to work, living off the generosity of other members of the community. The writer of this letter bluntly warns that if they want to eat, they need to work.

R: ⁶ Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, ⁸ and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹ This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Alleluia

Music in hymnal, page 156

Holy Gospel

Luke 21:5-19

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

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

Music in hymnal, page 157

As history moves toward God's fulfillment there will be frightening signs and events. Before the end, believers will draw strength from their relationship to God and will be given the words they need to testify and to endure without fear.

P: ⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, ⁶ "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

⁷ They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" ⁸ And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

⁹ "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹² "But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵ for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your souls."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Music in hymnal, page 157

Please sit

Hymn of the Day

"The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"

Hymn No. 710

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

"Don't Just Wait! Be Jesus!"

Pastor James

Musical Reflection

Reception of New Members

*All members-to-be and their families gather near the altar when the pastor calls for them. They will bring with them the bulletin insert "Liturgy for the Reception of New Members."
The congregation will refer to this insert as well.*

Please stand

Nicene Creed

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.**

Through Him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Please sit

Announcements

Pastor Johann

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

Anthem (8:00) "Creation Will Be at Peace"
Handbell Choir

Anna Laura Page

Anthem (11:00) "Fairest Lord Jesus"
Sanctuary Choir

Derek Hayes

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nations,
O thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows,
Fairer still the woodlands,

Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the
moonlight,
And all the twinkling starry host;

Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heav'n can boast.
Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations!

Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be Thine! Amen.

Please stand

Offertory Prayer

C: God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

At the end of each petition, the prayer leader will say, "Hear us, O God, ..."

The congregation responds, "Your mercy is great."

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

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface and Proper Preface

Music in hymnal, page 160

Sanctus ~ Holy, Holy, Holy

Music in hymnal, page 161

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.**

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini ~ The peace of the Lord

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

C: And also with you.

Agnus Dei ~ Lamb of God

Music in hymnal, page 163

Please sit

Distribution

We believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine, according to His Word: “This is My Body . . . this is My blood” (Matthew 26:26-27), and that in this sacrament our Lord gives us forgiveness of our sins, unity with God, and strength for a life of service.

We invite all baptized Christians who have made their First Communion, examined themselves, discern the body and blood of Christ in the sacrament for the forgiveness of their sins, and sincerely seek to amend their lives to join us at His Table.

Distribution procedure: Please come forward by the center aisle or as instructed by the usher. Fill the rail, beginning at the end near the wall. Kneel. Cup your hands to receive the bread. Then, take an individual cup from the tray as it is passed. **Cups in the innermost circle of the communion tray contain juice** for those who do not wish to drink wine. **For those who need gluten-free wafers:** Bring with you one of the brightly colored pieces of paper from the pews and hand it to the communion assistant who is distributing the wafers. That person will bring a gluten-free wafer to you.

Return to your seat via the aisle next to the windows. Place your empty communion cup in the bowl near the end of the rail. If you are unable to walk to the communion rail, please speak to an usher, and we will bring the sacrament to you.

Distribution Hymns “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”
 “Christ, the Word of God Incarnate”

Hymn No. 575
Hymn No. 540

Please stand

Prayer after Communion

P: God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ’s name.

C: **Amen.**

Blessing

P: The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you, God the Son save you, and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead. The holy Trinity bless you + and grant you a faithful and courageous heart now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn “‘How Shall They Hear,’ Who Have Not Heard”

Hymn No. 831
Verses 1-4

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude “Jubilation”

James Mansfield

During the postlude, please take a moment to get up and greet guests and worshippers at this service who are new to you. You are also welcome to stay seated for a time of prayer and reflection.

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Please join us for coffee and conversation following the service.

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Serving Today

	8:00	11:00
Worship Leader	Pastor Johann	Pastor Johann
Preacher	Pastor James	Pastor James
Crucifer	Hugh Conschafter	EJ Hoplin
Acolyte	*	Thatcher Hoplin
Scripture Reader	Georgia Thorstenson	Jim Micsan
Prayer Leader	Kirsten Bates	Joshua Stone
Cantor	Sarah Damers	Sarah Damers
Communion Assistants	Pastor Johann (host) Pastor James (host) Elizabeth Huang (tray) Melinda DeWan (tray)	Pastor Johann (host) Pastor James (host) Nancy McGarry (tray) *(tray)
Ushers	Dan Pelletier (lead) Bob Camin Dean Thorsell Rick Nickerson	Ron Voigt (lead) Marty Gurtz Jim Ellis Rob Fekete
Choir Director		Anne Lee
Handbell Director	Anne Lee	Anne Lee
Organist	Anne Lee	Anne Lee
Altar Care	Rhoda Camin	Linda Fekete
Projectionist	James Conschafter	Chloe Vanderhoof
Audio Engineer	Matt Hardy	Adam Sherman
Livestream Manager		Matt Hardy
Greeter	Heidi Cooper (door) *(welcome center)	Bill Ciesar (door) Deb Ciesar (door) June McGurn (welcome center)
Guest Welcome	Georgia Thorstenson	*
Engagement	Heidi Cooper	Heidi Cooper
Opener	Jim Smith	
Closer		Martin Farley
Coffee Setup	Wenda Smith	
Kitchen Cleanup		Drew Lipman

* = unfilled as of November 11

Board of Servant Leaders

Rob Fekete, chair
Tony Esse, vice-chair
John Purtilo, secretary

Larry Austin
Drew Lipman
Jennifer Pelletier
Bernie Schoch

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 (Randy and Melanie Stockman); 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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Sarah Brazell, Preschool Director

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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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Julie Schorfheide, Communications Assistant

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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

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