

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

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost & U.S. Semiquincentennial
July 5, 2026

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. The prophet describes an everlasting realm that contrasts with earthly nations, one marked by peace, humility, and freedom. Jesus associates with those excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with selfish desires; we lament flawed systems; and we seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather around word, water, and meal by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Here we find rest for our souls and hope for life in beloved community.

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. During the summer, Holy Communion is celebrated on the first, third, and fifth Sundays at the 9:30 a.m. "traditional" services in the sanctuary. Our summer schedule runs through September 6.

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 Bible studies for adults on Sunday mornings during the summer. See News and Announcements for class information. Sunday School classes for children and youth resume in the fall.

Need hearing assistance? Ask an usher for a headset, which has a direct feed from our sound system.

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).

Prelude "Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ" (BWV 639) J. S. Bach
(I Cry to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ)

Welcome Pastor James
Please stand

Opening Hymn "Lord, Open Thou My Heart to Hear" **Hymn No. 908**

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, source of hope in every nation, rest for the weary, glory and peace to the ends of the earth.

C: Amen.

P: Let us bring every burden to God.

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

P: God of all mercy,

C: we have sinned against you, our neighbors, and your creation. Within ourselves and our communities, our desire to do what is good is at war with the evil that dwells in us. We lament the evil that holds us captive. We repent of the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us for lives of compassion and courage through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: All-merciful, Almighty God forgive you all your sins through the grace of + Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit's power strengthen you in doing what is good.

C: Amen.

Please stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Kyrie ~ *Lord, have mercy* **Music in hymnal, pages 152-53**

Hymn of Praise "This Is the Feast" **Music in hymnal, page 155**

Salutation and Prayer of the Day **Music in hymnal, page 156**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all living in these lands the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Please sit

First Reading

Zechariah 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

- R: ⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 7:15-25a

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

- R: ¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Alleluia

Music in hymnal, page 156

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.** **Music in hymnal, page 157**

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

P: [Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶ “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸ “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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 “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

Hymn No. 699

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 “Yokeful Rest”

Pastor James

Musical Reflection

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

Communications Director Jeff Donahue

Offering

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

Anthem

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"
Sarah Damers, soprano

arr. John Cornish

Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing'
 Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
 Call for songs of loudest praise.
 While the hope of endless glory
 Fills my heart with joy and love,
 Teach me ever to adore thee;
 May I still thy goodness prove.
 Here I raise mine Ebenezer:
 "Hither by thy help I've come";
 And I hope, by thy good pleasure,
 Safely to arrive at home.
 Jesus sought me when a stranger,
 Wand'ring from the fold of God;
 He, to rescue me from danger,

Interposed his precious blood.
 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
 Daily I'm constrained to be;
 Let that grace now like a fetter
 Bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
 Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
 Prone to leave the God I love;
 Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
 Prone to leave the God I love;
 Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
 Seal it for thy courts above.
 Come, thou Fount. Take my heart,
 Seal it for thy courts above.

Please stand

Offertory Prayer

C: Blessed are you, O God, for waves of grain and harvesters, fruitful vines and winepresses, for our labor and our rest, for the gifts of your hand in this land. Transform us and what we offer into the banquet of your compassion, serving your love without limits through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

At the end of each petition, the prayer leader will say, "God of grace, ..."

The congregation responds, "hear our prayer."

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	“How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds”	Hymn No. 524
	“O Savior, Precious Savior”	Hymn No. 527
	“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”	Hymn No. 641

Please stand

Prayer after Communion

P: We thank you, God of heaven and earth, that you fill our deepest need with the very gift of Jesus Christ, broken and poured out for us. Pour us out into a broken world. Channel our common life toward the common good, following the way our Savior leads us now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: The Author of life, the Word of salvation, the Breath of new birth, + one God, bless you and equip you for living and serving, today and every day.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn	“Spread the Reign of God the Lord”	Hymn No. 830
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Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude	“Alle Menschen müssen sterben” (BWV 643) (All Men Living Are but Mortal)	J. S. Bach
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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.

Please remember Good Shepherd in your prayers and giving this summer.

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Please join us for coffee and conversation following the service.

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Serving Today	
Worship Leader	Pastor James
Preacher	Pastor James
Crucifer	*
Acolyte	*
Scripture Reader	Georgia Thorstenson
Prayer Leader	Chris Miller
Cantor	Sarah Damers
Communion Assistants	Pastor Gary James (host) Gary Budzier (host) David Ellison (tray) Elizabeth Huang (tray)
Ushers	Dan Pelletier (lead) Rob Fekete Brian Cors Jim Micsan
Organist	Richard Thibadeau
Altar Care	Linda Fekete
Projectionist	Chloe Vanderhoof
Audio Engineer	Adam Sherman
Livestream Manager	Matt Hardy
Greeter	Don Kidwell (door) Karen Kidwell (welcome center)
Guest Welcome	Deanine Thrash
Engagement	Heidi Cooper
Opener	Ric Nickerson
Closer	Martin Farley
Coffee Setup	Drew Lipman
Kitchen Cleanup	Mia Millman

* = unfilled as of July 1

Thank you to our guest organist, Richard Thibadeau, a native Washingtonian, who did his undergraduate work at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, and recently wrapped up 19 years as Music Director at Christ Church on Capitol Hill.

Board of Servant Leaders

Tony Esse, chair
Paul Devine, vice-chair
John Purtilo, secretary

Rob Fekete
Andrew Otterbacher
Dan 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 Franker), 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

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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