

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

Midweek Service: Bread from Heaven
February 25, 2026 | 12:00 p.m.

Jesus, the "Bread from Heaven," gives us Himself for our earthly pilgrimage. When the Israelites grumbled during their journey through the wilderness (Exodus. 16:1-5), God rained down bread from heaven. This bread satisfied their physical hunger, but it did not allow them to live forever. In His incarnate Son, God has once again rained down bread from heaven for His people (John 6:27-35). Unlike the manna that God gave to the Israelites in the wilderness, this bread endures to eternal life. And our Lord has promised that if anyone eats of this bread, he will never die. God knows that our life's journey is difficult, so He strengthens and nourishes our souls with the "body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine" (Small Catechism) – the salutary gift of the Lord's Supper. In this holy gift, those who "hunger and thirst for righteousness" are truly satisfied. Like the disciples, we pray, "Lord, give us this bread always!" And so He does.

Prelude

Please stand

Hymn "The Fruit of Love Once Blooming" *see insert*

Opening Sentences

P: Let my prayer be counted as incense before You,
C: **and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**
P: In the night in which He was betrayed our Lord took bread and wine,
C: **to celebrate the Passover meal of the old covenant with His disciples.**
P: In the night in which He was betrayed our Lord took bread and wine,
C: **to institute the meal of the new covenant in His blood.**
P: The cup of blessing that we bless,
C: **is it not a participation in the blood of Christ?**
P: The bread that we break,
C: **is it not a participation in the body of Christ?**
P: As often as we eat this bread and drink the cup,
C: **we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.**
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.

Confession

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Worshippers turn to face one another across the center aisle and observe silence for self-examination.

Pulpit side: **I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thinking, speaking, and acting, with only myself to blame. Moreover, I have failed to appreciate the gifts**

of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come through the Lord's Supper. I pray God Almighty to forgive me my sins and to use this Lent to increase my faith and understanding.

Other side: *The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon and peace, forgiveness and growth in grace. Amen.*

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Pulpit side: *The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon and peace, forgiveness and growth in grace. Amen.*

Please sit

Psalmody

Psalm 105: 1-8, 37-42

P: Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name;

C: **make known His deeds among the peoples!**

P: Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;

C: **tell of all His wondrous works!**

P: Glory in His holy name;

C: **let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!**

P: Seek the LORD and His strength;

C: **seek His presence continually!**

P: Remember the wondrous works that He has done,

C: **His miracles, and the judgments He uttered,**

P: O offspring of Abraham, His servant,

C: **children of Jacob, His chosen ones!**

P: He is the LORD our God;

C: **His judgments are in all the earth.**

P: He remembers His covenant forever,

C: **the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations.**

P: Then He brought out Israel with silver and gold,

C: **and there was none among His tribes who stumbled.**

P: Egypt was glad when they departed,

C: **for dread of them had fallen upon it.**

P: He spread a cloud for a covering,

C: **and fire to give light by night.**

P: They asked, and He brought quail,

C: **and gave them bread from heaven in abundance.**

P: He opened the rock, and water gushed out;

C: **it flowed through the desert like a river.**

P: For He remembered His holy promise,
C: **and Abraham, His servant.**
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.

Reading

Exodus 16:1-12

God promises bread from heaven in the wilderness.

L: A reading from the sixteenth chapter of Exodus.

They set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the people of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, and the people of Israel said to them,

C: **“Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”**

L: Then the LORD said to Moses,

P: “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.”

L: So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel:

P: “At evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because He has heard your grumbling against the LORD. For what are we, that you grumble against us? [And Moses said,] When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against Him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD.”

L: Then Moses said to Aaron,

P: “Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, ‘Come near before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.’”

L: And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.
And the LORD said to Moses,

P: I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, “At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.”

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Reading

John 6:27-35

Jesus proclaims Himself the bread from heaven.

- L: A reading from the sixth chapter of John.
[Jesus said,] Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on Him God the Father has set His seal. Then they said to Him,
- C: “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?”**
- L: Jesus answered them,
- P: “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.”
- L: So they said to Him,
- C: “Then what sign do You do, that we may see and believe You? What work do You perform? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”**
- L: Jesus said to them,
- P: “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”
- L: They said to Him,
- C: “Sir, give us this bread always.”**
- L: Jesus said to them,
- P: “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.”
- L: O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C: Thanks be to God.**

Please sit

Hymn “O Living Bread from Heaven” **Hymn No. 642**

Message “Bread from Heaven” Pastor Johann

Musical Reflection

Offering Moment

Offerings will be placed in the plate by the entry doors.

Canticle “Christ, the Word of God Incarnate” **Hymn No. 540**
Verses 1-2

Please stand

Salutation

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, offering fruit from the tree of life,

C: **by Your word of Law accuse every prideful thought in us, and by Your precious Gospel call us to repentance and a firm faith in Your gift of eternal life.**

L: Lord Jesus, bread from heaven,

C: **feed us always that we may neither hunger nor thirst, but continually be ready for whatever temptations we might face in this wilderness until our journey's end.**

L: Lord Jesus, whose forgiveness is healing medicine,

C: **bind up our sin-sick souls and heal our wounded consciences so that Your life may flow through us.**

L: Lord Jesus, offering a blest communion in the Lord's Supper,

C: **we give thanks that in spite of our sinful condition You bring us into fellowship with You and one another, acceptable in Your sight by Your atoning grace.**

L: Lord Jesus, rest for the weary,

C: **lift the burden of our sins, we pray, and refresh our souls so that we may serve You each day and invite others to join us on our journey toward an eternal Sabbath.**

L: Lord Jesus, who invites us to the heavenly nuptial feast,

C: **bestow on us hearts of love and joy each time we partake of the Lord's Supper, a foretaste of the feast to come.**

L: Lord Jesus, whose sacrifice instituted the new covenant,

C: **enable us to receive in true faith Your assurance that our separating sins have been forgiven in time and eternity.**

L: Lord Jesus, who received the Father's wrath in our stead on the cross,

C: **each time we receive Your body and blood in the Lord's Supper, grant that we may recognize the gravity of our sin and the reality of Your grace.**

L: Lord Jesus, God's Passover Lamb,

C: **give us hearts single-mindedly fixed on You, whose blood has saved us from the wrath we deserve and whose victory over death has opened to us eternal life.**

L: Lord Jesus, who has made the Lord's Supper Your feast of victory,

C: **with saints and angels we praise and glorify Your holy name here in time until we join them to sing Your praises face-to-face.**

Prayer for Peace

L: Let us pray. O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works,

C: **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;**

L: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

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.**

Nunc Dimittis ~ *Song of Simeon*

Music in hymnal, page 165

Benediction

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, and † Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn "Stay with Us"

Hymn No. 879

Dismissal

P: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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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Serving Today	
Worship Leader	Pastor Johann
Preacher	Pastor Johann
Scripture Reader	Geoff Lunt
Prayer Leader	Geoff Lunt
Ushers	*(lead) Bernie Schoch
Organist	Anne Lee
Projectionist	Jeff Donahue
Audio Engineer	Matt Hardy
Greeter	Kelly Nield (door) June McGurn (welcome center)

* = unfilled as of February 24

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

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 Franker), communications (Jeff Donahue), and technology (Gary Budzier).

Good Shepherd's Staff

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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