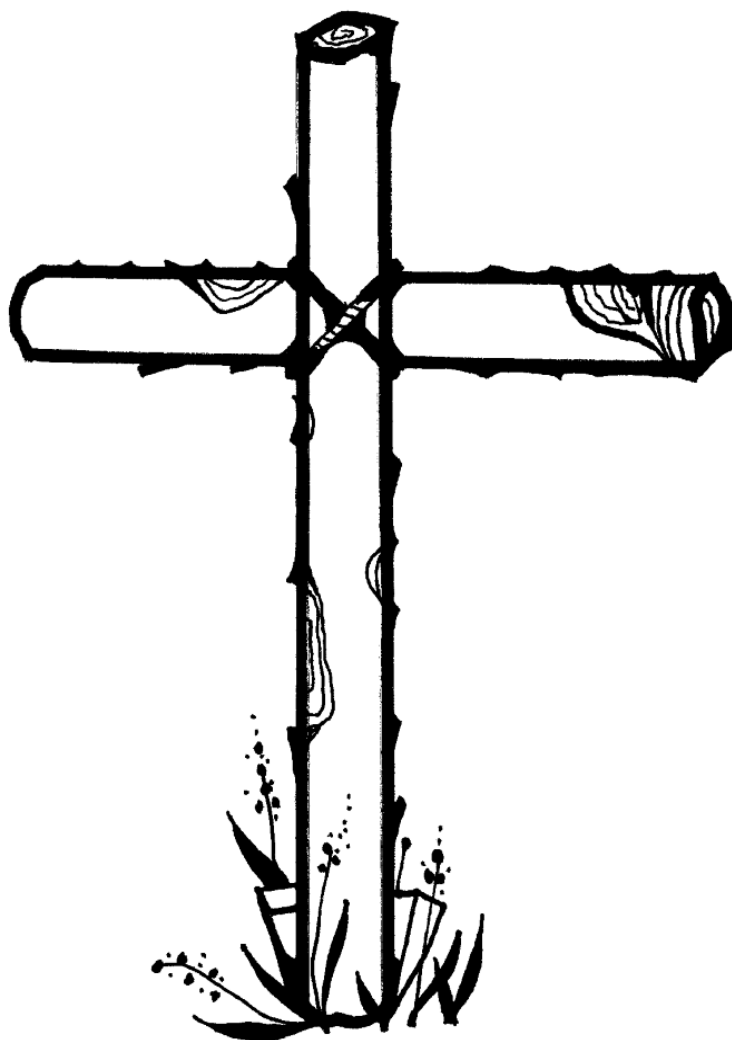




GOOD SHEPHERD

LUTHERAN CHURCH



March 17, 2021
Midweek Lenten Devotion

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

Midweek Lenten Devotion
March 17, 2021

"And for three days [Saul] was without sight, and neither ate nor drank." Acts 9:9

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Pastor Johann

OPENING HYMN

"Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

Hymn No. 611



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,
wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
all to me; All my wants to Him are known,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to
All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.
walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.
hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.

INVOCATION, CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

[P] The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

C Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. (Romans 3:19–20)

We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do, I do not do, but what I hate, I do. (Romans 7:14–15)

So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched person I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? (Romans 7:21, 23–24)

Service of the Word

FIRST READING

Acts 7 & 8 (Selected verses)

L Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he [Stephen], full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

SECOND READING

Acts 9 (Selected verses)

L Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying." "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

2 Praise for the light from heav - en And
 for the voice of awe; Praise for the glo - rious
 vi - sion The per - se - cu - tor saw. O
 Lord, for Paul's con - ver - sion, We bless Your name to -
 day; Come shine with - in our dark - ness,
 And guide us on our way.

MESSAGE

"Paul's Monologue: God's Will & My Worldview"

Pastor Johann

(The message is delivered as a dramatic monologue, with the pastor in the role of Paul)

REFLECTIVE RESPONSE**OFFERING****OFFERING PRAYER**

Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this journey, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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.

BLESSING

May the Lord Jesus Christ, who once came into our world as a human child in answer to God's faithful promise, be with you now as we depart this place. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God our Father, and the peace of the Holy Spirit, be with you and strengthen you as you walk with him.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"What Is the World to Me"

Hymn No. 730



1 What is the world to me With all its vaunt - ed plea - sure
2 The world seeks to be praised And hon - ored by the might - y
3 The world seeks af - ter wealth And all that mam - mon of - fers
4 What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my trea - sure,



When You, and You a - lone, Lord Je - sus, are my trea - sure!
Yet nev - er once re - flects That they are frail and flight - y.
Yet nev - er is con - tent Though gold should fill its cof - fers.
My life, my health, my wealth, My friend, my love, my plea - sure,



You on - ly, dear - est Lord, My soul's de - light shall be;
But what I tru - ly prize A - bove all things is He,
I have a high - er good, Con - tent with it I'll be:
My joy, my crown, my all, My bliss e - ter - nal - ly.



You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!
My Je - sus, He a - lone. What is the world to me!
My Je - sus is my wealth. What is the world to me!
Once more, then, I de - clare: What is the world to me!

DISMISSAL

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We hope you will continue to connect with us by liking our Facebook page and following our Instagram account. Find them by searching @gslcva within these social media 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! If you have any questions, please reach out to grace@gslcva.org.

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Director of Music
Organist
Singers

Reader
Video & Audio Production

Worship Materials Support

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Nemeh Azzam
Todd Grivetti
Erin Bullock
Adam Cioffari
Emma Gorin
Jessica Hodges
Mauricio Miranda
Martin Rathmann
Chrissy Tangredi
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BOARD OF SERVANT LEADERS

Jim Micsan, Chair

Leta Kent

Anne Morgan

Ted Lillestolen, Vice-Chair

Will Metts

Vicki Peter

Josh Linder, Secretary

CORE MINISTRY AREAS

Worship

Team Leaders: Georgia Thorstenson and Julie Schorfheide;

Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

music, seasonal celebrations, arts, worship schedule, Sanctuary Choir, Children's Choir (Laura Owens), traditional, contemporary, physical space, support personnel (e.g., ushers, greeters, acolytes)

Discipleship

Team Leader: Andy Muich

adult education, Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, family ministry, children's ministry, youth ministry

Parish Life

Team Leader: Brian Cors; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

Life Groups (Brian Cors), member engagement, fellowship events, new member inclusion (Melinda DeWan), concerts, public events, picnics, intergenerational events

Administration

Team Leader: Pastor Johann

property (Roger Thorstenson), financing the mission (Mike DeWan), stewardship (Don Kidwell), human resources/personnel (Matt Franker), communications, contracts, church office, calendar/program management, technology

Mission

Team Leader: Matt Dickert; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

world missions, synod, outreach, social ministry, community service, evangelism, publicity, media, social media

Congregational Care

Team Leader: Marilyn Voigt; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

member care visits, emergency transportation, maintain roster of the willing, guest follow-up

Good Shepherd is a member congregation of the Southeastern District
of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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We will be a congregation known for building up God's people through His Word for His world.

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During worship, God comes to us through his gifts of Word and Sacrament. What a joy to respond with prayer and songs of praise. Our worship services give us opportunity to listen to God's word and meditate upon it, thus feeding our faith; and express our concerns for our friends, families, community, and the world through prayer.

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We are called to actively share the Good News of Jesus Christ through word and deed. One way we share is by serving one another and our neighbors in our community and throughout the world. Look at our Community Service Opportunities listing to find a way to serve.

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We are committed to spiritual growth through the weekly gathering for prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, and through lifelong learning. In addition to growing in knowledge, we want to grow in love and service to others within and beyond our church community.

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As we grow in our love for Jesus and our neighbors, as we serve our neighbors near and far, we help and encourage one another, challenge one another, and share one another's joys and sorrows. We build strong ties when we gather for worship as well as for events throughout the week. Look inside for many opportunities for connection.



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