

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church
The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 Sunday, September 7, 2025



Boldly engaging the world as God's shepherds, sharing God's blessings and creating Heaven on Earth, one person at a time.

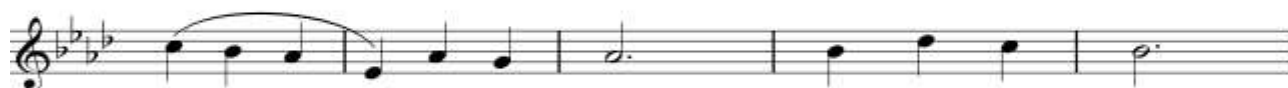
Holy Eucharist – 10:00 a.m.

Prelude Grace Greater Than Sin arr. Hustad

Processional *Earth and all stars* Hymnal 412



1	Earth	and	all	stars,	loud	rush - ing	plan - ets,	sing	to the
2	Hail,	wind,	and	rain,	loud	blow - ing	snow - storms,	sing	to the
3	Trum - pet	and	pipes,	loud	clash - ing	cym - bals,	sing	to the	
4	En - gines	and	steel,	loud	pound - ing	ham - mers,	sing	to the	
5	Class - rooms	and	labs,	loud	boil - ing	test - tubes,	sing	to the	
6	Know - ledge	and	truth,	loud	sound - ing	wis - dom,	sing	to the	



1	Lord	a new	song!	O	vic - to - ry,
2	Lord	a new	song!	Flow - ers	and trees,
3	Lord	a new	song!	Harp, lute,	and lyre,
4	Lord	a new	song!	Lime - stone	and beams,
5	Lord	a new	song!	Ath - lete	and band,
6	Lord	a new	song!	Daugh - ter	and son,



1	loud shout - ing	ar - my,	sing to the	Lord	a new	song!
2	loud rus - tling	dry leaves,	sing to the	Lord	a new	song!
3	loud hum - ming	cel - los,	sing to the	Lord	a new	song!
4	loud build - ing	work - ers,	sing to the	Lord	a new	song!
5	loud cheer - ing	peo - ple,	sing to the	Lord	a new	song!
6	loud pray - ing	mem - bers,	sing to the	Lord	a new	song!



He hath done mar - vel - ous things.



I, too, will praise him with a new song!

Salutation

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People *Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.*

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Gloria

Hymnal S280

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

Jeremiah 18:1-11

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the LORD came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the LORD. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the LORD: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

Reader *The Word of the Lord.*
People *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 139:1-5, Chanted

- 1 LORD, you have searched me out and known me; *
 you know my sitting down and my rising up;
 you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
 and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
 but you, O LORD, know it altogether.
- 4 You press upon me behind and before *
 and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
 it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

The Second Lesson

Philemon 1-21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow
soldier, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love
for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith
may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have
indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the
saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I
would rather appeal to you on the basis of love-- and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and
now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus,
whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you,
but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own
heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in
your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without
your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced.
Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have
him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother--
especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Hymn Lord, thou hast searched me (vs 1-2) Hymnal 702

Unison or harmony

1 Lord, thou hast searched me and dost know wher -
2 My words from thee I can - not hide; I
3 Where can I go a - part from thee, or
4 If I the wings of morn - ing take, and
5 If deep - est dark - ness cov - er me, the

1 e'er I rest, wher - e'er I go; thou know - est all
2 feel thy power on ev - ery side; oh, won - drous know -
3 whith - er from thy pres - ence flee? In heaven? It is
4 far a - way my dwell - ing make, the hand that lead -
5 dark - ness hid - eth not from thee; to thee both night

1 that I have planned, and all my ways are in thy hand.
2 ledge, aw - ful might, un - fath - omed depth, un - mea - sured height!
3 thy dwell - ing fair; in death's a - bode? Lo, thou art there.
4 eth me is thine, and my sup - port thy power di - vine.
5 and day are bright, the dark - ness shin - eth as the light.

Words: *The Psalter Hymnal*, 1927; para. of Psalm 139:1-11. Music: *Tender Thought*, from *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816.
Arrangement as in *Hymnal for Colleges and Schools* (1956), edited by E. Harold Geer. Copyright © Yale University Press. Used by permission.

Holy Gospel

Luke 14:25-33

Celebrant People

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

*Celebrant
People*

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Hymn

Lord, thou hast searched me (v 3)

Hymnal 702

Homily

The Rev. Dr. Bill Breedlove

Nicene Creed

Book of Common Prayer p. 358

Prayers of the People: Form 6

Book of Common Prayer p. 392

Confession

Book of Common Prayer p. 393

Peace

Celebrant People

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Announcements

Holy Communion

Offertory He Leadeth Me arr. by Greg Gilpin for Choir and flute accompaniment
Flautist: Trish Reynolds

Doxology (v. 3) Hymnal 380

Great Thanksgiving Enriching Our Worship I
The people remain standing

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	<i>And also with you.</i>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	<i>We lift them to the Lord.</i>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	<i>It is right to give our thanks and praise.</i>

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with creation as we sing:

Sanctus Hymnal S125

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love.

Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.

Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world.

Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Joseph, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.

Lord's Prayer (Sung)

Blue Songbook pg. 75

Fraction

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Invitation to Communion

Communion Syrinx
 Flautist: Teresa LeMaire

C. Debussy

Post Communion Prayer

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

Recessional

Christians awake, salute the happy morn

Hymnal 106

1 Chris - tians, a - wake, sa - lute the hap - py morn
2 Then to the watch - ful shep - herds it was told,
*3 He spoke, and straight - way the ce - les - tial choir
*4 In Beth - le - hem the hap - py shep - herds sought
5 Let us, like these good shep - herds, then em - ploy

1 where - on the Sa - vior of the world was born;
2 who heard the an - gel - ic her - ald's voice: "Be - hold,
3 in hymns of joy, un - known be - fore, con - spire;
4 to see the won - der God for us had wrought,
5 our grate - ful voic - es to pro - claim the joy;

1 rise to a - dore the mys - ter - y of love,
2 I bring good tid - ings of a Sa - vior's birth
3 the prais - es of re - deem - ing love they sang,
4 and found, with Jo - seph and the bless - ed maid,
5 trace we the Babe, who hath re - trieved our loss,

Dismissal

Postlude

God of Grace and Glory

Gorden Young

Prayer is available at the altar.

Those Who Serve

10:00am:

EMs: Sharon Kyser, Amy Nicolson; **Lector:** Furie Soles; **Intercessor:** Carol Smucker;
Usher: Joe Rybicki; **Altar Guild:** Jan Chatterton, Gail Criss;
Altar Linens: Kathy Marcel; **Nursery:** Kathy Marcel, Barb Field;
Flower Guild: Barb Field; **VPOD:** Patti Brownlee; **Videographer:** Jay Miller;
Ingles cards: Elizabeth Rybicki; **Greeter:** Laurie Wright

Stewardship Reflections

Our theme for the 2026 Stewardship Campaign is Making Choices. Today and each Sunday in September you will find a brief reflection on the scripture concerning the choices we make. These are offered for your use as you consider the gifts of time, talent, and treasure you will choose to pledge toward the work of this church in 2026.

Luke 14:25-33

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ... none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

Quite the shocking statement about discipleship from Jesus. "None of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions." And before that, that we must hate family and carry a cross if we are to be his disciple. These are hard sayings and call us to make hard choices, and that is a good thing. Jesus calls us to do the harder thing that will bear the greater fruit for our souls and for the mission of God in the world. He calls us to a commitment, to making a choice for him and his way of sacrifice and service above our commitment to anything else. Hyperbole is for emphasis, so do not literally hate your family or despise your possession. But, choose what is primary and all other things will be added (see Matthew 6).

Christian Education

Wednesday- Lectionary Bible Study

We meet on Wednesdays at 1:00pm in the Undercroft. This group works through the appointed readings for the following Sunday. Please contact Fr. Bill for more information.

Spiritual Journaling, a spiritual practice that incorporates Gratitude, Paying Attention, and Reflection is a powerful tool for self-development & awareness and spiritual growth. There are many different journaling methods, and when starting out, it can be unclear where to begin, or what technique to use. If you're interested in journaling, you are invited to join in a time to learn from one another and share our journaling experiences. Our class will be held from 10-11:30am in the Library **each Thursday in September: 4, 11, 18, 25**. Please, contact Carol Smucker with questions/interest: 706-994-8104 or carolsmucker@hotmail.com

Parish Life and Church Community

We are in need **volunteers for the nursery**. Please, contact Liz Rybicki @ 404-510-0246 if interested.

The **Bethel Guidry Scholarship** awards 2 scholarships each year to deserving students at the 2 local high schools. Our Annual **Golf Tournament** raises money for these scholarships and will be held this year on **September 20th**. Donations payable to Good Shepherd (memo: Golf Tournament) can be left in the church office, in the offering plate, or with Sanford or Kevin in the parish hall after services. Additionally, volunteers are needed to help serve lunch and run the fund raising games on the 20th. See Kevin Conley or Sanford Freeman if you have questions.

Interested in learning how to make a pretty handmade card? Come join our **Stamping Class** for a day of creativity and fellowship. No experience needed. Your class instructors, Kaye TeRonde and Jan Freeman will guide you through the steps to create a greeting card friends and family will cherish. All supplies provided. The next date is **Wednesday, September 24th from 1p to 4p** in the Parish Hall. Cost is \$12 for 4 cards. Sign up on the hallway bulletin board if you plan to attend. For further information contact Kaye TeRonde at kteronde@gmail.com or Jan Freeman at jansfreeman@gmail.com.

Your input is needed! The **Arts & Spirituality Ministry** has plans to publish a booklet of "Reflections and Meditations on Advent" but we need more submissions. At this time, we have very few and the deadline for submissions is a month away. What traditions do your family have for the season of Advent? We invite you to share them with our parish family.

Submissions must be received by September 22, 2025. Please, submit to Mary Ann Miller at mayrannmiller1002@gmail.com.

The “ber” months are here. It's time to **clean up the church grounds** and put things to rest for the winter. If you're available and would like to come help, we'll be gathering at the church on **September 27th at 9am**. Lunch will be provided and we ask that you **please sign-up** if you plan to participate. Bring your gloves, clippers and anything you might need to get the job done! Please call Jeff with any questions: 423-744-4107.

Deadline for Sunday Bulletin Announcements and Weekly Highlights –
No later than Wednesday of each week at noon

Service

Matt's Ministry – Contact Joe Rybicki

Meal Ministry – Contact Kathy Wright

Medical Loan Closet – Contact Helga Reaves

The Order of St. George – Contact Turner Guidry at 828-361-0497

Brotherhood of the Fire – Contact Turner Guidry at 828-361-0497

Meals For Friends– Contact Aline Conley at 504-214-1909

Drivers on **September 9, 2025** are:

Town: Linda Milt

City: Jan Freeman

Tusquittee: Aline Conley

In Our Prayers

Those in Need of Comfort and Healing: *Pat Fox, Pat Halloran, Chosh Dacey, Linda Wingo, Pat Hicks, BJ and Bob Schweikert, Bev Larson, Chris Mulholland, Patti and Chuck Underwood, Ed and Sue Kelley, Jeanne Harper, Nora and Rich Broszeit, Ann Wolf, Wally Figura, Ella Angelillo, Philip Bannister, Frank Burdo, Helen NaiSmith, Teresa and David Gribble, Mary Strange, Cooper Godfrey, OV Lewis, Shiloh Farmer, Sallie Free, Brenda Scheneman, Meagan Borro, Tom and Angela Wilkerson, Adelaide Fullilove, Shane Douylliez, Janice Lemaire, Jay Miller, Anne Hourdequin, Meghan Hoffer, Kelly Crawford, the Bateman family, Jim Toncos, Randy Emberg, Vicki Lake & the Garpetti family, Lillian Mann*

Good Shepherd Ministries – This week we pray for the *The 2026 Stewardship Campaign* at Good Shepherd.

Calendar

Monday

September 8

9:00 am	Exercise Class
9:00 am	Women Walking, Women Talking @ Chatuge Dam
10:00 am	Crafts Group

Tuesday

September 9

10:00 am	Yoga
6:00 pm	Brotherhood of the Fire
7:00 pm	Soaking Prayer

Wednesday

September 10

9:00 am	Exercise
12:00 pm	Holy Eucharist
1:00 pm	Lectionary

Thursday

September 11

6:45 am	Order of St. George
10:00 am	Yoga
10:00 am	Spiritual Journaling (Library)
11:30 am	DOK Meeting (Undercroft)
6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal

Friday

September 12

9:00 am	Parish Office Closed
	Exercise Class

Saturday

September 13

No Activities Scheduled

Sunday

September 14

9:00 am	Holy Eucharist Rite I
11:00 am	Holy Eucharist Rite II

Jesus Christ, Head of the Church

The Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin, Bishop
The Rev. Dr. Bill Breedlove, Rector
The Rev. Dr. Delmer Chilton, Theologian in Residence
The Rev. Beverly Braine, Priest Associate
The Rev. Dcn. Turner Guidry (Ret.)
Mary Carol Campbell, Organist
Teresa Lemaire, Director of Music
Susan Wyman, Bookkeeper
Kevin Conley, Treasurer
Tawanna Dutton, Assistant Treasurer
Liz Rybicki, Nursery Supervisor
Jon Czarnecki, Sexton
Amanda Farmer, Parish Administrator

VESTRY

Sr. Warden: David Gribble; Jr. Warden: Phil Cox
Class of 2025: Patti Brownlee, David Gribble, Pam Roman
Class of 2026: Phil Cox, Tawanna Dutton, Betsi Wilson
Class of 2027: Jose Arias, Aline Conley, Jeff King

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