

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost  
*Pride Sunday - September 27, 2026*  
8:30 & 11:00 am and Livestream



*Through Him, All Things* by Lauren Wright Pittman

**FAITH . DISCIPLESHIP . COMMUNITY**  
**THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

The Rev. Drew McCaffery, Pastor

At The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, we embrace the uniqueness of every individual and respect their dignity and worth, for all are created in the image of God. We strive to welcome everyone in the fullness of who they are.

Let us call together for reconciliation, and live out God's vision of love for people of every sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, socio-economic status, age, physical or mental ability, political persuasion, race, ethnicity, and personal history. Let us walk together to strive for racial equity, as Jesus calls us to do.

All people are welcome here to worship, build community, and grow together as Jesus' disciples at this place.



# ✦ GATHERING ✦

## Prelude

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

**P** *Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the fountain of living water, the light that no gloom can overcome, the embrace that calls us beloved.*

**C** **Amen**

**P** *Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with mercy and forgiveness, named as God's children, and set free to walk in the glory of Christ.*

**C** **Through these waters, God gathers a community -- queer and straight, trans and cisgender, intersex, questioning, asexual, ally, and those who wish to understand more, of every race and culture, so that no one must walk alone, but together we live in God's love.**

**P** *Let us give thanks for these waters which brings us together.*

*Water is poured into the font*

**P** *We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of creation: for rivers and rain, oceans and springs. We give you thanks for the waters that sustain our community.*

*We give you thanks for the waters of liberation: the Red Sea, the Jordan, the baptism of Jesus in the river.*

*We give you thanks for the waters that claim us as your children and make us one body in Christ. Shine in us with the light of Christ, that we may see your face in one another, resist every form of hatred and oppression, and rejoice in the freedom of your love.*

*To you be given honor and praise, with the Spirit who broods over the waters, today and forever.*

**C Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn

## *Gather Us In*

No. 532



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the  
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the  
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the  
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

**P** *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*  
**C** **And also with you.**

**Hymn of Praise**

*Bless the Lord*

Tore W. Aas

Bless the Lord, O my soul  
Bless the Lord, O my soul  
Bless the Lord, O my soul  
Praise His holy name.

*Repeat 2 more times*

*Sing each line after leader*

The Lord is good  
He reigns forever  
He's merciful  
Bless His holy name

*Repeat first part 3x*

**P** *The Lord be with you.*  
**C** **And also with you.**

**A** *Let us pray. God of Beauty,*

**C** **you gather your beloved children into your care, each one a unique image of you. You claim us as your own and call us to follow in the ways of mercy, justice, and joy. Help us move on from lament to build a foundation out of your loving kindness and justice. Strengthen our changing hearts and minds to continue the work of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## ✦ THE WORD ✦

### First Reading

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

**A** *A reading from Ezekiel. <sup>1</sup> The word of the Lord came to me: <sup>2</sup> What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? <sup>3</sup> As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup> Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.*

*<sup>25</sup> Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup> When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. <sup>27</sup> Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup> Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup> Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?*

*<sup>30</sup> Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup> Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup> For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.*

**A** *The word of the Lord.*

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm**

Psalm 25:1-9

**A** <sup>1</sup> *To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.*

**C** <sup>2</sup> **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

**A** <sup>3</sup> *Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.*

**C** <sup>4</sup> **Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.**

**A** <sup>5</sup> *Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.*

**C** <sup>6</sup> **Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

**A** <sup>7</sup> *Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.*

**C** <sup>8</sup> **You are gracious and upright, O Lord; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

**A** <sup>9</sup> *You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.*

## **Second Reading**

Philippians 2:1-13

**A** *A reading from Philippians. <sup>1</sup> If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,*  
*<sup>6</sup> who, though he existed in the form of God,*

*did not regard equality with God  
as something to be grasped,  
<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
assuming human likeness.  
And being found in appearance as a human,  
<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.*

*<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him even more highly  
and gave him the name  
that is above every other name,  
<sup>10</sup> so that at the name given to Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.*

*<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not  
only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your  
own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work  
in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

**A** *The word of the Lord.*

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

## **Holy Gospel**

Matthew 21:23-32

**P** *The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the Twenty-first chapter.*  
**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>23</sup> When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup> Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup> Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?'" <sup>26</sup> But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what

*authority I am doing these things.*

*<sup>28</sup> “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ <sup>29</sup> He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup> The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. <sup>31</sup> Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup> For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”*

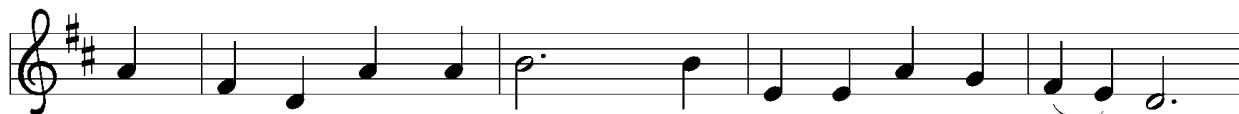
**P**    *The Gospel of the Lord.*  
**C**    **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

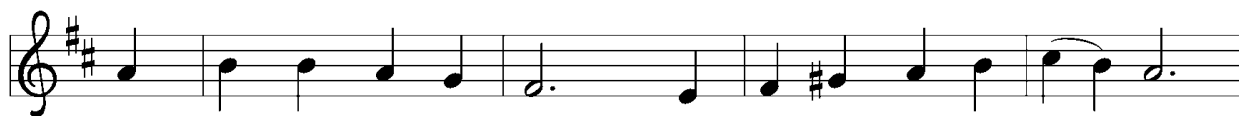
## **Sermon**

The Rev. Mo Goff  
*Pastor, Dreams & Visions, Baltimore*  
*Contract Pastor, New Hope, Columbia*

*Please stand as you are able.*



1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,  
 2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing  
 3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;  
 4 When dan-gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;



with - out whom noth-ing is, all per-fect gifts be - stow - ing:  
 what - ev - er you com-mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—  
 guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;  
 help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer-less;



give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in  
 to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless  
 but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,  
 help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,



a con-science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.  
 what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.  
 then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.  
 and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

**A** *Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:*

**C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended**

**into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**A** *Gracious Lord, Let streams of your living justice flow down upon the earth,*

*A brief silence.*

*After each portion of the prayers:*

**A** *O God of compassion,*

**C** **Receive our offering.**

*The prayers conclude:*

**P** *God of all, we offer to you these prayers and those we hold in our hearts, continue to fill us with the hope and the understanding that we have been made in your image, yet weaving our diversity into one beautiful tapestry that we respect and uplift.*

**C** **Amen.**

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

**C** **And also with you.**

*After sharing the peace, please be seated.*

## **Offering**

**Choir Anthem**

*Sing of the Lord's Goodness*

Ernest Sands



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

*As the gifts are presented, please stand, as you are able.*

**A** *Let us pray. God of Creation,*  
**C** **you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.**

### ✦ THE EUCHARIST ✦

**P** *The Lord be with you.*  
**C** **And also with you.**

**P** *Lift up your hearts.*

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**P** *It is indeed our right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, God of justice and accompaniment, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You made us all in your image; in the spirit of abounding love and creativity, you formed us. You sent us your advocate so that we can know how to advocate for our beloveds as you strengthen us to love and uphold one another. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

*The thanksgiving continues with the preface; the congregation responds:*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**P** *Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.*

*You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.*

*In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.*

*By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.*

**C** **Amen.**

**P** *Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:*

**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.**

**P** *Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!*

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

*Please be seated.*

*All are welcome at the Lord's Table! Whether you are a member of this church or a visitor, the Communion celebrated here is "open" to all who trust that our Lord Jesus Christ—his true Body and his true Blood—is present for All of God's People.*

*(Note: should you prefer, we also offer gluten free wafers and grape juice.)*

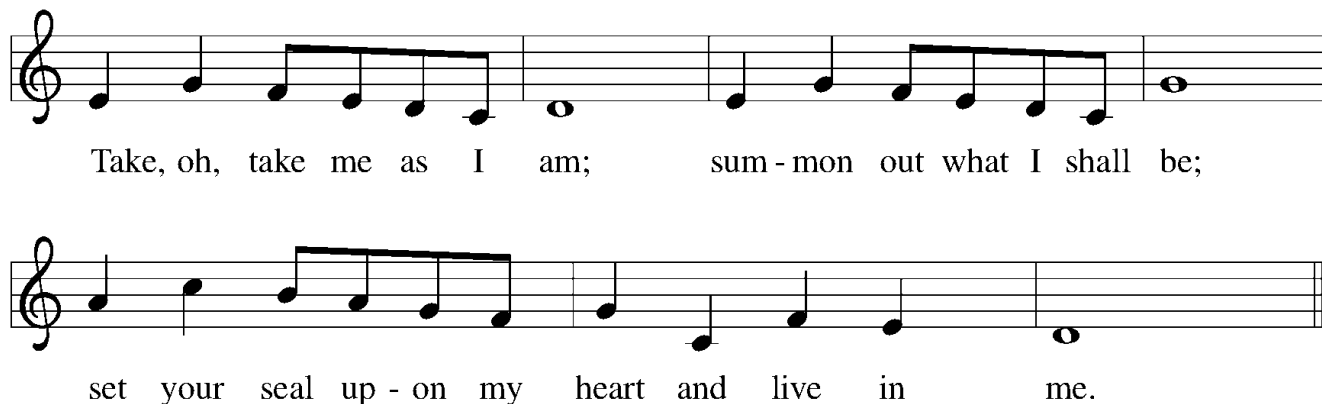
*During the distribution, the following is sung:*

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

## Communion Hymn

### *Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am*

*Refrain only after all have communed*



*After all have communed, please stand, as you are able.*

**P** *The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

**C** **Amen.**

**A** *Let us pray. Sustaining God,*

**C** **with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

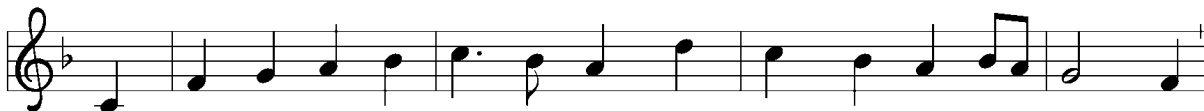
### ✦ SENDING ✦

**P** *May the Creator of all embolden us to be fiercely and authentically human. May the Holy Protector guide us as we continue to discover the fullness of who we are. And may the Spirit of Truth and Wisdom guide us to seek justice for all.*

**C** **Amen.**



1 What God or - dains is good in-deed, for all life well pro - vid - ing.  
2 What God or - dains is good in-deed: my light, my life, my Sav - ior!  
3 What God or - dains is good in-deed. When hope seems like de - lu - sion,  
4 What God or - dains is good in-deed. My Lord will nev - er fail me



The will of God is best for me, the ground of my con - fid - ing.  
No ill can get the best of me; God's care will nev - er wa - ver.  
I taste the bit - ter cup and plead, "Lord, quench my fear, con - fu - sion."  
on dan-ger's path, in deep-est need, when death in grief shall veil me.



My faith - ful God, on ev - 'ry road you know the way un -  
Through joy and pain I shall at - tain the dawn dis - clos - ing  
God ends the night, re - stores de - light; by faith I face to -  
My God so dear will draw me near, in lov - ing arms will



fold - ing and my hand you are hold - ing.  
clear - ly that God has loved me dear - ly.  
mor - row and yield to God all sor - row.  
hold me, at last in light en - fold me.

**A** *Go forth with courage, loving God and serving neighbors.*

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*Thank you to Pastor Mo Goff for leading worship this morning and  
bringing us the word!*

**Pray for Those That Need God's Healing**

*Paul, Lynne, Andrea, Al, Joan, Daisy, Betty,  
Jean, Nancy, Nick and Lois*

**The Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God**

*by Bruce & Gail Amrein in honor of their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.*

**SUN SEPT 27**

**PULPIT SWAP & PRESENTATION  
“HOW TO BE AN ALLY TO  
2SLGBTQIA+ PEOPLE”**

***THE REV. MO GOFF***

*Dreams & Visions, Baltimore, and  
New Hope Lutheran Church in Columbia*



**9:45 - 10:45 in Celebration Hall**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## SERVING TODAY

8:30 am

11:00 am

Assisting Minister

Tina Zimmerman

Sherman Canapp, OSSD

Communion Assistants

Lis Miller

Ushers

Doyle McCracken  
Sherman Canapp, OSSD

Monica Thayer  
Tim Miller

Livestream

Joel Raedeke