

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church

Preaching and presiding this day: Pastor Todd Bertani

Church Website: smlcestes.org

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Pastoral Care: Pastor Todd Bertani, 707-688-6411

Mission Statement:

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church is a community of faith grounded in love for God and love for our neighbors.



October 26, 2025

Reformation & Receiving New Members

Julie Varilek, Accompanist

Prelude: "Safe in The Arms of Jesus" arr. by Lorrie Line

Welcome, Friends in Christ,

*To assist in worship, this bulletin includes all portions of our service; prayers, readings, hymns, congregational responses in **bold**.*

We also provide activity bags for children. You may request these from an usher to use during the service.

Whether you are first time visitors or long time friends returning to share in worship with us, we are grateful for your presence today.

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Welcome to Visitors, Friends and Members: Pastor Todd Bertani

Call to Worship: “We Have Gathered” *by Stan Pethel*

(You are invited to stand, in body or spirit)

Opening Litany

God is our refuge and strength,

A very present help in trouble.

Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved!

Christ is our sure foundation, we shall not be moved,

Amen!

Opening Hymn: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" *Hymn 504*

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Greeting

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

Kyrie

REFRAIN: Congregation

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.
Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.

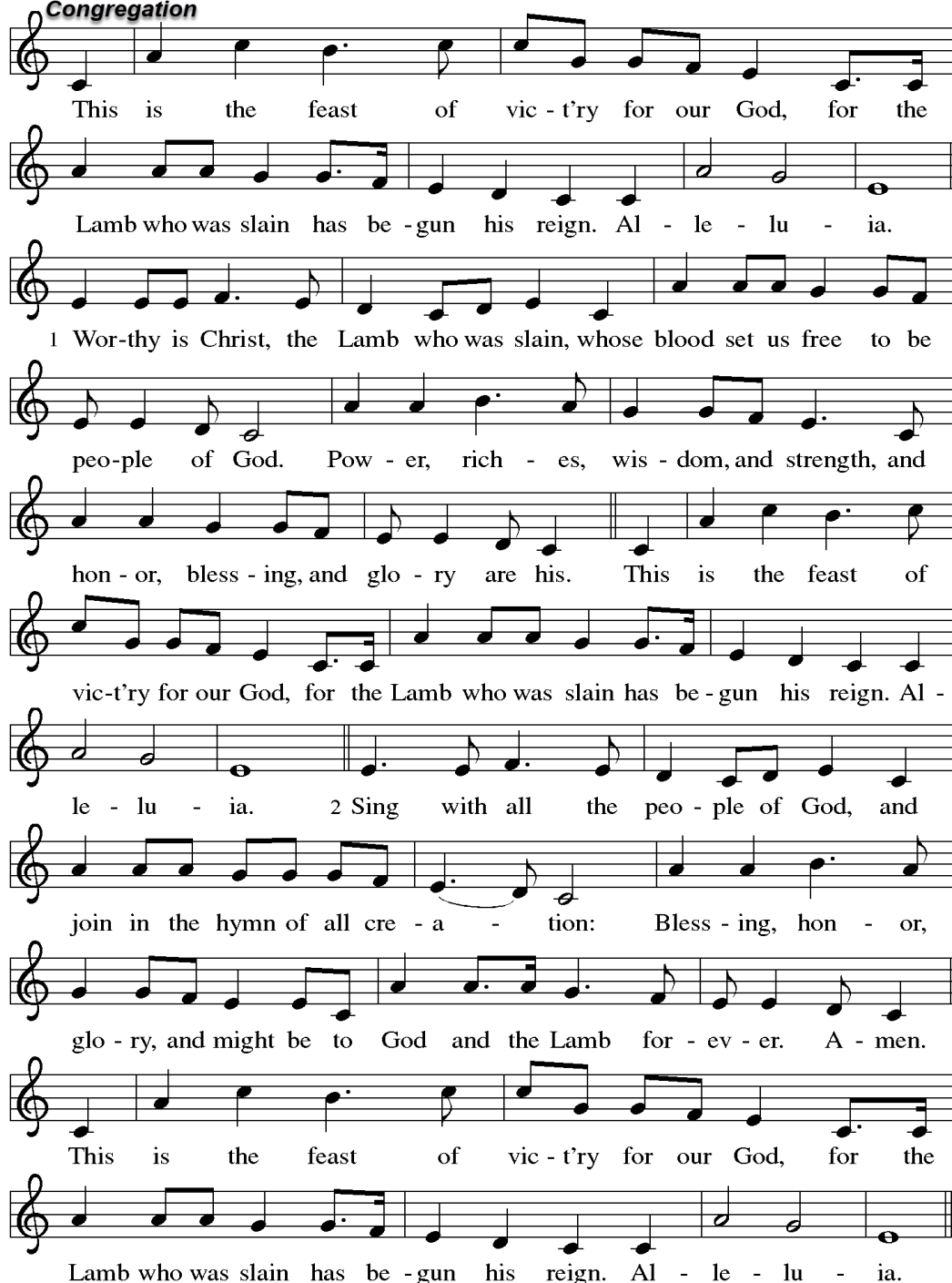
Leader

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the
u - ni - ty and of all; for
wa - ter and the word; that you
this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain

Canticle of Praise

Congregation



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the
Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be
peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of
vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -
le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the
Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

Gracious Father,
**we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace.
Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in
anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is
in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of
your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

(Please be seated)

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 46

¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

**⁶The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**⁸Come now, regard the works of the Lord,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with
fire.

**¹⁰“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

(You are invited to stand, in body or spirit)

Gospel Acclamation



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: John 8:31-36

The holy gospel according to John Chapter 8. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

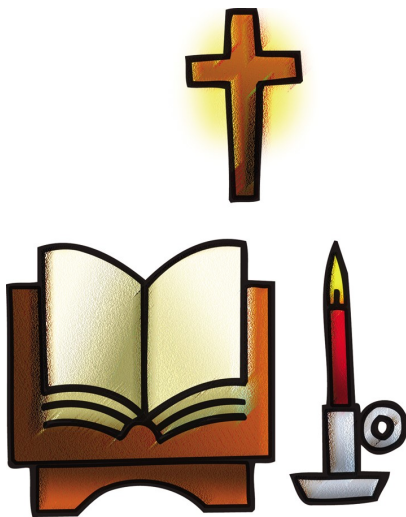
³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Sermon: Pastor Todd Bertani



Sermon Hymn: "The Church's One Foundation" *Hymn 654*

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
Oh, bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900
Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876



Welcoming New Members to the Congregation

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

New members gather with the minister at the font. The assembly is seated.

Pastor: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for this couple, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Richard and Robbi will be introduced by the Pastor.

Pastor: *With the whole church, let us confess our faith.*

Apostle's Creed

**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 to the dead.
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.**

Pastor: *In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.*

Richard and Robbi,
do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

Richard and Robbi: *I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*

Pastor: *People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?*

Congregation: ***We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.***

Richard and Robbi face the congregation.

Congregation: ***Let us welcome Richard and Robbi Telfer to this community of faith. We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.***

New members may return to their seats in the congregation.

Prayers of the People

Each petition ends: "God of Grace"

Response is: **"receive our prayer."**

Sharing of the Peace *(greet those around you)*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering

Choir Anthem: "Come Build a Church" *by Ken Medema*



Online Gifts

Receiving of Gifts

(You are invited to stand, in body or spirit)

Offering Prayer

Lord of the harvest,
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering
and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ;
 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:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

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.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
 who preached good news to the poor,
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.
Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.**

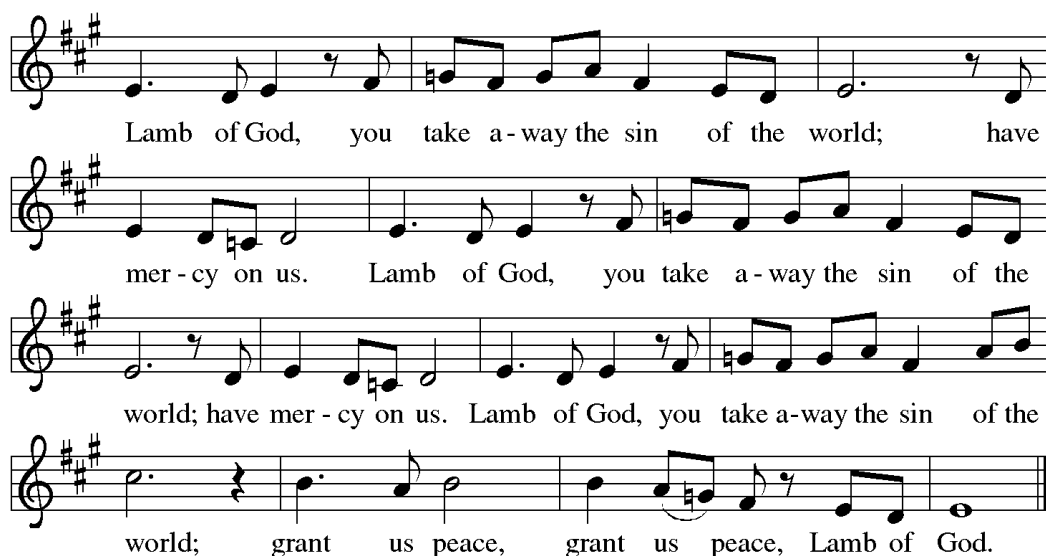
Invitation to Communion

*We commune by 'Intinction', by dipping the wafer in wine or grape juice.
We are **all** guests at God's table. **Everyone** is invited to receive communion.*



(Please be seated)

Lamb of God



Communion Hymn: "Lord, Keep us Steadfast in Your Word" *Hymn 517*

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
 Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
 u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
 may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

Post Communion Blessing

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

O God,
through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be
your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with
all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Ministry Highlights *(see insert)*

(You are invited to stand, in body or spirit)

Blessing

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in
harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you
may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace † bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn (next page)

Sending (Attributed to St. Theresa of Avila, and St. Therese of Lisieux)

As we go out into the world,

May today there be peace within.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received and pass on the love that has been
given to you.

May you be confident knowing you are a child of God.

Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the
freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us.

So, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sending Hymn: “Son of God, Eternal Savior” Hymn 655

1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;

Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
 hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.

you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
 By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,

fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
 quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855–1932

Postlude: “All Things Bright and Beautiful” 17th century English melody

Thank you for serving!

	<i>October 26</i>	<i>November 02</i>
Accompanist:	Julie Varilek	Ann Knipping
Choir Director:	Ann Knipping	Ann Knipping
Greeter:	Janet Keller	OPEN
Lector:	Miriam Deffenbaugh	Josh Young
Ushers:	Heidi Schweikart Mike Wold	Josh Young OPEN
Tellers:	OPEN OPEN	Josh Young OPEN
Altar Care:	OPEN	OPEN
Communion Asst:	OPEN OPEN OPEN	OPEN OPEN OPEN
AV Engineer:	Bruce Adams	Bruce Adams
Fellowship Host:	Council	OPEN
Flower Sponsor:	Carolyn Jarmin, for Reformation	Tara McConnell
Flower Arranger:	Paula Stensvaag	Paula Stensvaag

Calendar

Sunday, Oct 26	10:00 a.m. Congregational Gathering—Vision Mission
Wednesday, Oct 29	8:00 a.m. Sacred Space 4:00 p.m. Choir
Thursday, Oct 30	1:00 p.m. Quilters