

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church

Preaching and Presiding: Pastor Todd Bertani

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Mission Statement:

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



September 20, 2026
17th Sunday after Pentecost

Julie Varilek, Accompanist
Prelude: "Simple Gifts" Jeanne Cotter

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. Please note: The bags contain a treat.

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: Pastor Todd Bertani

Call to Worship: "Awesome God" by Rich Mullins

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

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity,† one God, who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

(Brief silence for reflection)

Compassionate God,
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and
in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and
bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking
justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.
Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one
another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Je-
sus Christ.** **Amen.**

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: “Commonwealth is God’s Commandment” ACS 1036



1 Com-mon-wealth is God's com-mand-ment; com-mon goods are meant to share.
3 Gen-ders, rac-es, tribes, and na-tions, hear the Ho-ly One who calls,

Ta-bles set and doors wide o-pen wel-come an-gels un-a-ware.
bid-ding all to work to-geth-er, bridg-ing lives and breach-ing walls.

Refrain

Plead for the peace of all cre-a-tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.

Shan-ti, pax, sha-lom, mas-la-ha: com-mon good is ho-ly ground.

Greeting

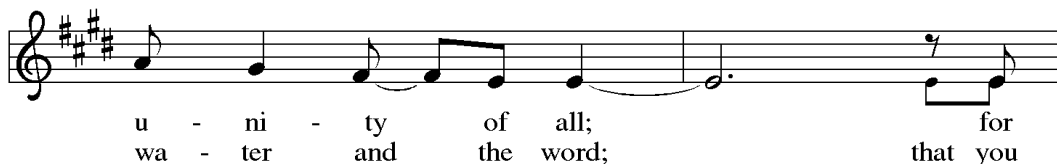
The grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Kyrie

Refrain: Congregation



Leader



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

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

(Please be seated)

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-9

¹ Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east, and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. ⁹ And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

Second Reading: Psalm 113 *(Congregation reads **bold** print)*

¹Praise the Lord!

Praise, O servants of the Lord;
praise the name of the Lord.

²**Blessed be the name of the Lord
from this time on and forevermore.**

³**From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

⁴**The Lord is high above all nations and his glory above the heavens.**

⁵Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high,

⁶who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

⁷He raises the poor from the dust

and lifts the needy from the ash heap, ⁸to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people. ⁹He gives the barren woman a home,
making her the joyous mother of children.

Praise the Lord!

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 1: 43-51

The holy gospel according to John Chapter 1.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Sermon: Pastor Todd Bertani

Sermon Notes:

Sermon Hymn: “When Morning Gilds the Skies” *Hymn 853*

1 When morn-ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries:
 2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:
 5 Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all who see his face,

may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning shad - ows fall,
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer
 sing, “Je - sus Christ be praised!” God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,

this rings my cur - few call: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 has none that can com - pare with “Je - sus Christ be praised!”
 to - day and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

Text: German hymn, 19th cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.
 Music: LAUDES DOMINI, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896

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.**

Intercessory Prayer

After each petition : "Hear us O God"
Congregation Response is **"your mercy is great."**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Choir Anthem: "Go Ye into All the World" *by Eugene Butler*

Receiving of Gifts

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

Offering Prayer

God of creation,
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.

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.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
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.

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and
resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May
your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High, one God, 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

Christ invites you to this table.

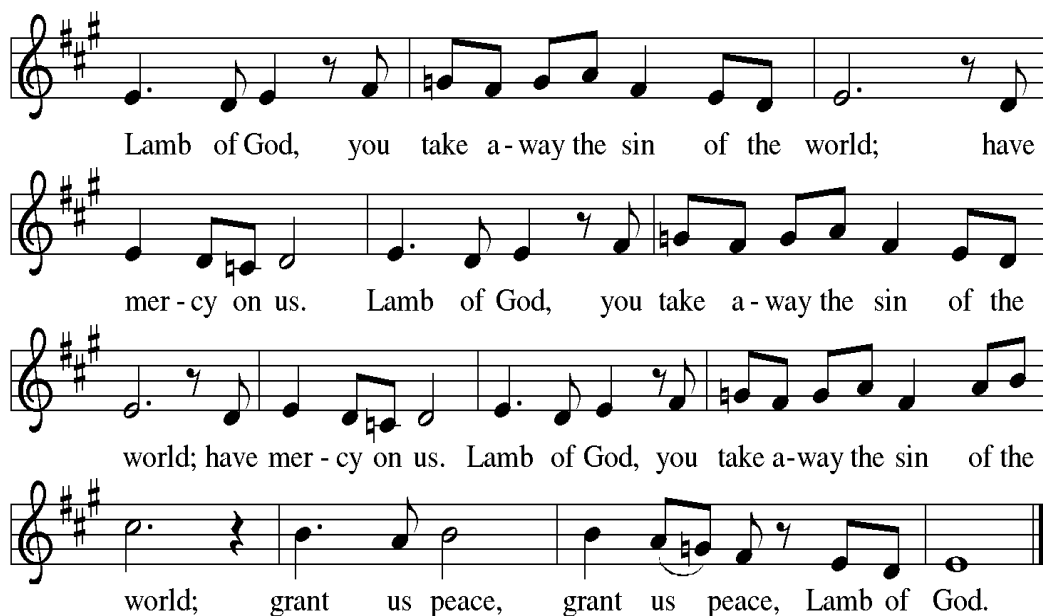
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

We commune by 'Intinction', by dipping the wafer in wine or grape juice.

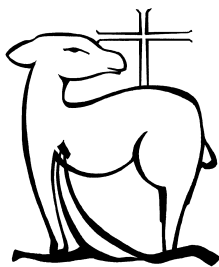
*We are **all** guests at God's table. **Everyone** is invited to receive communion.*

(Please be seated)

Lamb of God



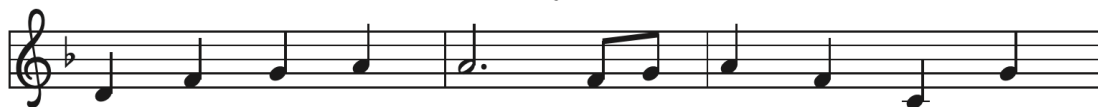
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.



Communion Hymn: “When it Seems the Day Will End” *ACS Hymn 1034*



1 When it seems the day will end, and all
 2 When it seems the day will end, sink - ing
 3 When it seems the day will end, and a



light gives way to fear, we will speak your name a -
 low un - der our skin, we are dead and born a -
 cold - ness fills our bones, we will walk the way you've



gain to re - mind us you are here.
 gain, and with you now en - ter in.
 been, and our hearts will be your home.

Refrain



New life ris - ing, New life ris - ing, ash - es fall - ing, ash - es fall - ing,



joy and weep-ing, joy and weep-ing, in your call-ing. in your call - ing.

Text: Justin Rimbo, b. 1980

Music: HUMBLE WALK, Justin Rimbo

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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

Sustaining God,
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.

Ministry Calendar

September 20—Sunday

9:00 a.m.: Worship

September 23—Wednesday:

8:00 a.m.: Sacred Space (Zoom)

4:00 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal

September 24—Thursday:

1:00 p.m.: Quilting

September 25—Friday:

11:00 a.m.: Worship at Good Sam

September 27—Sunday

9:00 a.m.: Worship—Women's Thank Offering Service

September 28-October 1—Monday– Thursday:

Pastor attending Rocky Mountain Synod Theology Conference in Utah.

September 30—Wednesday:

8:00 a.m.: Sacred Space (Zoom)

NO CHOIR REHEARSAL

October 1—October 4—Thursday– Sunday:

La Puente Service Trip

October 1—Thursday:

1:00 p.m.: Quilting

October 04—Sunday

9:00 a.m.: Worship—*Pastor Sheryl Kester Beyer—supply pastor*

October 6—Tuesday:

9:00 a.m.: PEO HF

1:30 p.m.: Vision in Action Meeting

October 7—Wednesday:

8:00 a.m.: Sacred Space (Zoom)

11:00 a.m.: Mutual Ministry Meeting

4:00 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal

October 8—Thursday:

1:00 p.m.: Quilting

October 9—Friday:

11:00 a.m.: Worship at Good Sam

October 10—Saturday:

Girls Time Out

Blessing

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

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

Sending Hymn: “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” Hymn 858

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre-a-tion!
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a-dore him!

O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal-va-tion!
All that has life and breath, come now with prais-es be-fore him!

Let all who hear now to his tem-ple draw near,
Let the a-men sound from his peo-ple a-gain.

join-ing in glad ad-o-ra-tion!
Glad-ly for-ev-er a-dore him!

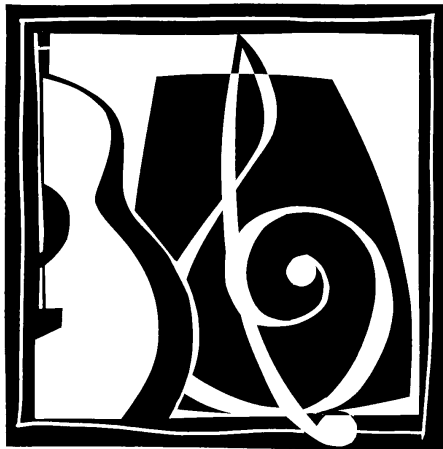
Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: “We Bow Down” *Paris/Hayes*



Thank you for serving!

	<i>September 20</i>	<i>September 27</i>
<i>Accompanist:</i>	Julie Varilek	Celice Clark
<i>Choir Director:</i>	Ann Knipping	Ann Knipping
<i>Lector:</i>	Miriam Deffenbaugh	Thank Offering Women
<i>Ushers:</i>	Randy Huber Larry Kilgore	Heidi Schweikart Susan Anderson
<i>Tellers:</i>	OPEN OPEN	Susan Anderson OPEN
<i>Altar Care:</i>	Tara McConnell	OPEN
<i>Communion Asst:</i>	Miriam Deffenbaugh OPEN OPEN	OPEN OPEN OPEN
<i>AV Engineer:</i>	Robbi Telfer	Steve Peter
<i>Fellowship Host:</i>	OPEN	Quilters
<i>Flower Sponsor:</i>	Dan & Carolyn Mangler <i>In memory of Jennifer</i>	Linda Schlitt
<i>Flower Arranger:</i>	Letha Thorn	Letha Thorn

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's varied grace*

1 Peter 4:10