



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

2323 Old Butler Road

New Castle, PA 16101

724-654-8246

www.gslcnewcastle.weebly.com

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 23, 2023

11:00 am

Welcome to worship! We are glad you are joining us today. Our service is taken from the blue softcover With One Voice (WOV) book. Please note that (+) is the invitation to stand, while (-) invites you to be seated. Please welcome today's worship leader, Pastor Dave Snyder.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(+) BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (p. 10)

(+) ENTRANCE HYMN (LBW 499) Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

(+) GREETING (p. 28)

(+) KYRIE (p. 28)

(+) HYMN OF PRAISE (p. 29)

(+) PRAYER OF THE DAY (p. 30)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O Lord, pour out upon us the spirit to think and do what is right, that we, who cannot even exist without you, may have the strength to live according to your will; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

(-) FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?

There is no other rock; I know not one.

(-) PSALM: Psalm 86:11-17

¹¹Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk | in your truth;
knit my heart to you that I may | fear your name.

¹²**I will thank you, O LORD my God, with | all my heart,
and glorify your name for- | evermore.**

¹³For great is your | love toward me;
you have delivered me from the neth- | ermost pit.

¹⁴**The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent men | seeks my life;
they have not set you be- | fore their eyes.**

¹⁵But you, O LORD, are gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kind- | ness and truth.

¹⁶**Turn to me and have mer- | cy upon me;
give your strength to your servant; and save the child | of your handmaid.**

¹⁷Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and | be ashamed;
because you, O LORD, have helped me and com- | forted me.

(-) SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:12-25

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

(+) GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (p. 31)

(+) GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.

²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will

send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

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

(+) SERMON PRAYER

All: Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your spirit and we shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth. I believe Lord, that you are present. Although my eyes do not see you, my faith senses you. Take any stray thoughts from my mind. Your servant is listening; speak, Lord, to my Soul. Amen

(-) SERMON

(+) HYMN OF THE DAY (LBW 407) Come, You Thankful People, Come

(+) APOSTLES' CREED (p. 32)

(+) THE PRAYERS

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

O God, you call your church to announce the gospel of reconciliation and truth both near and far. Guide your church as it seeks your wisdom and shares it, trusting your Spirit bearing witness among us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You brought forth all creation and called it good. Direct policymakers to protect lands and seas. Bring rain to sun-parched fields and protect areas impacted by natural disasters (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You desire peace among nations and peoples. Guard our neighborhoods from hatred, watch over police officers and firefighters, and teach us to advocate for those who live in fear. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You are gracious and merciful, comforting those who suffer any affliction (*especially*). Sustain your people living with HIV/ AIDS, provide shelter for all who are unhoused, and release any who are unjustly imprisoned. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You name each of us as your children. Guide our hospitality ministry to welcome all, our education ministry to equip us for faithful living, and our social ministry to enact the gospel in our community. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You send faithful people to proclaim freedom from bondage and to renew your church. Encourage us by the witness of the faithful departed (*including Birgitta of Sweden, whom the church commemorates today*), so that we live into that same hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

(+) PEACE (p. 34)

Response: **“And also with you.”**

(+) PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS (p. 34)

(+) **OFFERTORY PRAYER (p. 35)**

(+) **DIALOGUE (p. 36)**

(+) **PREFACE (p. 36)**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(+) **SANCTUS (p. 36)**

(+) **GREAT THANKSGIVING (p. 37)**

(+) **LORD'S PRAYER (p. 39)**

(+) **COMMUNION (p. 39)**

(+) **COMMUNION HYMN (p. 39)**

(+) **POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE (p. 40)**

(+) **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (p. 41)**

(+) **BLESSING (p. 41)**

(+) **SENDING HYMN (WOV 712) Listen, God is Calling**

(+) **DISMISSAL (P. 95)**

Response: **"Thanks be to God"**

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Announcements

Giving to the Congregation - If you are interested in contributing to the mission and ministry of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, there are currently two ways to do so.

1. You can mail your donation by check to the church, 2323 Old Butler Road, New Castle, PA 16101
2. You can donate electronically using Zelle. Information on Zelle and whether or not your bank supports Zelle can be found here: <https://www.zellepay.com/>. Zelle is a way to transfer money between bank accounts. When prompted, the church's "first name" is Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and the "last name" is New Castle.

Emergency Contact - If you have an emergency and aren't able to get in touch with anyone by calling the church office, please call or email Pastor Dave Snyder. He can be reached at 724-987-8708 or stjohnsnepa@gmail.com

Altar Flowers

- One vase is given to the Glory of God by Chuck Kennedy in memory of his father's birthday on July 20th.

***Please note: the sign up sheet has now moved to the bulletin board by the Living Room.** Altar flowers are \$20 per vase. Write your name and the purpose for which you are buying them on the sign-up sheet. Alternatively, you can call or email the church office with this information. Please place the money (labeled appropriately) in the offering plate.*

Do you have a favorite hymn? - If you would like the congregation to sing one of your favorite hymns during Sunday morning worship, please pass the name and hymn number on to Pastor Dave at stjohnsnepa@gmail.com for consideration.

Worship Leader shortage - Our synod is facing a severe shortage of supply worship leaders. Please be patient with the synod office as they do their best to schedule worship leaders for Sunday morning services. Passing around rumors about why or why not Good Shepherd doesn't have a Pastor to lead worship and celebrate Communion is not helpful. Pastor Bish is not available for at least 4 weeks because he, on his own, has accepted invitations from other churches to supply for them. Good Shepherd has been fortunate to have had Communion for 2 Sundays in July, so far, because there will be churches with vacancies that will not have Communion at all this month.

Church Item Distribution - Any *active member* who wishes to take something from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church before it closes is asked to make a written request with the following information:

- Your name
- What you would like from the church

This request can be given to the church office or a member of council. Council must approve the request before you can take the item. There are guidelines that the church must follow about how to distribute its items legally. We are encouraging all members to take a hymnal before you leave on the date of the closing service.

Return your keys! - Council is asking that anyone who has a key to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and is not on council please return their key to the church or a council member. Thank you!

Offering Envelopes are now available in the narthex!

Have Something to Publish in The Shepherd's Pipe? Please have any submissions into the church office by Monday, July 24th.

Communion Signup Sheet - All who attend Sunday services are asked to please sign the sheet on the table in the Narthex. This will help us know who has communed to maintain our records for the Synod. Thank You!