

— BY —
FAITH

Hebrews

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Worship Service
August 17, 2025 - 10AM
Tenth Sunday of Pentecost

Prelude Susan Berg, Piano

Announcements

Opening Hymn "How Great Is Our God" by Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves and Ed Cash (c 2004 sixsteps Music/
worshiptogether.com songs/Wondrously Made Song;
CCLI Song # 4348399, CCLI License # 2032355)
Song Leaders and Congregation

1. The splendor of a King, clothed in majesty;
let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
He wraps Himself in light and darkness tries to hide
and trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice.

Chorus:

How great is our God; sing with me, how great is our God,
and all will see how great, how great is our God.

2. And age to age He stands, and time is in His hands,
beginning and the end, beginning and the end.
The God-head Three in one, Father, Spirit, Son,
the Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.
(Chorus)

Bridge:

Name above all names, Worthy of all praise;
my heart will sing how great is our God.
Name above all names, Worthy of all praise;
my heart will sing how great is our God.
(Chorus)

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit..

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God,
You free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life.
Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus
And you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of +Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.
Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: We pray together...

C: O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Special Music "Surely the Lord Is in This Place" by Douglas E. Wagner
(c 2006 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of The Lorenz Corporation)

Choral Ensemble with The Good Shepherd Chimes

Lesson 1	Jeremiah 23:23-29	Page 712 in the cranberry Bible Page 807 in the red Bible
Lesson 2	Hebrews 11:29—12:2	Page 1097 in the cranberry Bible Page 243 in the red Bible
Gospel	Luke 12:49-56	Page 950 in the cranberry Bible Page 77 in the red Bible

Kids' Talk

Julie Werfelmann

Children are now invited - but not required - to go with the adult leader to kids' church in classroom 2 during the sermon. They will return in time for communion with their families.

Sermon

"Unlikely Saints"

Pr. Ted Niemi

Sermon Hymn "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" #632 (vv. 1-4, 6)
Song Leaders and Congregation

1. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:
2. Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.
3. Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God, to endless years the same..
4. A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.
6. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last and our eternal home.

Apostles' 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.

Prayers of the Church

Sharing the Peace

Special Music "You Are the Light" by Tom Fettle and David Steele
(c 1988 by Pilot Point Music)
Choral Ensemble

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Holy Communion

Communion shall be served using the method known as "intinction": the wafer will be handed to you, and you will dip the wafer into either the gold chalice of wine, or the ceramic chalice of grape juice. For those who are not able to come up for communion, please just remain seated and our ushers will be happy to direct the communion servers to bring communion right to you. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Children are welcome to come up for communion to receive an animal cracker (unless otherwise advised by the parent or guardian). Please come, for all are welcome.

Communion Hymn "There Is a Balm in Gilead" #614 (vv. 1-3) Song Leaders and Congregation

Refrain:

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sinsick soul.

1. Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

(Refrain)

2. If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus and say; "He died for all."

(Refrain)

3. Don't ever be discouraged, for Jesus is your friend;
and if you lack for knowledge, he'll never refuse to lend.

(Refrain)

Blessing

Closing Hymn "Rock of Ages" by Rita Baloché (c 1997 Universal Music -
Brentwood Benson Publishing) CCLI Song #2240547, CCLI
License #2032355

Song Leaders and Congregation

Verse:

There is no rock, there is no rock like our God.
No other name worthy of all our praise.
The Rock of Salvation that cannot be moved,
He's proven Himself to be faithful and true.

There is no god like ours.

(Repeat Verse)

Chorus:

Rock of Ages, Jesus is the Rock.

Rock of Ages, Jesus is the Rock.

Rock of Ages, Jesus is the Rock.

There is no rock, there is no god like ours.

(Repeat Verse and Chorus)

There is no rock, there is no god like ours.

There is no rock, there is no god like ours.

Rock of Ages.

Sending

P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

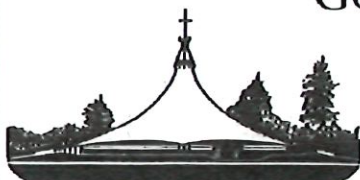
Susan Berg, Piano



**At this service/event,
photos/videos
may be recorded.**

By attending, you may be included in these photos and videos.
Your attendance at this service/event grants your permission to
be in these photos or videos, which may be used for publication
in print and online, including social media.

**Please alert the photographer at the event should
you not wish to have your photograph taken.**



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

5140 North Fruit Avenue, Fresno, California 93711

Phone (559) 225-2092

Church office e-mail: gslcfresno@att.net

Pastor's office e-mail: PastorTedGSLC@gmail.com

Web site: www.fresnogslc.org

Pastor Ted Niemi

Sunday, August 17, 2025

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Run when you can, walk if you have to, crawl if you must; just never give up.
—Dean Karnazes

Has running ever been a part of your life? When you were a kid, you surely ran in a three-legged race. You had to do some running in gym class. Today, running is also very popular among oldsters! Are you 100 years old or older? Somewhere, there's a race for you!

The verses from today's reading in Hebrews are all about running and how to do it well.

First, notice the *spectators*. The Bible calls them a great "cloud of witnesses," suggesting that we are not running this race alone. It's as though these spectators are cheering us on as we remember their example of perseverance, faith and reliance on God. We all know that teams playing in their home stadiums have the "home field advantage." We have this, too. The heavens are rooting for us!

Second, a runner carefully has to consider *possible problems*. To achieve peak performance, professional runners go to extraordinary lengths to reduce anything that might slow them down. Elite runners wear aerodynamic clothes — specialized and lightweight clothing designed to minimize drag. Runners are also meticulous about what they eat, body weight and overall fitness. They also pay close attention to mental focus and self-discipline.

It's not hard to see how this applies to our spiritual lives, is it? The instruction to "lay aside every weight" reminds us to identify and remove anything in our lives that impedes our spiritual progress. So, we need to shed those nagging *sins and habits* which weigh us down. The apostle Paul urges us to "put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts" (Ephesians 4:22). And it wouldn't hurt to *simplify our lives* by focusing on what truly matters. This may mean letting go of some possessions, materialism, distractions or unhealthy relationships.

Finally, the best runners know how to *persevere*. Every race has moments of difficulty — the hills, the heat, the fatigue. Modern runners prepare for these challenges, knowing that perseverance is key to finishing well. Our spiritual race is no different. The Bible says, "Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised ..." (James 1:12). And in Isaiah we read, "Those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, may it be true for me as it was for Paul, that great evangelist of the early church. He "fought the good fight, ... finished the race, ... kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7-8). Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: James 3-5

Monday: Jeremiah 27-29

Tuesday: Jeremiah 30-32

Wednesday: Jeremiah 33-36

Thursday: Jeremiah 37-39

Friday: Jeremiah 40-42

Saturday: Psalms 88-90

Verse to Remember

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. —James 4:8

NUMBER STRINGS

Directions: Fill in the blank spaces with the correct numbers based on the "pattern" clue. Notice the example in letter A.

A. 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64 (pattern is x2)

B. 5, 13, 21, 29, __, __, __ (pattern is +8)

C. 5, 7, 6, 8, 7, 9, 8, __, __, __, __ (pattern is +2, -1)

D. 98, 93, 97, 92, 96, __, __, __, __ (pattern is -5, +4)

E. 41, 39, 40, 38, 39, 37, 38, __, __, __ (pattern is -2, +1)

F. 10, 6, 18, 14, 26, 22, 34, __, __, __ (pattern is -4, +12)

G. 4, 20, 100, 500, __, __, __ (pattern is x5)

ADJECTIVE STRING:

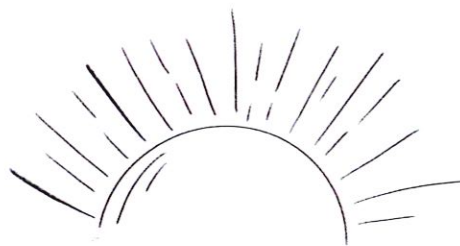
Adjectives are words that modify nouns. "The big boy hit a small ball." In this sentence, "big" and "small" are adjectives. We will give you a NOUN, and then you must write an adjective that begins with its last letter, and then continue to add adjectives with the last letter of the previous word, until you can do no more.

Example: Motorcycle: eye-catching, new, wondrous, y speedy. Here is your word:

RIVER. Write your responses below. Have fun!

ANSWERS: Number Strings

B. 37, 45, 53; C. 10, 9, 11, 10;
D. 91, 95, 90, 94; E. 36, 37, 35;
F. 30, 42, 38; G. 2,500, 12,500,
62,500



"AS SURELY AS THE
SUN RISES, HE WILL APPEAR..."

HOSEA 6:3, NIV

We rejoice in the Lord's answers to prayers
and thank God for His goodness.

Members Needing

Prayer:

Robert Harris
Mona White
Julie Werfelmann
Rev. Dr. Arlynne
Turnquist
Kay Schumacher
Betty Montgomery
Neil and Verna Wal-
den
Liz Smith
Bill Biggs
Mary Norris & Family
Connie Alvarado
Jocelyn Miller
Kirsten Linder
Jim Thompson

Family and Friends:

Cousin Gary (Sandy T.)
Karilee (Neer)
Pauline Ritterbush
Jo Anderson
Julie Schnieder (Bender)
Jade Dixon (Julie)
Kathy (Secretary) and Family
Elaine (Werfelmann)
Linda Healy (White)
Ivonne Garcia (Zamora)
Phoebe (Neer)
Phil (Anderson)
Gary Assmussen (Deuker)
Irene Goldman (Dueker)
Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)
Tonya (White)
Shanese (White)
Zyg Zee (Norris)
Claire (Vonny)
Janet Sharp (Fake)
Anthony Collichio (Norris)
Mickey Cecil (Norris)
Dorothy Lee Bruce (Julie)
Melissa (Sandy T.)
Frank and Anita Porco (Vonny)
Pam (Smith)
Grace Johnson (Fake)
Hudson Otten (Anderson)
Karen Ohanesian (Hays)
Rosemary (Vonny)
Nathan & Sandy Robbins
(Robbins)

Prayers For

All Good Shepherd Families Who Have Lost Loved Ones, Members of
Our Military Service, First Responders, and Those Affected by Illness,
Natural Disasters and War.

For Prayer Requests: Complete the prayer request card on the back of
the pew or call/email the church office 225-2092/gslcfresno@att.net

GOSPEL

Luke 12:49-56

Jesus the Cause of Division

⁴⁹ "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

Interpreting the Time

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteer Needed—Instagram Posts



The church is needing someone to step up and begin doing the Instagram post for the upcoming events and activities.

Food Pantry Needs Restocking

We could use: Rice, bagged pasta, canned sauces, canned vegetables, canned fruit (fruit cocktail, peaches, pineapple), canned chili beans, egg noodles, Cream of mushroom or chicken soup, Mayo, canned tuna, chicken or beef, ramen noodles, Mac N Cheese, boxed pasta meals, peanut butter and grape jelly. Donations can be dropped off at the office M - F, from 9 - 1PM.



God's Work. Our Hands.—Saturday 9/6



Our congregation will be participating again this year in the ELCA's nationwide service project on Saturday, September 6th. Lutheran congregations throughout the U.S. will be serving our communities on this particular weekend in all kinds of different ways, and Good Shepherd is no exception.

The Lutheran Hunger Network will take place here that morning, and we will also be putting together "Blessing Bags" that afternoon for our Westside Rescue friends to distribute to their human clients. We are also baking, cooking, and/or shopping for our Roeding Elementary staff so we can provide them with a welcome back spread on the 8th. Please bring your items to the kitchen on Rally Sunday labeled "Roeding."

If you have any ideas for other group projects, please see Janet Mc or me. You are also more than welcome to come up with an individual project or a neighborhood project on your own. Start making your plans now as to how you'd like to participate, be sure to wear your yellow GWOH t-shirt, and take some pictures!

We hope to see everyone involved in some way. Thank You!

Shalom,

Julie, 559-287-3457 or 13jdixon13@gmail.com

Thankful

"Thanks for making Pastor Arlynn's 90th birthday a bright spot in her days. Your cards and good wishes are much appreciated.

Blessings and love, Carolyn T. Linn"



Save the date - 10/11 & 10/29

Save the date - 10/11 & 10/29 - Oktoberfest & Trunk or Treat!! Plan now to come out and support these safe and fun community events!



Crafting Fair on Rally Day: HVAC Fund!



Shout out to all crafters. There will be a craft fair at Good Shepherd on Rally Day Sept 7. Mary Norris will be running a craft goods table. If inspired, there will be crafting items available. Show off your crafts by donating them to the craft fair. All proceeds will go to the HVAC fund. Contact Pam Gerster for details and donations. 559-999-5443 . Remember bakers are crafters too!

Many Thanks!!

Many thanks to the wonderful volunteer Counters who have committed for the month of August to sort the Sunday Offering and prepare the weekly deposit.

August 3rd Art Mehl

August 10th Jim and Ruth Thompson

August 17th Yvonne and Steven Smith

August 24th Diane Fake and Dee Wright

August 31st



HVAC GoFundMe Fundraiser Goes Live

Support New HVAC at Good Shepherd
Fresno



The Good Shepherd HVAC GoFundMe fundraiser is now live on it's website. <https://gofund.me/05d79cff>

Please send this link: to family, friends, businesses etc., via Facebook, email and any other social media platforms to get the word out to raise funds for a new HVAC system. We have a fundraising goal of \$150,000 to support the purchase of a new HVAC system.

Dear Family, Friends and Supporters,

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Fresno, with it's iconic tent style roof, is in desperate need to replace the antiquated HVAC system. Our church has been unable to provide a comfortable environment for our congregation to gather and praise together for the past two years inside our sanctuary. We have had to use our Jacobson Hall to provide service to our congregation. Every donation, big or small, will make a tremendous difference. Together, we can bring warmth back to our church and restore the place where our community worships and grows faith. Thank you for your support. We are truly grateful for your kindness and generosity.

Blessings, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Fresno

Thank you, Reynaldo Villalobos



Rally Day GATHERING

Sunday, Sept. 7 @ 10am

Please join us for worship, food, and fun as we celebrate the end of summer with Rally Day. This year we will be serving barbeque after our 10a.m. Rally Day Worship, and the congregation is invited to bring salads and sides to share. We will have our traditional ice cream sundaes for dessert. **Help raise funds to replace our HVAC unit with purchases from the bake sale, book sale, and craft sale!**

*Lunch and Refreshments

*Ice Cream Sundaes

*Bounce House/Waterslide (for the kids)

*Craft/Book/Bake Sale

www.fresnogslc.org

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
(559) 225-2092