



# NOW, BECAUSE LIFE IS OURS

*Summer Stewardship Series:*

*"It's Test Time..."*

# GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Kearney, Nebraska*

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*Sunday, May 15, 2016*

## WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD!

We are so happy you could join us today! If we can assist you in any way with questions about our confession of faith, spiritual struggles, understanding our liturgical service, or any other need, please let us know. It is our prayer that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will strengthen and comfort you.

For your convenience, **Listening Devices** are available for those who need assistance in hearing the service. Please speak with an usher if you need one. A **Nursery** is also available and is equipped with a speaker so that a minimal amount of the service is missed. The nursery is located in the hallway just off the entryway (first door on left).

## SERVICE NOTES FOR THE 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Based on Paul's encouragement from 2 Co 8:8, "I want to test the sincerity of your love...", our attention this morning turns to the power of the Holy Spirit. **It's Test Time**, and we know that we are able to face the daily tests of faith that our Lord gives us with confidence ***Now, Because Life Is Ours***. It is the working of the Holy Spirit in our hearts through the Word and the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper (the Means of Grace) that we have faith in our hearts. It is that faith that the Spirit not only placed there, but also continues to maintain and strengthen through that same Means of Grace.

What effect does that have on us? Your faith will be tested every day, just as God has said. Your faith will stand up against all the attacks of the devil, the world, and your sinful nature. Your faith will enable you to live a godly life, producing fruits (good works) to the glory of God. This is the way in which our faith becomes evident to others. As the Spirit enables us to live a godly life, he at the same time keeps us focused on the Life that is yet to come, eternal life in heaven with Jesus our Savior. This, together with our faith, encourages us to press on in godly living.

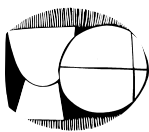
Always keep in mind that our gracious God and Savior has equipped us for the work at hand: he has given us his Holy Spirit, even as he did to the disciples and the Christians of the early Christian Church. His Spirit alone gives us power and strength to prove the sincerity of our love with the faithful use of our time, our talents, and our treasures.

THE LORD’S SUPPER AND STEWARDSHIP

The Apostle John wrote in his first letter: “We love because he first loved us.” The principles of stewardship are rooted in love: God’s love for us and our love for God. God gave his only Son out of love for this world (John 3:16). Jesus tells us that love has not greater example than this: “that a man give up his life for his friends” (John 15:13). It is in the Lord’s Supper that we physically “taste and see that the Lord is good” (Psalm 34:8) and receive in Christ’s body and blood the pledge of God’s forgiveness of sins and a promise of new life. So, the love we find in Christ through the Supper compels us then to serve Christ and our neighbor (2 Corinthians 5:14).

For the next four weeks we will be serving the Supper each week during the service. You are by no means “required” to partake in the Supper. But it is available for those who wish to know in a physical way that they are loved and forgiven by their Lord. You, too, are invited to receive the Sacrament and to taste and see the goodness of your Lord!

HOLY COMMUNION IS OFFERED TODAY



In Holy Communion, we share in the mystery of the bread and wine offered together with the body and blood of Christ. As Christians who believe that the Bible is inspired by God and that every word written in it is God’s holy word, we believe that we receive the body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine.

While this is something that goes beyond our human understanding, our faith allows us to accept this as true. God warns us in the Bible that anyone who doesn’t understand this teaching or who denies this real presence of Christ’s body and blood will do damage to his or her soul if not taught first.

As a congregation we care about people and about the spiritual well-being of individuals, especially those attending the Lord’s Table today. If you are a guest and desire to commune, please speak to the pastor before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are not under church discipline in another congregation, and are members of our congregation, one of our sister congregations in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod [WELS], or a member of our sister synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS].

SERVING IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

- Preacher & Presiding Minister.....Pr. Nathanael Seelow
- Pianist .....Logan Hansen
- Ushers .....Jamie Scott & George Scott
- Greeters.....Donna Haas & Bert Mues
- Sound Technician .....Chaden Darby

# THE DIVINE SERVICE

*The Service of Word & Sacrament — Christian Worship, pg. 26*



*The sign of the cross  
✙ may be made  
throughout the  
service by  
worshippers in  
remembrance of their  
baptism.*

*"In the morning  
when you get up,  
make the sign of the  
holy cross and say, 'In  
the name of the  
Father, and of the  
Son, and of the Holy  
Spirit.'"*

*— Small Catechism  
Daily Prayers*

## OPENING HYMN

*Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now | CW 230*

## INVOCATION

*Please stand.*

**[M]** The grace of our Lord ✙ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**[C]** And also with you.

## CONFESSION OF SINS

**[M]** If we say we have fellowship with God while we walk in darkness,

**[C]** we lie and do not practice the truth.

**[M]** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,

**[C]** we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus *1 John 1:6,7*  
his Son cleanses us from all sin.

**[M]** God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

*Silence for meditation on God's Word and for self-examination as you consider your thoughts, words, and actions according to the Ten Commandments*

**[C]** Holy and merciful Father,

**[C]** I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in

eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

## ABSOLUTION

**[M]** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**[C]** Amen.

## LORD, HAVE MERCY — *Kyrie*

**[M]** For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



**[M]** For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



**[M]** For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



**Kyrie** is the Greek word for "Lord." The expression, "Lord, have mercy," is one of the oldest worship responses in the Christian Church.

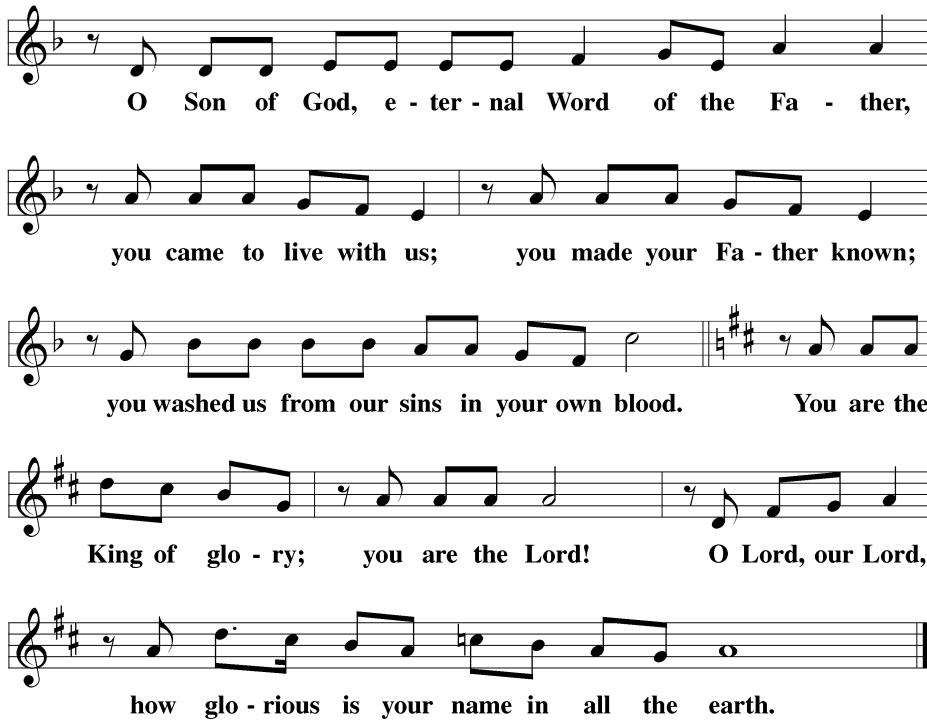
- [M]** Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



- [M]** The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise!

### O LORD, OUR LORD

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in  
all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,  
you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;  
you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and  
ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,  
but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,  
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.



O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,  
 you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;  
 you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the  
 King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,  
 how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

## The Service of the Word



### PRAYER OF THE DAY — *Collect*

**[M]** Let us pray.

O Lord, our God, govern the nations on earth and direct the affairs of this world so that your Church may worship you in peace and joy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

*Be seated.*

The **Collect** (also called the “Prayer of the Day”) is a concise prayer which “collects” the thoughts of the day and presents them to God in his mercy. Most of these prayers have been in use in the Church for more than 1,500 years. By praying these prayers, we join with the great body of believers, the communion of saints, and with the generations yet to come. The congregation makes the Collect its own with its “Amen,” a declaration that what has been said is true and affirming its trust in the Lord’s promise; “Yes, yes, this is most certainly true.”

*As fire removes  
impurities from gold  
and silver, so  
persecution refines the  
faith of God's people.  
Only with this  
knowledge can we  
understand what  
Luther meant when  
he said that the  
absence of persecution  
is total persecution.*

*Following each lesson,  
the Pastor announces,  
"The Word of the  
Lord." We know from  
Scripture that God  
comes to us through  
the Means of Grace,  
that is the Gospel that  
is found in the Word  
and the Sacrament.  
So, within the service  
God has come to us  
convicting us in our  
sin through the Law,  
and pronouncing  
forgiveness through  
the life-giving Gospel.  
The congregation—in  
response to such love  
—praises the Lord in  
reply: "Thanks be to  
God!"*

## FIRST LESSON

*Zechariah 13:7-9*

<sup>7</sup> "Awake, O sword, against my shepherd,  
against the man who stands next to me,"  
declares the LORD of hosts.

"Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered;  
I will turn my hand against the little ones.

<sup>8</sup> In the whole land, declares the LORD,  
two thirds shall be cut off and perish,  
and one third shall be left alive.

<sup>9</sup> And I will put this third into the fire,  
and refine them as one refines silver,  
and test them as gold is tested.

They will call upon my name,  
and I will answer them.

I will say, 'They are my people';  
and they will say, 'The LORD is my God.'"

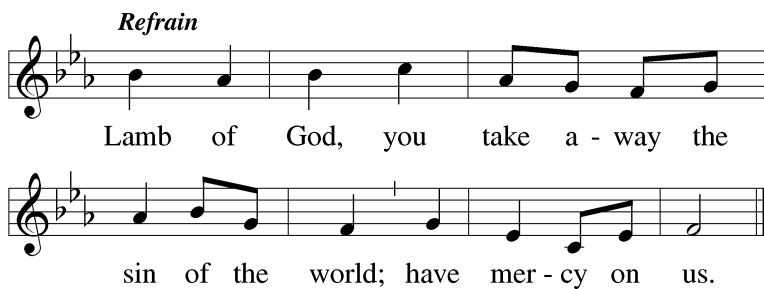


The Word of the Lord.



Thanks be to God!





*Refrain*

My God, my God, why have you for- | saken me?\*

Why are you so far from | saving me?

I am a worm and | not a man,\*

scorned by men and despised by the | people.

All who see me | mock me;\*

they hurl insults, shaking | their heads:

“He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD | rescue him.\*

Let him deliver him, since he de- | lights in him.”

*Refrain*

My strength is dried up, and my tongue sticks  
to the roof | of my mouth;\*

you lay me in the | dust of death.

A band of evil men has en- | circled me,\*

they have pierced my hands | and my feet.

They divide my garments a- | mong them\*

and cast lots for my | clothing.

“This [Psalm] describes [Christ’s] obedience at the time when God poured out His wrath upon the Son against the sins of the human race... He willingly assumed these infirmities for us in order that He might become the sacrifice.”

— Phillip  
Melancthon

How can a Christian rejoice even in the suffering and persecution? When we know that these sufferings are for the sake of Christ who bought us and made us his heirs. We confess Christ even in the face of persecution because we belong to Christ and look forward to an inheritance that no suffering, no evil, no attack can take away from us. Paul contrasts the harsh imprisonment of the law with the gracious freedom of the gospel that comes through faith. In this contrast we see how the Lord can use the trials of life and temptations of the heart to build deeper appreciation for his gracious salvation in Jesus Christ. Through baptism, we have been made equal and unified heirs of the promise, boldly claiming our inheritance from the Father.



But you, O LORD, be not | far off;\*  
O my Strength, come quickly to | help me.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit,  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

*Refrain*

## SECOND LESSON

*Galatians 3:23-29*

<sup>23</sup> Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup> So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup> But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, <sup>26</sup> for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

**M** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

## VERSE OF THE DAY

John 20:21

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 9:18-24

*Please stand.*

**[M]** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter seven.

<sup>18</sup> Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?"

<sup>19</sup> And they answered, "John the Baptist. But others say, Elijah, and others, that one of the prophets of old has risen." <sup>20</sup> Then he said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" And Peter answered, "The Christ of God."

<sup>21</sup> And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, <sup>22</sup> saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."

<sup>23</sup> And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

*In a private moment, Jesus offers the disciples an opportunity to confess their faith. They confess Jesus as "the Christ of God." These men so bold in faith have no idea what lies ahead. Jesus warns them of his impending suffering and glorious resurrection. But the suffering is not his alone. To all who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior come trials and suffering on account of his name. We bear his cross on our heads and hearts at the risk of our lives. But to him who overcomes is given the crown of eternal life.*

**M** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



*Be seated.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*The Day Is Surely Drawing Near* | **CW 207**

## SERMON

*1 John 5:5-12*

<sup>5</sup> Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup> This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. <sup>7</sup> For there are three that testify: <sup>8</sup> the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. <sup>9</sup> If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. <sup>10</sup> Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. <sup>11</sup> And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup> Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

*It's Test Time: Now, Because Life is Ours!*

*The Liturgy of the Divine Service has been described as the climbing of “two mountains.” Like mountains in the physical world, each of these two mountains—the Service of the Word and the Service of the Sacrament—have peaks, or summits. The “summit” of the Service of the Word is the **Sermon**. The “summit” of the Service of the Sacrament is the Distribution. Each summit is reached by careful, meaningful, and methodical steps. And each step is intended to bring the worshipper closer and closer to the peak of the Service.*

## NICENE CREED

*Please stand.*

**C** We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We believe in one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Be seated.*

## OFFERING

*Public confession is  
faith's response to  
God's saving Word.  
Christians composed  
the **Nicene Creed** in  
the 4th century to  
defend the Bible's  
teachings that both  
Jesus Christ and the  
Holy Spirit are true  
God, equal to the  
Father in one eternal,  
undivided Trinity.*

*Moved by God's love  
in Christ, by our  
**Offering** we offer  
him our first and best  
gifts, purely out of  
thanks to him. If you  
are visiting with us  
today, please do not  
feel obligated to give  
an offering.*

In the era of the Reformation, announcements about births, deaths, and marriages were made after the sermon. Then prayers were offered. This is why the **Prayer of the Church** is often placed in this position in the Divine Service.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Please stand.*

### *The Service of the Sacrament*



**[M]** The Lord be with you.



**C:** And al - so with you.

**[M]** Lift up your hearts.



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

**[M]** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C:** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**[M]** Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY — Sanctus**



**C:** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.

The **Sanctus** is based on Isaiah 61:1-4. Like Isaiah, we are in the presence of God: the Lord is here with us in a special way in Communion. "Hosts" means armies. The "heavenly hosts" are God's armies of holy angels.

The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.

I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -

va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.

The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**M** Blessed are you, O merciful Father, for when Adam sinned and lost your image, you did not forsake the people you had created. You sent your only begotten Son to take on human flesh through the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary. As our substitute, he fulfilled all of your laws in our place and died the death we deserve because of our sin. You have gathered us here to remember Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf. In this meal you give us his true body and blood, which paid our debt to you and assures us of your forgiveness. For all of your undeserved love toward us, we give thanks and praise to your living and life-giving name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*This section of the service may be unfamiliar to some. A **Prayer of Thanksgiving** is absolutely appropriate to pray at this point in the service. We give thanks (as we have just said in the Preface: "Let us give thanks to the Lord." for the blessings we receive in this Sacrament through the sacrifice of God's Son and we ask that he bless us through the eating and drinking of Christ's body and blood.*

## C

*"The Son of God commended to his church the Words of Institution of the Supper in the form of a last will and testament—at a time of high emotion, with most fervent prayer, and under the most serious circumstances on the night in which he was betrayed. Therefore these words should be observed with the greatest reverence and piety and in the fear of the Lord by all people, for they are the words of the testament of the Son of God."*

**M**

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The first measure of the exercise is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of four eighth notes: B-flat (first space), C (second line), D (second space), and E-flat (third line). A slur is placed under the first three notes, and a fermata is placed over the fourth note.

**LAMB OF GOD — *Agnus Dei***

16





*Be seated.*

## DISTRIBUTION

Those who will be receiving Holy Communion today may wish to read **Personal Preparation for Holy Communion**, found on page 156 in the front section of the hymnal. This page helps us put into practice what the Bible encourages: "Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup." (1 Corinthians 11:28)

**Prayer suggestions for before and after receiving the Lord's Supper** can be found in the hymnal on pages 10-11 and 134-139.

*In dismissing the communicants, the minister says:*

**[M]** Now, may this true body and blood strengthen and keep you in the true faith to life everlasting. Your sins ✠ are forgiven. Go in peace. Amen.

The **Agnus Dei**, which means "Lamb of God," is a song included in the Ordinary of the Divine Service. That means it is included in every Service of the Sacrament. This canticle reminds us that Jesus is God's Lamb, who was offered as a sacrifice for sin, once for all.

Good Shepherd confesses and practices the Biblical teaching of a **Closed Communion**. We ask that only members of the Wisconsin Synod [WELS] or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS] join us at the Lord's Table. If you have questions concerning our communion practice, or would like to inquire about how you, too, can commune with us, please speak with the Pastor following the service.

## THANK THE LORD

*Please stand.*



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev'-ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*This Prayer for Grace, which we often pray, was included in a version of the Divine Service written by Martin Luther in 1526. We ask God to work powerfully in our lives through what he has just given to us in the Supper.*

## PRAYER FOR GRACE

- [M]** Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - - men.

## BLESSING

- [M]** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the LORD with gladness.

The LORD bless you and keep you.  
 The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
 The LORD look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.



*Be seated.*

*The **blessing** of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them." (cf. Numbers 6:27)*

## CLOSING HYMN

*Almighty Father, Bless the Word* | CW 323



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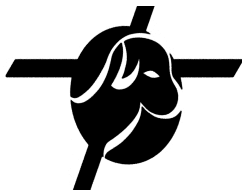
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*[www.goodshepherdkearney.org](http://www.goodshepherdkearney.org)*

# Announcements

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**SUMMER SESSION OF BIBLE CLASSES TODAY** The Summer Session of Bible Class continues today! The class will last 19 minutes (we promise!) and will cover some *Very Important Chapters of the Bible*. Please make time in your schedules to attend this great opportunity to continue to grow in faith and fellowship. Today’s study: **EXODUS 2 — THE BABY MOSES**

**NEBRASKA BIENNIAL DISTRICT CONVENTION REPORT** Randy Kahle will give a short synopsis and report of the business conducted on behalf of you and Good Shepherd at the Nebraska District Convention held last week.

**ONE IN CHRIST OFFERING** In this service folder you will find a special offering envelope designated for the One in Christ offering. We will be celebrating the One in Christ Sunday next Sunday, June 26. *This offering is intended to be given over-and-above your regular congregational offering.* Please consider making a special offering on June 26 to support the ongoing work of our Synod.

**CONGREGATION AT PRAYER** A copy of the newest “A Congregation at Prayer” is available on the table in the entryway. This packet is not only a good outline for personal and family devotions, but it also includes an up-to-date prayer list for those in (and outside) our congregation.

## This Week’s Calendar

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**Sunday, June 26** .....9:30a — Divine Service with Holy Communion (*One in Christ*)  
10:45a — *Very Important Chapters* 19-Minute Bible Class  
**Ushers:** Tony Wenz & Chris Stutz  
**Greeter:** Hansen Family  
**Sound Tech:** Chaden Darby

.....  
**Cleaning (6/19-6/25)** .....*Church*—Scott; *Fellowship*—Stutz; *Ed. Bldg.*—Webb  
**Mowing**.....Wenz  
.....