

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD  
WE ARE CALLED TO SEEK,  
SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST



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**TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST [PROPER 12]**

**SATURDAY, JULY 23, 2005 - 5:30 PM**

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(937) 298-0136

## TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST [PROPER 12]

*The mission of the church and each baptized Christian is to serve the reign of God. But what is the reign of God? In today's gospel reading Jesus offers images drawn from ordinary life that reveal something of the reign of God. It is like a tree that becomes a safe and sheltering home, like yeast that penetrates and expands, like a treasured pearl, like a net that gains a great catch. The reign of God is God's steadfast desire to unite the human family, with all its great diversity, in a justice and mercy so great and thoroughly life-giving that people will rejoice at its advent.*

**Saturday, July 23, 2005**

**5:30 p.m. Worship**

### **One Sure Thing**

What would you be willing to risk for a “sure thing”? When you have had to think about directions to take in life, no doubt you have weighed the possibilities, trying to assess what gain may be obtained at what cost. Many students, for example, increasingly are finding it necessary to examine schools and courses of study relative to the costs of rising tuition and the burden of educational debt. Still, higher education is generally considered a “sure thing”: a good investment that prepares one for life's work and minimizes risks.

Common sense, good judgment, and the shared experience of others all help us to make life's decisions, including how best to use our resources wisely. We invest time as well as money, hoping for a beneficial return on both kinds of expenditures. Wouldn't we like to bank on a sure thing?

Solomon encountered a sure thing: God's offer to grant anything Solomon requested. By asking for an understanding mind able to discern between good and evil, Solomon received God's favor along with the true wisdom he sought. Our sure thing comes in the person of Jesus Christ. Through Christ's death and resurrection and in the waters of baptism, we are assured of citizenship in the kingdom of heaven, now and for all time.

God's free gift of grace in Jesus Christ is the sure thing for which we offer our thanks and praise this day. Such a treasure as this—the kingdom of heaven and no less—is certainly worth our close attention: other pursuits pale in comparison! Today's gospel celebrates those who understand that some risks are more than justified by their prize. Half-hearted responses to God's offers of relationship, forgiveness, and resurrection leave us missing out on the one and only sure thing. The kingdom of heaven is hidden in plain sight, in our midst. What will we risk to gain it?

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\*\* Stand if you are able.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (spoken)

Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us seek the face of God, confessing our sin.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Holy God,

**we have sinned against you and each other. We pray for your forgiveness and healing. The good we want to do, we often fail to do. The evil we do not want, we find ourselves doing. Deliver us, O God, save us from shame, and guide us in your way. Amen.**

Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us; and God raised him up from death so that we too might walk in newness of life. Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through + Jesus Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## GATHERING

\*\* HYMN 250 LBW (green hymnal)

*Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

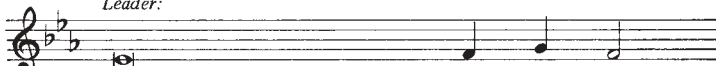
## HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER

Setting by Marty Haugen

### 1. SERVICE OF LIGHT

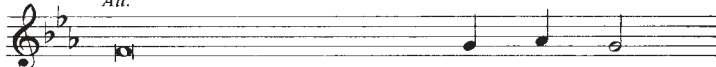
#### Procession

*Leader:*



Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

*All:*



the light no darkness can o - ver - come;

*Leader:*

Stay with us now, for it is evening,

*All:*

and the day is almost over.

*Leader:*

Let your light scatter the darkness,

*All:*

and shine within your people here. —

### Evening Hymn

*All: a tempo*

1. Joy-ous light of heav-'nly glo - ry, lov - ing
2. In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the
3. You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry

glow of God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's  
blaz - ing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and  
danc - ing star of night, make us shine with gen - tle

sto - ry, shine on ev 'ry land and race. Now as  
wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that  
jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y

eve - ning falls a - round us, we shall raise our songs to  
fills the night with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry  
God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our



you, God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and  
 soul, Love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us  
 way, Lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us



light our hearts a - new. \_\_\_\_\_  
 free and make us whole. \_\_\_\_\_  
 on to end - less day. \_\_\_\_\_

**Evening Thanksgiving**

*Leader:*

*All:*



May God be with you all, and al - so with you;

*Leader:*



Let us sing our thanks to \_\_\_\_\_ God,

*All:*



It is right to give God thanks and praise.

**PRAYER (sung)**

Blessed are you, Creator of the universe, from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

**Amen.**

**\*\* PRAYER OF THE DAY (spoken)**

Let us pray.

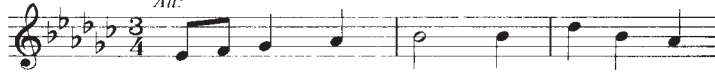
O God, your ears are open always to the prayers of your servants. Open our hearts and minds to you, that we may live in harmony with your will and receive the gifts of your Spirit; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

# WORD

## PSALMODY (sung)

Psalm 141

*All:*



Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be -



fore you, the lift-ing up of my



hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

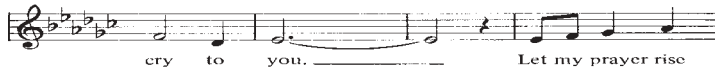
*Cantor and Congregation (Chancel choir sings echo):*



O God, I call to you, come to me



now; O hear my voice when I



cry to you. Let my prayer rise



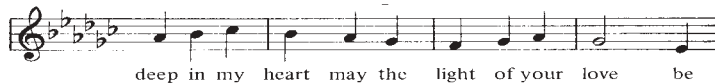
up like in cense be - fore you, the



lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to




you. Keep watch with - in me, God;



deep in my heart may the light of your love be



burn - ing bright. Let my prayer rise



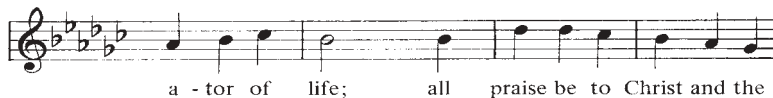
up like in - cense be - fore you, the



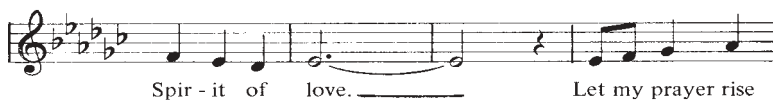
lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to



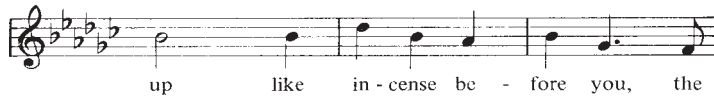
you. All praise to the God of all- Cre-



a - tor of life; all praise be to Christ and the



Spir - it of love. Let my prayer rise



### FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5-12

A reading from 1 Kings.

*This passage reflects a concern for leadership that is also present in the larger corpus extending from Joshua through 2 Kings. Leadership in the community that lives under the rule of God has its basis in the covenant, and leaders depend upon God's gifts of wisdom and discernment.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-39

A reading from Romans.

*For several chapters in his letter to the Romans, Paul argues that justification by faith produces a life in the Spirit superior to any legal obedience that might be attained through human effort. Now, in the final words of this chapter, his exuberance for this spiritual life leads to a confident hymn in praise of Christ's love.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*\* **GOSPEL VERSE** (spoken)

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

(John 6:68)

**\*\* HOLY GOSPEL**

**Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**MEDITATION**

Bob Sauer

**\*\* HYMN 776 WOV (blue hymnal)**

*Be Thou My Vision*

**\*\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (spoken)**

*Prayers are included for the whole Church, the nations, those in need, the parish and special concerns. The minister gives thanks for the faithful departed, especially for those who recently have died.*

Gathered, enlightened, and empowered to serve, let us pray for the church, the nations, and all people seeking God's mercy and care.

God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, holy God, and give us all we need for this day and the days to come, through the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**\*\* PEACE**

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

**MEAL**

**OFFERTORY**

(Please place your offering in the offering plate located on the shelf in the Narthex. Thank you.)

We ask that our members complete a green card and our visitors a gold card and leave them in the offering plate in the narthex. Cards are located in the pew racks. Thank You.

- \*\* GREAT THANKSGIVING** (spoken)  
 (Please gather around the Communion Rail with your green hymnal.)  
 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 him thanks and praise.**

**DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

- \*\* LORD’S PRAYER** (spoken) (personal option - holding hands)  
 Let us pray.  
**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**HOLY COMMUNION - Receiving the Lord’s Tangible Presence**

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you. Communicant may say **Amen.**

**BLESSING** (spoken)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

- \*\* BLESSING** (sung)

The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff is for the Leader and All, in 2/4 time, with lyrics: "Let us bless our God: praise and thanks to you." The second staff is for the Presider, in 4/4 time, with lyrics: "May God, Cre-a-tor bless us and keep us, may".

Christ be ev - er light for our lives, may the  
 Spir - it of Love be our guide and path, for  
 all of our days. \_\_\_\_\_  
 A - men.

\*\* HYMN 534 LBW (green hymnal)

*Now Thank We All Our God*

**POSTLUDE**

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**O LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER**

Praise & Thanksgiving to God For  
The people and friends of Good Shepherd  
Bishop Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop, ELCA, Chicago  
Bishop Callon W. Halloway Jr., Bishop Southern Ohio Synod, ELCA, Columbus  
Companion Synods: East of Lake Victoria Diocese, Tanzania, East Africa  
and Evangelical Church of Mecklenburg, Germany

**HOSPITALIZED**

Hazel Reel, Miami Valley Hospital

**GOD'S PRESENCE & STRENGTH FOR**

Ruth Lackey	Carol Haroldson
Darren	Those recovering from Hurricane Dennis
Lygia Harrison, cancer & chemotherapy	Lori
Harold DeVilbiss, who began chemotherapy on March 4	Wanda
Charlotte Nelson, who has cancer	Mary Jane
Roberta	Haley
Lynn Stutrud	Sheila Stutrud
Lowell Overvold, a former member, who has throat cancer	For the victims & families of the London bombing
Barbara Swingen	Joe
Shannon	Shannon
Beth, sister of Kathy Seim	Tim & Ann Marie Cilley, brother & sister-in-law of Paula Bennett, expecting 1 <sup>st</sup> child by C-Section either 7/21 or 7/23
Carol Brayton	Denise Hurley, friend of Sharits', who has cancer
Kim, a young mother, who has brain cancer	Joe Hample
Connie, who has cancer	Shirley
Marilyn Pressnell, a broken hip	Mary
Sue & Laura	

Remember in prayer the family of Werner Vollrath, who died July 7, and whose funeral was held at Good Shepherd on Tuesday, July 12

**July 24, 2005 – Tenth Sunday After Pentecost [Proper 12]  
Prayers Received July 17, 2005 – Ninth Sunday After Pentecost [Proper 11]**

**Please take this home and use it daily to remember in prayer  
those who are near and dear to the Good Shepherd Community of Faith**

Please email Sheila or Jeff Stutrud with your prayer requests at [prayers@goodshepherdkettering.com](mailto:prayers@goodshepherdkettering.com)