

"Which of the two
did the will of
his father?"

Matthew 21:31, NRSV



September 27, 2026 9:30 a.m. Worship

SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Lutheran Community of Christian Believers – ELCA

6020 Rattlesnake Hammock Road, Naples, FL 34113

Website: www.sotgweb.org email: sotg6020@gmail.com

Telephone: 239-775-0696 Pastor Jeff: 641-529-2479

Lord, quiet the distractions within us and around us as we gather in Your presence. Open our hearts to Your Word, fill our minds with Your truth and lead us to worship You with sincerity and joy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

All Are Welcome!

All who have come to worship are heartily welcomed. Let us joyfully open our hearts to God and to one another.

You are encouraged to participate in all that Shepherd of the Glades has to offer and to make Shepherd of the Glades your spiritual home.

If Shepherd of the Glades can be of service to you or if you would like Pastor Jeff to contact you, please so indicate on the pew welcome sheet.

Please stand where indicated by +

Congregation is invited to join in where indicated by bold type

PRELUDE

Jesus Loves Me/Nearer, My God to Thee/Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Medley arr. B. C. Dockery

Max Bogert, flute and Megan Cianflone, Piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Compassionate God,

C **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 Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

+ GATHERING HYMN

"God Is Here!"

#526

A The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Let us pray.

C **God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹ The word of the Lord came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³ As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-9 *(read responsively)*

¹ To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶ **Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O Lord; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹ You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

¹If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped,
⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,
⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name that is above every other name,
¹⁰so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

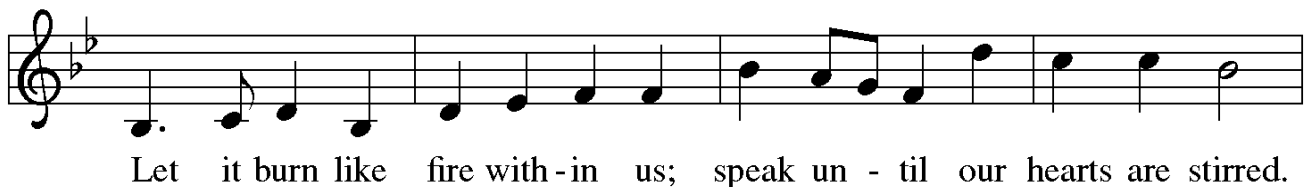
¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



+ THE HOLY GOSPEL according to: **Matthew 21:23-32**

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²³ When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Rev. Jeff Ungs

+ HYMN OF THE DAY

"O Master, Let Me Walk with You"

#818

+ APOSTLES' CREED

A Let us proclaim our trust in the presence and power of God in our lives with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C **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 life everlasting. Amen.**

+ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

A Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need especially Annie Barikmo, Bruce Corson, Diane, Doug Walck, Erich Herath, Kathy Williams, Lorna Gauthier, Mark Welch, Mark & Teryl Hammerschick, Michele Spiegel, Nick & Anita Lehr, Patty Williams, Susan Schacht, Tom Sullivan and the family of John Jordan. Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Rejoice with us as we recognize the birthdays of our friends Pam Bhathena and Brad Funk. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

+ SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

A The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you!

OFFERTORY

We give an offering to show thanks for God's blessings, and to support the ministries of God's Church, near and far. Offering collection plates are available upon entry to the sanctuary before worship or as you leave after its conclusion. To give electronically, just scan this code with your phone or visit our website: www.sotgweb.org.



OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C 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.

PROPER PREFACE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and the blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(sung)*

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C 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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Fairest Lord Jesus/Abide With Me/Rock of Ages

Medley arr. B. C. Dockery

Max Bogert, flute and Megan Cianflone, Piano

All are invited and welcome to come forward to partake of the sacrament of Holy Communion. If you would like communion brought to you in your pew, please notify an usher. For your safety and convenience, you will have a choice of coming to the altar rail or taking communion in your pew in an individually sealed container.

If, for any reason, you are not comfortable receiving communion, but would like to receive a blessing, please come forward and cross your arms, indicating you wish to receive a blessing.

The Eucharist is celebrated by intinction. Our Altar Guild at all communion services offers grape juice (lighter color), as well as wine (darker color), for intinction, the dipping of the wafer into the wine or juice. One chalice will hold both wine and grape juice. Note: Gluten free wafers are offered, as well, in the Narthex or as you come forward.

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A 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.

C **Amen.**

+ THE BLESSING

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

C **Amen.**

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

C **Amen.**

P The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

+ SENDING HYMN

"The Lord Now Sends Us Forth"

#538

+ DISMISSAL

P Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C **Thanks be to God.**

MINISTRIES FOR TODAY

Altar Guild

Lori Bernabei

Assisting Worship Leader

Bonny Dery

Audio/Visual Technicians

Laurie Sullivan and Abraham Ungs

Communion Assistants

Ron & Barb Modjeska

Lector

Bonnie Brisky

Ushers

Doris Marderness, Brenda Charleston and Ron & Barb Modjeska

The altar flowers are given by Ginger Welch in memory of her mother, Kathy Essem

SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our mission is "Transforming lives through the Living Word of God."

Pastor

Rev. Jeffrey T. Ungs

Director of Music

Megan Cianflone

Congregational President

Penny Morken

Administrative Assistants to the Pastor

Lynn Dickerman and Deanna Colbert

THIS WEEK

Office hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Thursday October 1 2:00 p.m. New Grief Support Group meets in the Choir Room

Friday October 2 9:00 a.m. Newsletter mailing

9:30 a.m. Women's AA Group/Book Club meets in Hanson Hall

ONGOING WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

Mondays	9:00 a.m.	Bone Builders gather in Hanson Hall
	Noon	Alcoholics Anonymous meet in Hanson Hall
Wednesdays	9:00 a.m.	Bone Builders gather in Hanson Hall
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study in the Choir Room
Saturdays	8:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous meet in Hanson Hall
Sundays	9:30 a.m.	Worship in the Sanctuary and Online – service is live-streamed on YouTube or can be accessed on our website, www.sotgweb.org .
	9:30 a.m.	Iglesia Luterana Confesional Conexión worships in Hanson Hall
	6:00 p.m.	Eglise Baptiste Les Elus de Naples worships in Hanson Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The blessing of the food that has been collected for St. Matthew's will happen next Sunday. Help us fill the cart for this mission.

If you or someone you know is hospitalized and would like a visit from Pastor Jeff, please call the church office. Local hospitals do not notify churches when one of their congregants is admitted.

Please remember to sign in on the pew pad and pass it down the row so all may sign. This allows the church office to maintain accurate records for our annual attendance reports to the Synod. Thank you!

2027 Calendars Are Here! Cost is \$8 and proceeds will be used to buy supplies for Blessing Bags. They may be purchased in the church office during normal business hours.

God Is Here!



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

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O Master, Let Me Walk with You



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836–1918, alt.

Music: MARYTON, H. Percy Smith, 1825–1898

The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

Enviado soy de Dios

En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,

pa - ra cons-truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.

Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain

un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;

me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.

A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

Text: Anonymous, Central America; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
Music: ENVIADO, anonymous, Central America
English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.

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