

**SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION**  
**SEPTEMBER 15, 2024**

**WELCOME & GREETING**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Praise God, who meets us in this holy house.

**God's promises are sure.**

Praise God, who fills us with all good things.

**God's promises are sure.**

Praise God, who knows our needs and lovingly meets them.

**God's promises are sure.**

**CONFESSION**

We confess our sins before God and one another.

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

Merciful God, we confess that from the beginning of time we have failed to understand your call to us. We have acted as though we are gods in our own lives. We have acted or failed to act in ways that have led to injustice and oppression. We have turned away from you and sought after other gods – possessions, people, media, and other distractions. Forgive us for all the ways in which we have failed you and our neighbors. Call us back into the abundant life of loving service that you offer us in your holy name.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Beloved of God, hear these words of hope. God who created you in God's image has redeemed you in Christ Jesus, and for his sake forgives you for all the ways you have sinned and fallen short. Receive this forgiveness with joy, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Holy God, still our hearts and calm our minds. Remind us of your steadfast love, and teach us to trust in your promises, for you keep your word. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING: GENESIS 15:1-6**

**Lector:** After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.

**Assisting Minister:** But Abram said, O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?

**Lector:** And Abram said, You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir. But the word of the Lord came to him, This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.



**Assisting Minister:** He brought him outside and said, Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them. Then he said to him,

**Lector:** So shall your descendants be. And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **GOSPEL: LUKE 3: 8**

<sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **SERMON**

PASTOR JANET KETTERING

### **HYMN OF THE DAY | AS GRAINS OF WHEAT**

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/IAQN5D0VYNS?SI=S0KOZ0CR-DEESUPR](https://youtu.be/IAQN5D0VYns?si=S0Koz0CR-dEESuPR)

### **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**Eternal God, you call us to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with courage, not knowing where we go but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us. Amen.**

### **CONGREGATIONAL SHARING**

### **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 PEOPLE**

We pray for the church, the world, and all of creation, trusting in your gracious love and care.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for greater trust in you. Your love is steadfast, and your word is true. Help us to hold onto your promises and walk in your ways. God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for creatures great and small. Tend to your creation and inspire us in efforts to protect and care for the earth. God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for elected officials at all levels. From local to state to national, help leaders listen to those most in need, and to make decisions grounded in wisdom and compassion for all people. God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for healing, for Pastor Phil, Jim and Sally, Dave, Dorothy, Terry; for Rick and Kelly, and all those we lift through our Prayer Chain. Many are isolated or otherwise feel alone in this world. Bring them comfort and connection. God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are experiencing loss. Draw near to those who have lost jobs, loved ones, or anything else dear to them. Grant them space to grieve, and uplift them in their sorrow. God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our ability to care for one another. Let us love, not in words or speech, but in truth and action. Strengthen and equip us to care for those in need through the outreach ministries of our community: The Community Infant Program, Little Free Pantry, All Roads of Boulder, Rise Against Suicide, and the other acts of kindness we share with one another. Use us to share Christ's love with our neighbors in need, especially those who are lost, poor, beaten down, abused, forgotten, silenced, or avoided. God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the work of the Joshua School and organizations like them. Empower those who nurture the minds, bodies and spirits of children and adults living on the Autism Spectrum. Help us to help them reach their fullest potential. God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for peace in Jerusalem, Israel, and Palestine; for Ukraine and Russia. Grant that your holy and life-giving Spirit may move among us, breaking down walls that divide, giving light and courage to the refugee and the most vulnerable in society, ushering in the day that all may live in safety and security. God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We pray for all the saints. Help us to learn about their lives and their witness, and may their faithfulness inspire us in our time to lead faithful lives as well. God, in your mercy, Hear **our prayer**.

These and all our prayers we lift up to you, O God. **Amen**.

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*(Please share a sign of God's love and peace with each other.)*

### **OFFERING/OFFERING PRAYER**

God of promise, **you fill us with all good things. In gratitude we return to you this small portion of our possessions. Accept them for the sake of Jesus Christ, and use them to further his holy work in the world. Amen.**

### **CELEBRATING COMMUNITY: SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

#### **THE THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right and good to give you thanks and praise, O God, because from the beginning, you invited us on a journey with you, a journey of wonders and miracles, a journey of healing and joy, a journey of mystery, a journey full of life and love.

Blessed is your son, O God, our savior Jesus Christ, who joined us on our journey and was so full of grace and truth that we cannot help but follow him. When his path went back to you, you sent us your Spirit to continue alongside us, to empower and inspire us to continue to be your people. Now we pray that that same Spirit will be among us, and among these elements of bread and cup, that our ordinary meal will become our sacred feast, to nourish us for the next part of the journey. As we break bread together, as we drink from the same cup, unite us as people who are grateful for the journey, for each other's company, and for your guiding presence.

#### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the covenant, poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ. Make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world.

## COMMUNION

Hear us as we are bold to pray together the prayer that Jesus taught....

**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.**

With all of God's children throughout all times and places, who outnumber the stars, Jesus invites us into his presence in this holy meal. Come and receive blessing and forgiveness.

## SHARING THE MEAL

This is the body of Christ, broken in love for you.

This is the blood of Christ, poured out in forgiveness of you.

## COMMUNION HYMN | YOU SATISFY THE HUNGRY HEART

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## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy, gracious God, here at this table your promise of life is made tangible. We have rested in the depth of your love and tasted your nourishing presence. At this table, you have offered us life. Together, by your grace, we accept that life and give you thanks. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that all may know life and love in Jesus' name. Amen.

## CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BLESSING & BENEDICTION

May the love of God create new life within you.

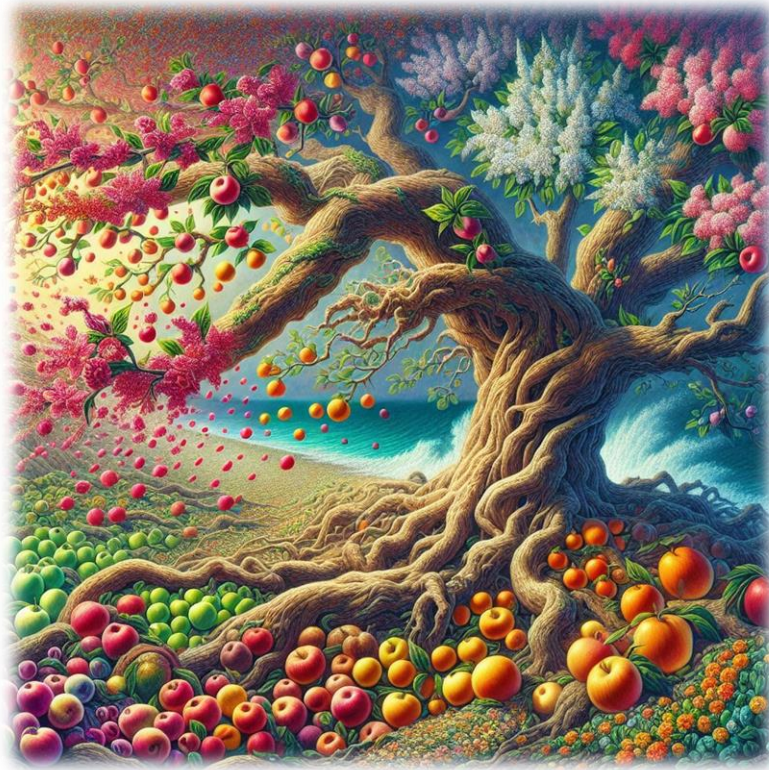
May the power of God transform your old habits into new hope.

May the Spirit of God grant you wisdom and vision,  
emboldening you to proclaim the good news of God's love to all.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN | SEND US OUT IN THE POWER

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/XH3IT\\_X\\_9PA?SI=2G9BK0Q\\_HPGVQ1R4](https://youtu.be/xH3IT_X_9PA?si=2G9BK0Q_hPGvQ1R4)



### Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.**

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person—questions, complexities and all.

Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

**WORSHIP RESOURCES:**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** – NARRATIVE LECTIONARY WORSHIP RESOURCES COPYRIGHT © 2024 CLERGY STUFF

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS** – REV. CHRISTOPHER NEY

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** – NARRATIVE LECTIONARY WORSHIP RESOURCES COPYRIGHT © 2024 CLERGY STUFF

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** – NEW REVISED STANDARD BIBLE, UPDATED EDITION

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD** – ERIC MILNER WHITE

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** – RE-WORSHIP, UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

**GREAT THANKSGIVING** – WRITTEN BY BETH MERRILL NEEL. USED WITH PERMISSION.

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**BLESSING & BENEDICTION** – PASTOR RYAN, ADAMSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:**

CAROLINE MICHALAK

**ALTAR GUILD:** GERRY & KEN MOORHEAD, LYNN TRUMBLE & KAY WERPY

**ASSISTING MINISTER:** JOHN YARBERRY

**COFFEE AND CONVERSATION:** KATHY WOOTTON

**LECTOR:** KELLY MAURER

**PASTOR:** REV. JANET KETTERING

**ZOOM TECHNICIAN:** FUZZ NEWKIRK

**SHEPHERD CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15– SEPTEMBER 22, 2024**

**Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> - God's Promise to Abraham**

9:30 a.m. Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship with Holy Communion  
Coffee and Conversation Immediately following worship

**Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**

11:00 a.m. - Amazing Grace Bible Study

**Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 a.m. – Men's Zoom Breakfast Bible Study

5:00 p.m. – Friday Night Perspectives Gathering

**Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> - God Works Through Joseph**

9:30 a.m. – Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship

Coffee and Conversation Immediately following worship

**SEPTEMBER  
BIRTHDAYS**

**CLIFF T. 9/1  
JIM E. 9/9  
SCOTT F. 9/24**

# DAILY NARRATIVE LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

## **Monday, September 16, 2024**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/genesis-221-19-abrahams-sacrifice2024>

Genesis 22:1-19 Abraham's Sacrifice

## **Tuesday, September 17, 2024**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/genesis-241-67-isaac-and-rebekah2024>

Genesis 24:1-67 Isaac and Rebekah

## **Wednesday, September 18, 2024**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/genesis-271-29-jacob-steals-esaus-blessing2024>

Genesis 27:1-29 Jacob Steals Esau's Blessing

## **Thursday, September 19, 2024**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/genesis-299-30-jacob-marries-leah-then-rachel2024>

Genesis 29:9-30 Jacob Marries Leah then Rachel

## **Friday, September 20, 2024**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/genesis-3222-32-jacob-wrestles-an-angel2024>

Genesis 32:22-32 Jacob Wrestles an Angel

## **Saturday, September 21, 2024**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/genesis-341-31-the-rape-of-dinah2024>

Genesis 34:1-31 The Rape of Dinah

## **Sunday, September 22, 2024**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/genesis-373-8-17b-22-26-34-5015-21-god-works-through-joseph2024>

Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 22-26; 50:15-21 God Works Through Joseph