

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS AT HOME WORSHIP

REFORMATION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 27, 2024

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of steadfast love, **not even the heavens can contain you! May we never try to contain your love and wisdom. May we go out into the world so that all might know your never-ending grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**



SCRIPTURE READINGS:

FIRST READING: 1 KINGS 5: 1-5; 8:27-30, 41-43

Now King Hiram of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon, when he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father; for Hiram had always been a friend to David. ²Solomon sent word to Hiram, saying, ³You know that my father David could not build a house for the name of the Lord his God because of the warfare with which his enemies surrounded him, until the Lord put them under the soles of his feet. ⁴But now the Lord my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor misfortune. ⁵So I intend to build a house for the name of the Lord my God, as the Lord said to my father David, "Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, shall build the house for my name."

²⁷But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! ²⁸Have regard to your servant's prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; ²⁹that your eyes may be open night and day towards this house, the place of which you said, "My name shall be there", that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays towards this place. ³⁰Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray towards this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling-place; heed and forgive.

⁴¹Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name ⁴²— for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm — when a foreigner comes and prays towards this house, ⁴³then hear in heaven your dwelling-place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.'"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: LUKE 19: 45-46

⁴⁵Then he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling things there; ⁴⁶and he said, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer'; but you have made it a den of robbers."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL BY ASSISTING MINISTER JOHN YARBERRY

Verse 27, But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! Why does God need a building? And if he doesn't need a building, why do we insist on building one for him, and then think of it as his dwelling place? Were all the magnificent cathedrals of the world built for God as a home that he doesn't need?

Many of these man-made structures will take your breath away. The spires, the marble floors, the priceless paintings, and sculptures, stun most of us into silence as we look for God in all of this splendor.

Solomon built this magnificent temple understanding that God did not need it. Solomon was fulfilling God's promise to David that his son would build the temple. This was a period of peace for Israel that would allow for this endeavor to be undertaken without war time distractions. Solomon in all his wealth spared no expense and followed God's architectural instructions to the letter.

To build the temple was David's idea not God's but God granted this desire through David's son. I compare this to the people's desire for a king. The desire for a king was driven by the physical need to see and hear a fallible human being as a protector and leader. God warned against this desire with the knowledge of what happens when you put all your trust in one person. This warning certainly played out under the first king, Saul.

Do we place too much importance on the building where we come to worship? Just like we might place unrealistic expectations on our leaders. However, buildings and leaders are necessary for us to gather in, commune together in, and to organize ministries around. Leaders with integrity, compassion, humility, and honor marshall the resources, and organizational structure that allow for peace prosperity and the help needed by the marginalized in our society.

The key is not to expect too much from our buildings and our leaders. With God's presence in our leaders and in our buildings, God's promises will get closer to fulfillment in this earthly realm, and fulfilled completely at the end of time. All in God's time.

Amen

HYMN OF THE DAY | THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

ELW #654

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/V2SCAZKPQBS?FEATURE=SHARED](https://youtu.be/V2SCAZKPQBS?feature=shared)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Trusting in your eternal love, we pray for all the world.

A brief silence.

We pray for forgiveness. Hear our cries to you and help us to turn towards you in all that we do. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have cared for creation for generations. Help us to honor the wisdom of Indigenous peoples around the world. May their voices be heard, and lands protected. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for local leaders in our neighborhoods and communities. Give them the courage to do what is right, especially when it is difficult. Inspire them to lead with integrity and honesty and to listen deeply to those in their charge. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are struggling. May they find peace and comfort in your embrace. Grant them respite, and strengthen them in their journey. We pray especially for Pastor Phil, Kay, Jim and Sally, Dave, Dorothy, Terry, Rick and Kelly, and all those we lift through our Prayer Chain. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for refugees and all who have been forced to leave their homes due to war, violence, and persecution. Provide them safety and shelter. Be with them as they rebuild their lives in new communities. Merciful God, **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 ministries of our community: Pardes Levavot, 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, abused, forgotten, silenced, or avoided. Merciful God, **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. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations now engaged in war. In the steadfastness of your love, hasten the day of peace. Look with mercy on those exposed to hatred, conflict, sickness, and death. Show compassion to the dying and those who have lost loved ones and the safety of home. In your mercy, remove all causes and occasions of war. Incline the hearts of all people to follow the path to peace and justice, that war may cease and reconciliation may come. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We pray for insights from the lives of those who have gone before us. As we navigate the challenges and uncertainties of life, may their examples serve as reminders of your unwavering faithfulness. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust all our prayers, spoken and unspoken to you. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

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.**



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.

SHEPHERD CALENDAR OF EVENTS
WEEK OF OCTOBER 27– NOVEMBER 3, 2024

Sunday, October 27th - Solomon Dedicates the Temple: [Reformation Sunday](#)

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

Wednesday, October 30th

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

Friday, November 1st

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

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

Sunday, November 3rd - God’s Care for the Widow: [All Saints Sunday](#)

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

OCT/NOV
BIRTHDAYS

BOB S. 10/20

RICK M. 10/30

PHIL K. 11/4

WENDALL B. 11/17

JOHN Y. 11/19

