

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS AT HOME WORSHIP
JUNE 16, 2024

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving God, You taught your people to depend on you daily for manna in the wilderness – not to hoard for themselves, but to take only what was needed. Teach us to trust that you will care for our needs one day at a time, and make us generous with our possessions for the sake of those whose circumstances prevent them from receiving sufficient nutrition, housing, and other basic needs. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

FIRST READING: PSALM 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff – they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

The word of the Lord.

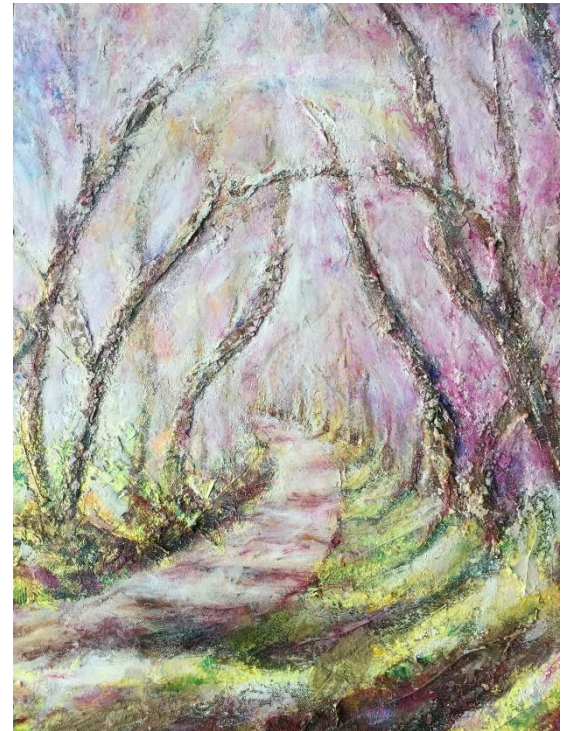
Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: LUKE 11: 2-4

²He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. ³Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.



REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL BY ASSISTING MINISTER TIM KIRCHOFF

I probably don't have to tell you that Psalm 23 is one of the most recognized passages in the bible. It's likely that many have at least heard it without knowing where it is located in the bible. We often associate it with funerals; Christian and Jewish alike. But what does it mean for us, and why are we reading it outside of a funeral?

For me, Psalm 23 elicits comfort by acknowledging God's presence with us, wherever life's travels lead us. God is tenderly watchful, and leads us on His path set before us. We are not necessarily coddled to the point where we are kept completely from harm, as we have all experienced what seems like "times of trial". The Psalm does say that we do in fact walk through a dark valley, or the "shadow of death" as it is written in other versions. So evil is ever present around us, and it always will be. But this Psalm is reminding us that God is with us at all times and places, lending his healing touch when we most need it.

When I first contemplated on what to write about this Psalm, I suddenly was struck by the comparison of the relationship God has with us with the one Dorothy has with Glinda, the Good Witch of the East in the Wizard of Oz. In the story of Oz, Dorothy becomes lost and far from home. Glinda sets her on a path to seek help from the Wizard of Oz, who likely has the means to send her home. A path is set before her in the form of a "Yellow Brick Road". Dorothy trusts Glinda and goes on her way, but enters many times of hardship and trials. However, Glinda always seems to be one step behind, ready to assist behind the scenes. Remember the time Glinda creates a snow shower to wake up the heroes after they fell asleep in a poppy-field trap set for them? Maybe this isn't the best comparison, but I had fun thinking of it and wanted to share.

Psalm 23 also teaches us another lesson, and that is to trust God. Ultimately we are asked to have faith that we will be provided with all our needs, and shouldn't seek more than necessary. When we think about all that we have, and how much we are blessed, it is easier to see just how much our cup truly overflows. May you see how you are truly blessed and loved by God each and every day. Amen!

HYMN OF THE DAY | THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/PN4tPKX0MG0?si=O8XfOEHUIODOUG6H](https://youtu.be/PN4tPKX0MG0?si=O8XfOEHUIODOUG6H)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Together with our siblings in Christ throughout the world, we pray for the needs of all that God has made.

A brief silence.

Generous God, you know our every need, physical, emotional, and spiritual. Help us to trust in your care, that we might, in turn, be a channel of that care for others.

God, our shepherd, **hear our prayer.**

You know the needs of the world you created – the delicate balance of ecosystems and climate, of habitats and individual creatures. Help us to lower our negative impact on our environment, for the benefit of all. God, our shepherd, **hear our prayer.**

You teach us how to care for one another. Help our leaders to act out of a deep desire to meet the needs of all whom they serve. God, our shepherd, **hear our prayer.**

You created our bodies and minds, and know what is needed for us to be healthy and happy. Guide all medical professionals and caregivers so that they might best meet the needs of all who experience infirmity of any kind, especially Rick, Dorothy, Terry, Dave, and all those we lift on our Prayer Chain. God, our shepherd, **hear our prayer.**

You made us to be in relationship with you and with others. Bless all marriages and committed relationships of every kind, that we might experience love and trust in our human relationships as well as with you. God, our shepherd, **hear our prayer.**

Strengthen us to care for those in need through the outreach ministries of our community. To all who have hunger, give daily bread. To all who have bread, give hunger for justice. Bring aid and support to those who are poor, beaten down, abused, forgotten, silenced, or avoided, especially those seeking help through the Community Infant Program, the Little Free Pantry, Rise Against Suicide, and the Boulder Shelter for the Homeless. God, our shepherd, **hear our prayer.**

Provide for the work of the Joshua School and organizations like them. Empower the staff and parents of children living on the Autism Spectrum. Nurture the minds, bodies and spirits of these children and adults, that they might reach their highest quality of life. Fill the hearts of those providing help and transport for these children with compassion and stir their hearts to protect and keep them safe. God, our shepherd, **hear our prayer.**

Encourage and empower those impacted by war, tyranny, and gun violence. Still the sounds of weapons. Teach us to seek security that comes from respect rather than violence. Strengthen and comfort the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Gaza, Sudan, Haiti, and all those throughout the world whose lives are impacted by violence. Remind us of what You require of us: That we do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with You. God, our shepherd, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, our help in every trouble, we pray for peace in the Holy Land. Protect those traumatized by ongoing violence. Release people held hostage; provide food, water, fuel, and supplies for all in need; sustain medical personnel; tend to those who are wounded; and comfort all who grieve. Move the hearts of humanity and its leaders into the way of peace. God, our shepherd, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You have nourished and upheld your beloved children throughout time. Help us to celebrate those departed saints who lived lives of trust in you. God, our shepherd, **hear our prayer.**

Confident that you care for all our needs, we lift these prayers, spoken and unspoken, into your loving hands. **Amen.**

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

May the love of God create in you new life.

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.

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 JUNE 16 – JUNE 23, 2022

Sunday, June 16th – The Lord's Prayer: Our Needs

9:30 a.m. Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship with Holy Communion

Happy Father's Day!



Wednesday, June 19th

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

Friday, June 21st

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

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

Sunday, June 23rd– 1 John: Our Joy Can Be Complete

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

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

TIM K. 6/8

WAYNE O. 6/14

LYLE K. 6/17

LORI W. 6/18

DAILY NARRATIVE LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 16, 2024

Monday, June 17, 2024

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/exodus-161-36-bread-from-heaven2024>

Exodus 16:1-36 Bread from Heaven

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/deuteronomy-81-20-god-sustains2024>

Deuteronomy 8:1-20 God Sustains

Wednesday, June 19, 2024

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/matthew-41-11-not-bread-alone2024>

Matthew 4:1-11 Not Bread Alone

Thursday, June 20, 2024

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/matthew-625-34-do-not-worry2024>

Matthew 6:25-34 Do Not Worry

Friday, June 21, 2024

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/matthew-1413-21-feeding-the-five-thousand2024>

Matthew 14:13-21 Feeding the Five Thousand

Saturday, June 22, 2024

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/luke-2413-35-jesus-revealed-in-the-breaking-of-the-bread2024>

Luke 24:13-35 Jesus Revealed in the Breaking of the Bread

Sunday, June 23, 2024

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/1-john-1122-our-joy-can-be-complete2024>

1 John 1:1 – 2:2 Our Joy Can Be Complete

