

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS AT HOME WORSHIP AUGUST 4, 2024

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Word of Life, you communicate with us in so many ways. We hear your words spoken to us both through people we like and people we do not like. We hear your voice in the wind and the waves and the sounds of nature. We dream dreams that draw us deeper into your mystery. Continue to speak to us that we might hear your call to the life you would have us lead. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.



SCRIPTURE READINGS:

FIRST READING: DANIEL 2: 24-49

²⁴Therefore Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon, and said to him, "Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; bring me in before the king, and I will give the king the interpretation." ²⁵Then Arioch quickly brought Daniel before the king and said to him: "I have found among the exiles from Judah a man who can tell the king the interpretation." ²⁶The king said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to tell me the dream that I have seen and its interpretation?" ²⁷Daniel answered the king, "No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or diviners can show to the king the mystery that the king is asking, ²⁸but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has disclosed to King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen at the end of days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed were these: ²⁹To you, O king, as you lay in bed, came thoughts of what would be hereafter, and the revealer of mysteries disclosed to you what is to be. ³⁰But as for me, this mystery has not been revealed to me because of any wisdom that I have more than any other living being, but in order that the interpretation may be known to the king and that you may understand the thoughts of your mind.

³¹"You were looking, O king, and lo! there was a great statue. This statue was huge, its brilliance extraordinary; it was standing before you, and its appearance was frightening. ³²The head of that statue was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, ³³its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. ³⁴As you looked on, a stone was cut out, not by human hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and broke them in pieces.

³⁵Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, were all broken in pieces and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

³⁶“This was the dream; now we will tell the king its interpretation. ³⁷You, O king, the king of kings – to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the might, and the glory, ³⁸into whose hand he has given human beings, wherever they live, the wild animals of the field, and the birds of the air, and whom he has established as ruler over them all – you are the head of gold. ³⁹After you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours, and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over the whole earth. ⁴⁰And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron; just as iron crushes and smashes everything, it shall crush and shatter all these. ⁴¹As you saw the feet and toes partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom; but some of the strength of iron shall be in it, as you saw the iron mixed with the clay. ⁴²As the toes of the feet were part iron and part clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle. ⁴³As you saw the iron mixed with clay, so will they mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay. ⁴⁴And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall this kingdom be left to another people. It shall crush all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever; ⁴⁵just as you saw that a stone was cut from the mountain not by hands, and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. The great God has informed the king what shall be hereafter. The dream is certain, and its interpretation trustworthy.”

⁴⁶Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, worshiped Daniel, and commanded that a grain offering and incense be offered to him. ⁴⁷The king said to Daniel, “Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery!” ⁴⁸Then the king promoted Daniel, gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. ⁴⁹Daniel made a request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the affairs of the province of Babylon. But Daniel remained at the king’s court.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: LUKE 21: 20-28

²⁰“When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. ²¹Then those in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those inside the city must leave it, and those out in the country must not enter it; ²²for these are days of vengeance, as a fulfillment of all that is written. ²³Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing infants in those days!

For there will be great distress on the earth and wrath against this people; ²⁴they will fall by the edge of the sword and be taken away as captives among all nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you O Christ

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL BY ASSISTING MINISTER DICK WERPY

A vision of the Apocalypse and Destruction or a Message of Hope?

When we read this Gospel, at least for me, it is easy to fall into thinking about all the things going on in our world that fit the vision of gloom and doom. War all around the world. Horrendous numbers of people suffering and dying. People fleeing for their lives. Vengeance is the battle cry heard every day! We have just experienced the hottest day in the history of the planet. Forest fires abound and threaten cities. The weather seems out of control. People around the globe seem to be out of control. Are we in fact entering the final days, the Armageddon? Should we be fleeing and to where? Or do we patiently and quietly await the coming of the Lord?

On another level, we can read this as a personal message of hope. We have all had times of fear and despair. Health issues, relationship issues, and/or job issues can all mount up on us and cause us to see the world as described above.

I am reminded of Rudyard Kipling’s poem, IF--,

*If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you, If you can
trust yourself when all men doubt you, But make allowance for their doubting too; If you can wait
and not be tired by waiting, Or being lied about, don’t deal in lies, Or being hated, don’t give way
to hating, And yet don’t look too good, nor talk too wise: If you can dream—and not make
dreams your master; If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim; If you can meet with
Triumph and Disaster And treat those two impostors just the same!*

Kipling draws a picture of walking through life dealing with victory and despair. His point is victories can be as devastating as great adversity. Each can be debilitating and put us in a bad place. In this Gospel we are focused on the adversity side where we

have all felt moments of despair and worry, when it hurts and seems hopeless in our lives and in our world. And when we are afraid what can we expect? Verses 27 and 28 deliver the image of hope and tell us our Lord and Savior will come, be with us and Save us! We are saved!

So in those moments of fear, despair and worry, just know that our God is with you, and with me and we are saved. Amen!

HYMN OF THE DAY | SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/J3iB30GCQAc?si=1JSLAAWRs5G5RRS2](https://youtu.be/J3iB30GCQAc?si=1JSLAAWRs5G5RRS2)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Trusting in God's power and mercy, we pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Throughout history nations have risen and fallen, O God. Relieve us of our projection to some imagined future, good or bad, and anchor us in the reality of this moment and in the unalterable truth that you alone are God; that you alone are eternal. God of mystery, **hear our prayer.**

Each successive power in the world has wrought destruction on your beautiful creation, striving for material wealth at the expense of nature's health. Make us to work tirelessly to repair the damage, and to protect the world from further degradation. God of mystery, **hear our prayer.**

Make leaders at every level, from local committees to national governments, attuned to the highest good of all those they oversee. Give them the humility to put the needs of others before their own. God of mystery, **hear our prayer.**

So many suffer trauma and pain from sickness, poverty, war, addiction, and more. Surround all who struggle with your healing love. We pray especially for Jim Elkins... Janice...Dave...Dorothy...Terry...all those we lift through our Prayer Chain, and for Rick and Kelly as they continue the healing process of Rick's illness and recent surgery. God of mystery, **hear our prayer.**

In this election year, grant wisdom to all candidates, voters, election officials, and all involved in selecting those who will lead us. God of mystery, **hear our prayer.**

Renew our energy in the seemingly endless work of caring for those in need. Help us to see where our work is having a positive impact, and inspire us to continue to act in love and service to our neighbors. God of mystery, **hear our prayer.**

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 (formerly Boulder Shelter for the Homeless), Rise Against Suicide, and 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 of mystery, **hear our prayer.**

Encourage 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 of mystery, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for peace in Jerusalem, Israel, and Palestine. 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 of mystery, **hear our prayer.**

Other intercessions are invited here.

We remember with joy all the saints who have led us in your word and in the world. Inspire us by their example to work for peace and justice. God of mystery, **hear our prayer.**

Confident in your life-giving love, we lift these prayers and all those in our hearts into your loving care. **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 AUGUST 4– AUGUST 11, 2024

Sunday, August 4th – Daniel: Dream Interpreted

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

Wednesday, August 7th

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

Friday, August 9th

7:00 a.m. – Men’s Zoom Breakfast Bible Study
5:00 p.m. – Friday Night Perspectives Gathering

Sunday, August 11th

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

**SAVE THE DATE FOR BOY SCOUT TROOP 377 FUNDRAISING CAR WASH
ON SUNDAY AUGUST 25TH AFTER WORSHIP!**

DAILY NARRATIVE LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 4, 2024

Monday, August 5, 2024

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/daniel-11-2-nebuchadnezzar-conquers-jerusalem2024>

Daniel 1:1-2 Nebuchadnezzar Conquers Jerusalem

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/daniel-13-7-four-young-israelites-at-the-babylonian-court2024>

Daniel 1:3-7 Four Young Israelites at the Babylonian Court

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/daniel-18-21-god-favors-the-four-young-israelites2024>

Daniel 1:8-21 God Favors the Four Young Israelites

Thursday, August 8, 2024

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/daniel-21-11-nebuchadnezzars-dream2024>

Daniel 2:1-11 Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream

Friday, August 9, 2024

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/daniel-212-16-nebuchadnezzars-rage2024>

Daniel 2:12-16 Nebuchadnezzar’s Rage

Saturday, August 10, 2024

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/daniel-217-23-god-reveals-nebuchadnezzars-dream2024>

Daniel 2:17-23 God Reveals Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream

Sunday, August 11, 2024

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/daniel-31-2-7-8-30-the-fiery-furnace2024>

Daniel 3:1-2,7-8, 30 The Fiery Furnace

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

GEORGE C. 8/1
GERRY M. 8/2
MOLLY V. 8/15