

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS AT HOME WORSHIP
OCTOBER 13, 2024

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, You are our rock and salvation. We rejoice for all that you have done. Thank you for your faithfulness, and for hearing the cries of your people. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

FIRST READING: 1 SAMUEL 1: 9-11, 19-20; 2: 1-10

⁹After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the Lord. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. ¹⁰She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord, and wept bitterly. ¹¹She made this vow: "O Lord of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head."¹⁹They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. ²⁰In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the Lord." Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in my God. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in my victory. ²"There is no Holy One like the Lord, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. ³Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. ⁴The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength. ⁵Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry are fat with spoil. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. ⁶The Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. ⁷The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low, he also exalts. ⁸He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and on them he has set the world. ⁹"He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness; for not by might does one prevail. ¹⁰The Lord! His adversaries shall be shattered; the Most High will thunder in heaven. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king, and exalt the power of his anointed."

Thanks be to God!



GOSPEL: LUKE 1: 46-55

⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL BY ASSISTING MINISTER TIM KIRCHOFF

This has to be the first time I've been given the opportunity to give Mary's Song, or the Magnificat as it is commonly referred to, some deeper thought. I actually read the scripture from 1 Samuel first, but immediately saw the connection between these two texts. Hannah's story in 1 Samuel on the surface is a plea to God asking for a child after experiencing no luck in conception. It immediately made me think of other women in the bible that experienced a similar desire for a baby but for whatever reason were deemed barren and unsuccessful. Abraham's Sarah and Jacob's Rachel come to mind. It's sad to say, but back then a woman's role was to give birth and raise children, and of course many were treated as property and men could have several wives just for that purpose. This gives us more context as to how desperate Hannah must have felt being childless, while her husband Elkanah's other wife Peninnah had children. So having children was considered a gift from God not only for the joy they gave, but also for the mother's self-worth. I suspect that feeling still exists today for many women, but hopefully not to that extreme.

Now that we've established the desperation these women must have felt, what else can we glean from these pleas to God? For every woman I mentioned above, all of them were blessed by God with children. Do these women have anything in common? Yes indeed. I would argue that all of them had a very strong faith in God and praised Him for the blessings they received. In Mary's case, she felt extremely humbled to be chosen as the mother of God's Son, and to be the linchpin in preparing him for who he will later become. These stories should remind us how powerful our faith can connect us with God. Through God, all things are possible. We are to trust God, and remember all we have as a gift. I certainly hope I didn't simplify the meaning of these passages, but that is how they spoke to me. May God continue to shower you with blessings, as your faith journey continues. Amen!

HYMN OF THE DAY | TRUST HIS HEART

https://youtu.be/Uc5_Jk4zNGE?si=TQ8Y5NMG97KSHCMC

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 open hearts. Your faithfulness never fails and never ends. Just as you were faithful to Hannah you are faithful to us. Thank you for your steadfast word and promises. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for creation. Help us to enact policies for the wellbeing of the earth, and to amplify the voices and efforts of environmental activists and advocates around the world. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for leaders of all kinds. Kindle love and compassion in all who lead and are responsible for the well being of others, no matter the size or scope of their role. Help us all to work together for good. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need of your care. Grant peace to those who are in distress and come to the aid of those who need you most, especially for Pastor Phil, Kay, Jim and Sally, Dave, Dorothy, Terry, Rick and Kelly, and all those we lift through our Prayer Chain. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for openness to change. As autumn continues, open our eyes and hearts to changes in our own lives, and help us to know that you are with us no matter what. 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 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. 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 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. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We pray for all those who have gone before us. Thank you for all the ways in which they showed your love and cared for others. Help us to do the same. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

These and all our prayers we lift up to you, O God. **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 13– OCTOBER 20, 2024

Sunday, October 13th - God Answers Hannah

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

Wednesday, October 16th

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

Friday, October 18th

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

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

Sunday, October 20th - God’s Promise to David

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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

EVERETT M. 10/3

RON L. 10/7

KEN M. 10/7

BOB S. 10/20

RICK M. 10/30