

FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7

Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land,<sup>5</sup> saying, “When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath,

so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances,<sup>6</sup> buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”

<sup>7</sup>The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

Psalms 113

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone,<sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.<sup>3</sup> This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,<sup>4</sup> who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.<sup>5</sup> For there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human,

<sup>6</sup>who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time.<sup>7</sup> For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13

Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property.<sup>2</sup> So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’<sup>3</sup> Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg.’<sup>4</sup> I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’<sup>5</sup> So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’<sup>6</sup> He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’<sup>7</sup> Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’<sup>8</sup> And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly;

The Grace of Confusion

In today’s gospel, Jesus tells a challenging parable about a dishonest steward that ends with an unsettling moral: “And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes” (Luke 16:9).

Is Jesus being ironic or sincere? Do the characters in the story somehow represent our relationship with God? Are we supposed to emulate the dishonest steward? This text is filled with questions. If you find Jesus’ words today perplexing, even baffling, don’t worry—you are in good company. Both the details of the parable itself and the lesson Jesus is drawing from it have vexed and puzzled generations of the best interpreters, theologians, and preachers.

There are many plausible ways to explain what is happening and what it means for our lives as Christians that might be explored in your assembly today. At the same time, scriptures like this are a reminder that the life of discipleship does not always come with easy answers and neatly packaged meanings. The gospels frequently report moments when Jesus’ disciples simply could not understand what he was saying to them or profoundly misinterpreted his meaning.

The value of the community you join today does not come from the perfect understandings of either the assembly or its leaders. It comes from the one who continues to speak even when we do not understand, who daily affirms God’s love for us through the waters of baptism, who offers his own body and blood at the table each week for those who are still struggling and learning what it means to be his disciples—and that includes all of us. In short, the value of the community you join today comes from a Lord committed to leading us as disciples, even when we are unclear of the way.

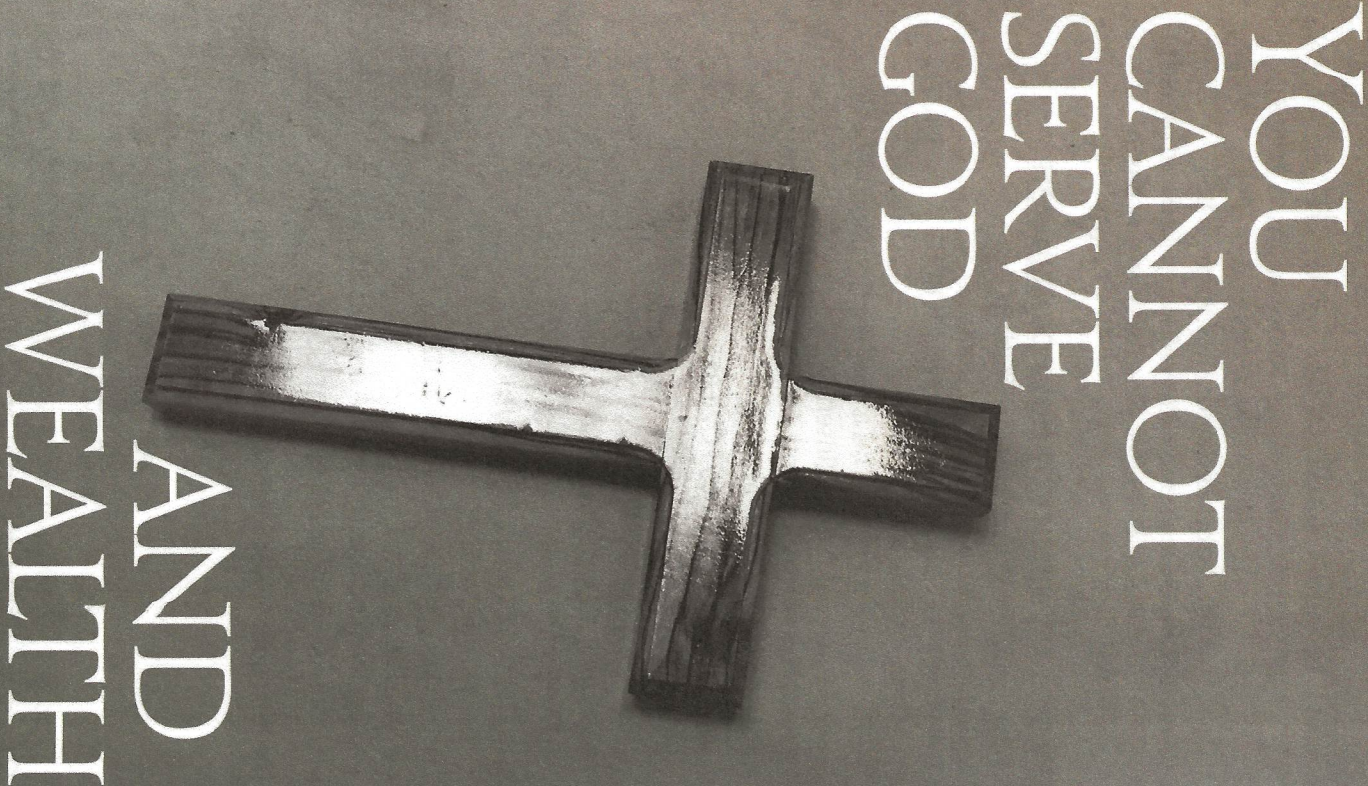
Gospel, continued

for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light.<sup>9</sup> And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

<sup>10</sup>“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much.<sup>11</sup> If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?<sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own?<sup>13</sup> No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

Next Sunday’s Readings: Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31.

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LUKE 16:13





# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

7800 West McCarthy Road, Palos Heights, IL 60463

The Pastor: Rev. Chris Buresh

The Associate Pastor: Rev. Andrew Bell

Director of Children's and Family Ministry: Lori Puttkammer

The Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Wayne A. Basch



## THE 9:00 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

### A Time for Silent Prayer and Meditation

The Prelude: *"He Giveth Peace" Lorenz*

+ THE HYMN: "LET STREAMS OF LIVING JUSTICE"

+ The Kyrie – page 147

+ The Hymn of Praise: "This Is the Feast" – page 149

+ The Prayer of the Day (insert)

The Readings for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Sermon: **"No Easy Path"**

+ THE HYMN: "BY GRACIOUS POWERS"

+ The Apostles' Creed – page 105

+ The Prayers (insert)

The Voluntary: *"Jesus Paid It All" Sinclair*

+ The Communion Liturgy – page 152

THE HYMNS DURING COMMUNION:

"BE THOU MY VISION"

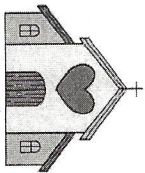
"ALL WHO HUNGER, GATHER GLADLY"

+ The Prayer after Communion

+ The Blessing and Dismissal – page 155

+ THE HYMN: "RISE UP, O SAINTS OF GOD!"

The Postlude: *"Grand March" Verdi*



Thank you for worshiping with us!

Today's chancel flowers are given by Cindy and Keith Gansel in loving memory of Cindy's parents, Art and Phil Silhan. They are also given by the Holke and Sweeney families in loving memory of Dave and Diane's parents, Ed and Betty, on the occasion of their wedding anniversary.

## THE 11:00 AM SERVICE OF THE WORD

### A Time for Silent Prayer and Meditation

The Prelude: *"He Giveth Peace" Lorenz*

+ THE HYMN: "LET STREAMS OF LIVING JUSTICE"

+ The Kyrie – page 213

+ The Hymn of Praise: "Glory to God" – page 213

+ The Prayer of the Day (insert)

The Readings for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Sermon: **"No Easy Path"**

+ THE HYMN: "BY GRACIOUS POWERS"

+ The Prayers (insert)

The Voluntary: *"Jesus Paid It All" Sinclair*

+ "Salvation Belongs to Our God" – page 219

+ The Closing Prayers – page 220

+ The Blessing and Dismissal – page 221

+ THE HYMN: "RISE UP, O SAINTS OF GOD!"

The Postlude: *"Grand March" Verdi*



The Organist:

The Lectors:

9:00 Sue Hennessy

11:00 Cassie Facko

The Acolytes:

9:00 Emmett White & Bella Composono

11:00 Kalina Bell & Clare Murphy

### Attention Confirmants & H.S. Students!

Tonight at 6:00 pm, we will meet in the FLC for a few games of Gaga Ball, then head upstairs for conversation on faith & prayer and finally end at *Tropical Sno* for ice cream or shaved ice! We would love to have a lot of youth for this fun event! See Pastor Bell today if you have any questions. Thank you!

**The "OFF Club," our joyful group for seniors**, meets this Wednesday at 11:00 AM. Everyone **"Over Fifty-Five"** is encouraged to join us for fun & fellowship!

**Attention Early childhood moms!** Freezer Meal Making Night is scheduled for Friday, September 23 at 6:30 pm. Sign up on the bulletin board or email Mrs. Lori.

Pictures may be taken at our service to use on our updated website.

Please contact us if you desire we not use any photograph including your image.

## Our intercessions include:

**the bereaved:** The family and friends of Florence Rohloff,

Sara Goss and family upon the death of her daughter,

Kristen Bain

**new parents:** Sarah Brett & Josh Yomtoob, a daughter,

Norah Grace Yomtoob

**newly married:** Mary Bradley and Michael Kane

## During This Week:

SUN	10:10 am	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation
	10:30 am	Cherub Choir
	11:00 am	Sunday School
	6:00 pm	Gaga, Prayer & Ice Cream
MON	1:00 pm	"Spiritual Fitness" Hostess: C. Meneou
	4:00 pm	"Just a Quick Word" – YouTube/FB
	6:00 pm	Junior Choir
	7:00 pm	6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation
	7:00 pm	Faith Discussion
	8:00 pm	"Body & Soul"
TUE	9:30 am	Faith, Prayer & Joy Group
	10:30 am	Bible Study
	6:30 pm	Discovering the Bible
	7:30 pm	Church Council
WED	11:00 am	"OFF" Club
	6:00 pm	Adult Choir
THU	6:00 pm	Joy Ringers
	7:00 pm	Carillon Choir
	9:00 pm	Prayer Walk
FRI	6:30 pm	Early Childhood Freezer Meal Night
SUN	10:00 am	Acolyte Training
	10:10 am	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation
	10:30 am	Cherub Choir
	11:00 am	Sunday School

**Rudolph's "Big Build"** is coming!! This exciting all-church mission project will take place October 7-8. Sign-ups begin between services on September 18 and possibly online. Call Linda Hubbard or the church office with any questions.

**Our congregation wants to continue to care and minister to our college students** by keeping them informed with news from Good Shepherd. Please notify the church office by Mon., Sept. 26, of your student's new campus address. Forms are available in the office, in the September newsletter or email the office at [donna@good-shepherd-church.com](mailto:donna@good-shepherd-church.com).



# Welcome to worship

*The psalmist tells us: "From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised" (Psalm 113:3, NRSV). So we gather to worship him now.*

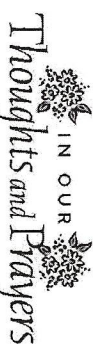
The following are included in the prayer list  
at Good Shepherd.

## Members of the Congregation:

Nancy Roesing	Bill Johnsen
Myrna Bronson	Sandi Sandt
Jenn Krieher	Julie Smith
Barry Garr	Karl Krout
Laura Cody	Laney Pengiel
Margaret Postweiler	

## Family and Friends of Members

Bernard Wzresinski	Therese Powers
Lorene Buerger	Nancy Zamora
Shirley Morganthaller	Nicole Morava
David Buerger	Cliff Heseltine
Joe Ricca	April Bakeley
Jeff Francis	Florence Urbanek
Linda Knight	William Rehr
Don Rollheiser	Jenette Leedy
Herb Karner	Violet Feihweg
Bob Supplee	John Kerr
Gary Dolezol	Dale Koch
Jason Meuller	Crispin Bofinger
Dan Hall	Daniel Shilney, Jr.
George Thode	Mark McCormick
Dan Zakowski	Audrey Guard
Joseph Travis	Debbie Jacques
Teresa Flaherty	Marty Ginsburg
Ryan Gabey	Corey Hasik
Gary Grohovea	Corinne Delaney



Please contact the church office before 9 am on Friday if you have someone you would like included or taken off the printed prayer list.

## Prayer of the Day

God among us, we gather in the name of Jesus. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation. *A brief silence.*

God our Savior, you keep your church in faith and truth. Enlighten preachers, teachers, seminarians, and all those who share your good news here, in Coronationville and around the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Teacher, you instruct your children to be wise stewards of creation. Show us how best to care for the earth and its resources. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Ruler of the nations, you direct those in authority. Inspire those who serve our nation and communities to follow the example of courageous leaders and safeguard the dignity of each person. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Helper of the needy, you lift up those who are oppressed. Breathe justice into those places that perpetuates poverty and hunger. Sustain food pantries, clothing banks, and emergency shelters. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of glory, you gather your saints around your throne. Keep us thankful for the witness of those who have gone before us, and bring us with them to the heavenly feast that has no end. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**