

# The Divine Service



"MERCY DOES NOT KEEP AN ACCOUNT." (Matthew 18:21-35)

17th Sunday after Pentecost



AD 2020, September 27

*Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church*  
41415 W. Nine Mile Road  
Novi, Michigan 48375-4306  
(248) 349-0565 [www.GoodShepherdNovi.org](http://www.GoodShepherdNovi.org)  
Good Shepherd is a member of the WELS ([www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net))

# The Divine Service

*This order of service is a variation of the Common Service, p 15 in Christian Worship. To limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus as much as possible, singing will be restricted to only a few places. The responsive portions of the liturgy shall be spoken. Where you see this symbol + you may make the sign of the cross.*

## **HYMN 383 Blessed Are They, Forever Blest**

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/383>

### **INVOCATION**

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

### **CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION**

**M:** Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C:** **Holy and Merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil, and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord have mercy on me, a sinner.**

**M:** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**M:** **Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever.**

**C:** **Amen**

### **THE FIRST LESSON**

**Genesis 50:15-21**

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

**M:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

## THE SECOND LESSON   Romans 14:5-9

One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

M:    The word of the Lord.

C:    **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## THE GOSPEL                   Matthew 18:21-35

M:    The Gospel for today is from the Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter, beginning at the 21<sup>st</sup> verse.

C:    **Glory be to you, O Lord.**

Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant<sup>¶</sup> fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.<sup>31</sup> When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers,<sup>¶</sup> until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

M:    The gospel of the Lord.

C:    **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

## NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### Hymn 493 Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/493>

**SERMON TEXT:** MATTHEW 18:21-35

**SERMON THEME:** MERCY DOES NOT KEEP AN ACCOUNT.

### Hymn 272 Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/272>

## Prayer of the Church

### INTERCESSIONS

Intercessions that are requested prior to the bulletin's printing will be included in the bulletin. Requests may be made prior to the service as well.

*In our prayers....*

While we offer up prayers for specific requests in our services, petitions and intercessions can be offered up throughout the week for continued concerns. Please continue to remember these in your prayers:



## CLOSING PRAYER

M: ... one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

## THE BENEDICTION

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor (+) and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

## Hymn 109 When O'er My Sins I Sorrow

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/109>

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Preacher & Celebrant

Pastor Thomas E. Schroeder

Organist

Jeanette Schneider

## THIS WEEK AT GOOD SHEPHERD

### Sunday (9/27)

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM

Divine Service – In church at 10:00 AM; Facebook Live at 10:00 AM

Elders' Meeting – 11:15 AM

### Monday

Pastors' Conference at Salem Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor – 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Bible Information Class – 7:00 PM

### Wednesday

Bible Information Class – 1:00 PM via Zoom

Catechism Class – 3:30-5:00 PM

Bible Matters (Topic: Racism: How do we view our fellow man?) – 7:00 PM

### Saturday

Baptism of Grant Bradford Schmidli – 2:00 PM

### Sunday (10/4)

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM

Divine Service – In church at 10:00 AM; Facebook Live at 10:00 AM

Sunday School Teachers' Meeting – 11:15 AM

## REGULAR SCHEDULE

**Divine Service** is Sundays at 10:00 AM, in person and on Facebook Live.

**Sunday School & Adult Bible Class** is on Sunday at 8:45 AM.

**Bible Matters**, a Bible discussion group, meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM. Topics may be suggested to the pastor and will be announced prior to each session. Upcoming topics:

Sept 30 – Racism: How do we view our fellow man?

Oct 7 – The Church and the LGBTQ+ Community: How shall we love them?

**NOTE:** There should be a booklet available soon entitled “Gay and God” from Time of Grace Ministry (<https://timeofgrace.org/>). This will be valuable reading before our session on October 7. If it is not available on Sunday, September 27, it will be here by October 4.

## OFFICE HOURS

Office hours are Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM – Noon. The pastor will be in his office unless a meeting has been scheduled elsewhere (consult the weekly schedule). He may be in his office at other times throughout the day as well. Pastor Schroeder is also available by appointment. Call or text (248-719-5218). You may also email ([welsnovi@aol.com](mailto:welsnovi@aol.com)), but the response may be slower.

## **Worship Tidbit for the 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

### **Hymns – The Lyrics**

Why do we sing some hymns and not others? While there are thousands of hymns to choose from, the most important criteria for any hymn is that it proclaims God's word accurately and that it focuses on Christ's work of redemption. Hymns that focus on us are faulty, because we are not the foundation of our faith. The best hymns preach Christ, repeating what he has done to redeem sinners. Specific references to Father, Son, or Holy Spirit are better than vague references to "God." In this way, we not only sing God's praises by proclaiming his grace, but we make confession, teach, admonish, and comfort one another with God's word.

### **CONCERNING PASTORAL CARE**

**Divine Services:** We have in-person services on Sundays at 10:00 AM.

**Online Worship:** You can join in our services via Facebook Live (Sundays, 10 AM). You can find it here, or by searching for "Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church." Make sure you click to the one in Novi.

**Archived Resources:** We are posting our services on YouTube. A search for "Good Shepherd Novi" should bring up services. As always, sermon manuscripts are posted on the pastor's blog ([www.LutheranSubject.blogspot.com](http://www.LutheranSubject.blogspot.com)). You can use the search bar to find a particular date, day of the Church Year, or Scripture reference.

**Person-to-person care:** Pastor Schroeder will be in his office to offer private devotions, Holy Absolution, and Holy Communion to members in small groups or to individuals. Please set up your visit by appointment at any time.

**In case you contract COVID-19:** Please contact Pastor Schroeder. He will alert the congregation so that your fellow members may pray for you, and he will keep everyone informed of your condition. If possible, Pastor Schroeder will visit you during your quarantine. At the very least, he will keep in contact with you and provide devotional materials. If you want to ask for intercessions for loved ones, we will certainly remember them in our prayers, too. If your loved one has no pastor, ask if they would like Pastor Schroeder to visit them.

### **LWMS OFFERING**

The LWMS (Lutheran Women's Missionary Society) will be collecting an offering to be applied to a mission supported by the WELS. This offering will be collected at church on Sundays, September 20 and September 27. If you are getting this bulletin online, you may send in any offering you choose to Good Shepherd (41415 W. 9 Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375). The LWMS will be holding its Fall Rally online on Saturday, October 18 at 10:00 AM. Links will be publicized when they are received. More information about LWMS can be found at [www.LWMS.org](http://www.LWMS.org).

### **REDFORD PREGNANCY CARE CENTER UPDATE**

The RPCC is seeking donations for gently used fall/winter clothing. We could really use 18 mo. - 4 T clothing. For more information, please contact Carol Beeskow ([cbeeskow@gmail.com](mailto:cbeeskow@gmail.com)).

### **WELS LISTEN LIBRARY**

A new online resource You may not think your church has any blind members. What about people who can no longer read your service folder or are too frail to hold a book or have dyslexia? WELS Mission for the Visually Impaired (MVI) posts audio versions of Meditations and Forward in Christ and Christian audio books on a new website called the "Listen Library" at [listen.wels.net](http://listen.wels.net). You can see the Listen Library for yourself – it's open but the recordings are password protected. For members to listen online, download to their devices or order book or periodical on a USB flash drive, they (or someone in their family or church) applies to MVI. A Service Application form is on the Listen Library landing page. The National Library Service for the Blind has free digital players available to all who are blind. MVI continues to produce braille and large print materials. Coming soon: Professor Emeritus Daniel Deutschlander is recording his books for Listen Library clients to hear for free! Find out more about resources for members who can no longer read a book at [wels.net/mvi](http://wels.net/mvi).

## **A LOOK AT THE UPCOMING SCHEDULE**

*NOTE: All dates will be confirmed the closer we get to them.*

**SEPTEMBER** *Note: All dates are subject to review, based on the COVID-19 updates.*

- 27 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 27 Divine Service – In Church at 10:00 AM (Facebook Live – 10:00 AM)
- 27 Elders' Meeting – 11:15 AM
- 27 Pastors' Conference at Salem Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor – 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- 28 Bible Information Class – 7:00 PM
- 30 Catechism Class – 3:30-5:00 PM
- 30 Bible Matters (Topic: Racism: How do we view our fellow man?) – 7:00 PM

**OCTOBER** *Note: All dates are subject to review, based on the COVID-19 updates.*

- 4 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 4 Divine Service – In Church at 10:00 AM (Facebook Live – 10:00 AM)
- 4 Sunday School Teachers' Meeting – 11:15 AM
- 5 Catechism Class – 3:30-5:00 PM
- 5 Bible Information Class – 7:00 PM
- 7 Catechism Class – 3:30-5:00 PM
- 7 Bible Matters (Topic: The Church and the LGBTQ+ Community: How shall we love them? ) – 7:00 PM
- 11 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 11 Divine Service – In Church at 10:00 AM (Facebook Live – 10:00 AM)
- 11 HVL Conference of Congregations – 2:00 PM
- 12 Pastors' Circuit Meeting at HVL – 9:30 AM – Noon
- 12 Bible Information Class – 7:00 PM
- 13 Redford Pregnancy Care Center Bible Study – 10:00 AM
- 14 Catechism Class – 3:30-5:00 PM
- 14 Bible Matters (Topic: TBD) – 7:00 PM
- 18 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 18 Divine Service – In Church at 10:00 AM (Facebook Live – 10:00 AM)
- 19 Bible Information Class – 7:00 PM
- 20 Church Council – 7:00 PM
- 21 Catechism Class – 3:30-5:00 PM
- 21 Bible Matters (Topic: TBD) – 7:00 PM
- 25 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 25 Divine Service – In Church at 10:00 AM (Facebook Live – 10:00 AM)
- 25 Reformation Rally at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Westland
  - Vespers – 5:00 PM
  - Dinner – 5:30 PM
  - Luther Lecture – 6:30 PM
- 26 East Lansing, MI 48823
- 26 Bible Information Class – 7:00 PM
- 28 Catechism Class – 3:30-5:00 PM
- 28 Bible Matters (Topic: TBD) – 7:00 PM

**SHUT-INS** - *Please remember our shut-ins in your thoughts and prayers.*

<b>Sylvia Campbell</b>	1745 Wickhamn	Royal Oak, MI 48073
<b>Jim Hobley</b>	6950 Farmington Road	West Bloomfield, MI 48322
<b>Margaretha Lester</b>	935 Union Lake Road Apt. 218	White Lake Twp., MI 48386
<b>Elaine Patton</b>	42600 Cherry Hill Road, Rm. 115	Canton, MI 48188
<b>Mary Zuehlke</b>	29451 Halsted Road Apt. 118	Farmington Hills, MI 48331

**WELS RADIO HOUR** broadcasts 10:30-11:30 AM, Sundays, out of Lola Park Evangelical Lutheran Church of Redford. It airs on WLQV, AM 1500 and 92.7 FM. It is also simulcast on [faithtalkdetroit.com](http://faithtalkdetroit.com) and can be heard on the [faithtalkdetroit](#) phone app.

**NOTES from Huron Valley Lutheran High School (HVL)**

**Join HVL's Mailing List** - Go to HVLHS.org and click on "Sign up for Newsletter" or call or email the school office at mail@hvlhs.org to be added.

**Upcoming Event:**

Oct 11 HVL Conference of Congregations Meeting (2pm)

**International Student Host Family Needed**

HVL's International Program is a unique ministry that allows us to share Jesus with young people all over the world. We thank our host families this year who have opened their hearts and homes to help with this ministry. We currently have the potential for another female student from Germany who would need a host family for the current school year.

Host families are asked to provide meals, transportation to school and a room/bed. The international student's natural family provides for all other needs (spending money, clothes, entertainment, etc.) The host family would receive a stipend of \$5500 to offset their costs.

If you are interested in hosting a student, or if you would like more information, please contact HVL international student coordinator, Deb Purdue, at 734-377-5010, or at dpurdue@hvlhs.org.

**Crossing Bridges** - HVL partners with our Detroit Mission, Palabra de Vida, to make scholarships available to our brothers and sisters at Palabra who desire a secondary Christian education for their children. Typically, HVL has 4-5 students coming from Palabra de Vida. If you are interested in sponsoring a student to attend HVL, please let us know.

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We encourage our members to utilize opportunities for Christian education, grounded in the Evangelical-Lutheran faith. While we do not own and operate a school on our property, we are able to enroll our children at the following schools.

**St. Peter Lutheran School**

(Pre-K only)  
1343 Penniman Avenue  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 421-9022

[www.splp.org](http://www.splp.org)

Becky Lohrmann, teacher

**St. Paul Lutheran School**

(Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade)  
17810 Farmington Road  
Livonia, MI 48152  
(734) 453-0460

[www.stpaulslivonia.org](http://www.stpaulslivonia.org)

Mr. Paul Leifer, principal

**Huron Valley Lutheran High School**

(9<sup>th</sup> grade thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade)  
33740 Cowan Road  
Westland, MI 48185  
(734) 525-0160

[www.hvlhs.org](http://www.hvlhs.org)

Mr. Matt Foley, principal