

THE CHRISTIAN FAITH
ONE WORD AT A TIME:
LOVE



Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Living Shepherd Lutheran Church
365 W. Grand Ave Laramie, WY
September 24, 2017



WELCOME TO LIVING SHEPHERD!

A FEW NOTES BEFORE WORSHIP

- *We're so glad you joined us for worship today!*
- *Restrooms are located on your right and on your left immediately after you walk through the double doors next to the fireplace.*
- *We love having children in our worship service! However, if your child becomes restless, the café (first door on the left past the restrooms) is a great place to regroup and grab a cup of coffee.*
- *You are our guest! If there is something else we can help you with, please let any one of us know!*
- *Finally, you'll find everything you need for worship printed in this service folder. Lord's blessings on your worship!*

TODAY'S SERVICE

If you've been around Living Shepherd for a while, you may have noticed that every now and then, we'll have a string of readings from one book of the Bible—usually from a New Testament letter. This week is week 15 in a 16 week tour through the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans! These 16 lessons read like a curriculum for St. Paul's Bible Basics class. They provide us with an excellent opportunity to walk through the basic teachings of the Christian Church, one word at a time. This week's focus is on Love. Lord's blessings on your worship this morning!

A PRAYER BEFORE WE BEGIN

Dear Lord, I thank you for giving me this opportunity today to gather together with fellow believers to join in worship and praise. May my worship and meditation this day be pleasing in Your sight and be deserving of Your honor. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

HYMN 391 — GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO THAT HE GAVE



1 God loved the world so that he gave His on - ly
2 Christ is the sol - id rock of faith, Who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die— His Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives the
5 When you are sick, when death draws near, This truth your



Son the lost to save That all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death. All who con - fide in
sav - ing grace is nigh. His Spir - it in the
sins that you have done. You're jus - ti - fied by
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus saves my



him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word does teach How we the bless - ed goal may reach.
Je - sus' blood; Bap - tized, you are a child of God.
soul from death— This is the an - chor of my faith!

6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

Text: *Heiliges Lippen . . . Gesangbuch*, Stettin, c. 1778; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: ST. CRISPIN (LM) George J. Elvey, 1816–93.

INVOCATION

*The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross
remind worshipers of their baptisms.*

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

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION

P: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,
For sins of habit and sins of choice,
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,
You should cast me away from your presence forever.
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

ABSOLUTION

*The use of the keys is that special power and right which Christ gave to his church on earth:
to forgive the sins of penitent sinners." For further information see John 20:21-23.
Also see Luther's Small Catechism, "The Use of the Keys and Confession."*

P: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: 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

P: Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

GOD'S WORD

EZEKIEL 33:7-11

"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. ⁸ When I say to the wicked, 'You wicked person, you will surely die,' and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. ⁹ But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved.

¹⁰ "Son of man, say to the Israelites, 'This is what you are saying: "Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?" ' ¹¹ Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?

PSALM 51a (printed on the next page of your worship folder)

PSALM 51a

Refrain



Be mer - ci - ful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Psalm tone



Have mercy on me, O God,*
according to your unfailing love.

Wash away all my iniquity,*
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,*
and my sin is always before me.

Refrain

Against you, you only, have I sinned*
and done what is evil in your sight.

Surely I was sinful at birth,*
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Hide your face from my sins,*
and blot out all my iniquity.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,*
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

MATTHEW 18:15-20

"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' ^{d 17} If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

¹⁸ *"Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.*

¹⁹ *"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."*



HYMN OF THE DAY

The Hymn of the Day is assigned to this day because of its rich content and connection to the day's Gospel.

HYMN 304 — JESUS SINNERS DOES RECEIVE

(The children may come forward during verse 5 for the children's devotion)



1 Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive; Oh, may all this
2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet his words, rich
3 Sheep that from the fold did stray Are not by the
4 Come, O sin - ners, one and all, Come, ac - cept his
5 I, a sin - ner, come to you With a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live
grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;
Lord for - sak - en; Wea - ry souls who lost their way
in - vi - ta - tion. Come, o - bey his gra - cious call;
tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, show me mer - cy, too;



And from God and heav - en wan - der. Here is hope
Here their ills have per - fect heal - ing Who with hum -
Are by Christ, the shep - herd, tak - en In his arms
Come and take his free sal - va - tion! Firm - ly in
Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words



for all who grieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
ble hearts be - lieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
that they may live— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
these words be - lieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
my soul re - ceive— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.

6 Oh, how blest it is to know,
Were as scarlet my transgression,
It shall be as white as snow
By your blood and bitter passion,
For these words I do believe—
Jesus sinners does receive.

7 Jesus sinners does receive.
Even I have been forgiven.
And when I this earth must leave,
I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to him I cleave—
Jesus sinners does receive.

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: MEINEN JESUM LASS ICH NICHT (78 78 77) *Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch*, Darmstadt, 1699, alt.

GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

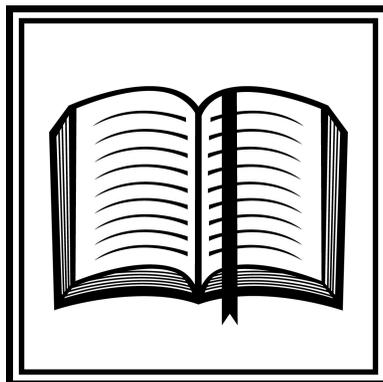
ROMANS 13:1-10

LOVE

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ² Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. ⁴ For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

⁶ This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. ⁷ Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet,"^y and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."^a ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.



CONFESSION OF FAITH

P: Living in a world where people believe that the universe was formed through chance and accident, what do you believe?

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

P: Living in a world where people are confronted with the guilt and punishment of sin, what do you believe Jesus did for you?

C: **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Living in a world where people are without hope and certainty, what do you believe?

C: **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

WORSHIP REGISTERS

*Thanks for visiting us today! We'd love to have a record of your visit!
Any information you'd be willing to share would be greatly appreciated!*

OFFERING

Moved by God's love in Christ, the people of Living Shepherd offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. To those visiting, you are our guests. While your gifts are welcome, please do not feel obligated to give. You can also support our ministry by clicking the "give" button at www.LivingShepherd.com

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*We pray on behalf of this church as well as on behalf of
God's people throughout our nation and the world.*

P: O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.

C: We praise you for every grace and blessing.

P: Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let your comforting message of salvation in Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.

C: Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.

P: We bring you our requests for the various structures of our society. Bless our national, state and local governments

C: Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.

P: Grant prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward their workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship.

C: Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.

P: Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote an informed and responsible citizenry. Arouse curious minds to discover the wonders of your creation.

C: Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.

P: Strengthen the families of our country. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as your representatives.

C: Lead us to love one another as you have loved us

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions

Silent Prayer

P: Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear us and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare. For it was your only Son who taught us to pray:

C: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

*The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years.
The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them],
and I will bless them" [Numbers 6:27].*

P: 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**

CLOSING HYMN

HYMN 490 — LOVE IN CHRIST IS STRONG AND LIVING

(printed on page 14 in your worship folder)



490

Love in Christ Is Strong and Living



1 Love in Christ is strong and liv - ing,
 2 Love is pa - tient and for - bear - ing,
 3 Love in Christ a - bides for - ev - er,



Bind - ing faith - ful hearts in one;
 Clothed in Christ's hu - mil - i - ty,
 Faint - ing not when ills at - tend;



Love in Christ is true and giv - ing—
 Gen - tle, self - less, kind, and car - ing,
 Love, for - giv - ing and for - giv - en,



May his will in us be done!
 Reach - ing out in char - i - ty.
 Shall en - dure un - til life's end.

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 Tune: DOROTHY (87 87) Ralph C. Schultz, b. 1932. © 1980 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.
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Living Shepherd Logo by Rachel Westra — Westra Design

WELCOME!

We welcome everyone here today and thank you for joining us for Worship!
We hope that you will join us again soon.

TREATS FROM SWEETS BAKERY AND COFFEE!

We hope you can stick around after worship to join us for some treats from Sweets Bakery and some freshly brewed coffee!

PASTOR'S CALL

As pastor and his family consider the call to serve at St. Marcus in Milwaukee, WI, please keep him and his family in your prayers. Thanks! There will not be a formal meeting to discuss the call, but you are encouraged to call or e-mail pastor to share any thoughts you may have.



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Call or Text Anytime!!

