

# WRESTLING WITH GOD



The Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost  
Living Shepherd Lutheran Church  
365 W. Grand Ave. Laramie, WY  
October 16, 2016



# 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 fire place.*
- *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 go. You'll even find a live audio and video feed!*
- *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

*Imagine there is this very important job that needs to be done and you have a choice. You can either take things into your own hands and do it yourself, or you can let someone else do it. Which option are you going to choose? Probably the option that leaves you in control, right? This morning we're going to look at the moment God changed Jacob's name to Israel. In that moment, you'll see more than a name change. You'll see Jacob stop trying to control every aspect of his life and begin to simply wrestle with God!*

## A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*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.*

# GATHERING RITE ON THE WORD OF GOD

*God's people long to gather together for strength from God and for mutual encouragement.  
This alternate beginning for worship may be used on any occasion  
to remind God's people of the blessings of his Word.*

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

C: **Amen.**

*Introduction to the hymn.*



Bless - ed Je - sus, at your Word We are gath - ered all to  
Let our hearts and souls be stirred Now to seek and love and



hear you.  
fear you, By your teach - ings, sweet and ho - ly,



Drawn from earth to love you sole - ly.

P: Oh, how I love your law!

C: **I meditate on it all day long.**

P: Your commands make me wiser than my enemies,

C: **for they are ever with me.**

P: I have more insight than all my teachers,

**C:** for I meditate on your statutes.

P: How sweet are your words to my taste,

**C:** sweeter than honey to my mouth! *(Psalm 119:97-99,103)*



All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est dark-ness  
Till your Spir - it breaks our night With the beams of truth un-



shroud - ed  
cloud - ed. You a - lone to God can win us;



You must work all good with - in us.

P: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

**C:** so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. *(2 Timothy 3:16,17)*

P: Yet so often we have despised God's Word and failed to gladly hear and learn it. For this and all our sins, we bow before God and humbly ask his 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.



Gra-cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light from Light, from God pro-  
O - pen now our heart and mind; Help us by your Spir-it's



ceed - ing,  
plead - ing. Hear the cry your peo - ple rais - es;



Hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.

**P:** God gave his Word so “that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (*John 20:31*). The Scriptures testify about Jesus, who lived a perfect life for you, died on the cross to pay for all your sins, and rose again to assure you of your salvation. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.



Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, Praise to you and ad - o -  
Grant that we your Word may trust, Con - fi - dent of our sal -



ra - tion!  
va - tion, While we here be - low must wan - der,



Till we sing your prais - es yon - der.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Lord, keep your household, the Church, in continual godliness and set us free from all adversities that, under your protection, we may serve you with true devotion and holy deeds; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## GOD'S WORD

LUKE 18:1-8

*Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. <sup>2</sup> He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. <sup>3</sup> And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'*

*<sup>4</sup> "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, <sup>5</sup> yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!' "*

*<sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup> And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? <sup>8</sup> I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly.*

PSALM 40 (printed on the next page)

1 JOHN 5:13-15

*I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. <sup>14</sup> This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.*

# Psalm 40

## *Refrain*



O Lord, my God, man-y are the won-ders you have done.

## *Psalm Tone*



I waited patiently for the LORD;  
he turned to me and heard my cry.

Do not withhold your mercy from me, O LORD;  
may your love and your truth always protect me.

For troubles without number surround me;  
my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see.

They are more than the hairs of my head,  
and my heart fails within me.

Be pleased, O LORD, to save me;  
O LORD, come quickly to help me.

## *Refrain*

I waited patiently for the LORD;  
he turned to me and heard my cry.

He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.  
Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.

Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust,  
who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods.

Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders you have done.  
The things you planned for us no one can recount to you;

were I to speak and tell of them,  
they would be too many to declare.

**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*

# HYMN OF THE DAY

## HYMN 448 — IN YOU, O LORD, I PUT MY TRUST

CHILDREN MAY COME FORWARD DURING VS 3 FOR THE CHILDREN'S DEVOTION



1 In you, O Lord, I put my trust—  
2 Oh, lis - ten, Lord, most gra - cious - ly,  
3 You are my strength, my shield, my rock,  
4 With you, O Lord, I cast my lot;  
5 All hon - or, praise, and maj - es - ty



Leave me not help - less in the dust;  
And hear my cry, my prayer, my plea;  
My for - tress that with - stands each shock,  
O faith - ful God, for - sake me not,  
To Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it be,



Let me not be con - found - ed.  
Make haste for my pro - tec - tion,  
My help, my life, my tow - er,  
To you my soul com - mend - ing.  
Our God for - ev - er glo - rious,



My faith, O Lord, Must in your Word  
For woes and fear Sur - round me here.  
My bat - tle sword, Al - might - y Lord—  
Lord, be my stay, And lead the way  
In whose rich grace We run our race



Be al - ways firm - ly ground - ed.  
Help me in my af - flic - tion.  
What can re - sist your pow - er?  
Now and when life is end - ing.  
Till we de - part vic - to - rious.

Text: Adam Reusner, 1496–c. 1575, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-4, alt.; *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, st. 5, alt.

Tune: IN DICH HAB ICH GEHOFFET (887 447)  *Davids Himlische Harpffen*, Nürnberg, 1581, alt.



## GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

GENESIS 32:22-30

WRESTLING WITH GOD

*That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maidservants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup> After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. <sup>24</sup> So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. <sup>25</sup> When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. <sup>26</sup> Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."*

*But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." <sup>27</sup> The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered.*

*<sup>28</sup> Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome."*

*<sup>29</sup> Jacob said, "Please tell me your name."*

*But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there.*

*<sup>30</sup> So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."*

I WAITED PATIENTLY  
FOR THE LORD  
  
HE TURNED TO ME AND  
HEARD MY CRY

# 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.**

## 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.*

## 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!*

# 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 472 — RISE, MY SOUL, TO WATCH AND PRAY (printed on the next page)*

472

Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray



1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; From your sleep a -  
 2 Watch! Let not the wick - ed world With its lies de -  
 3 Watch a - gainst your - self, my soul, Lest with grace you  
 4 But while watch - ing al - so pray To the Lord un -



wak - en! Be not by the e - vil day Un - a -  
 feat you Lest with bold de - cep - tions hurled It be -  
 tri - fle; Let not self your thoughts con - trol Nor God's  
 ceas - ing. God pro - tects you day by day, Strength and



wares o'er - tak - en. For the foe, Well we know, Is a  
 tray and cheat you. Watch and see Lest there be Faith - less  
 mer - cy sti - fle. Pride and sin Lurk with - in, All your  
 faith in - creas - ing, So that still Mind and will Shall u -



har - vest reap - ing While the saints are sleep - ing.  
 friends to charm you Who but seek to harm you.  
 hopes to shat - ter; Heed not when they flat - ter.  
 nite to serve him And for - ev - er love him.

Text: Johann B. Freystein, 1671–1718, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: STRAF MICH NICHT (76 76 33 66) *Hundert . . . geistlicher Arien*, Dresden, 1694, alt.



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## **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 AND COAL CREEK COFFEE!**

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

## **BIBLE STUDY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Bible Study and Sunday School continue after worship today! Plan on these opportunities to study God's Word lasting 20-30 minutes. We hope you can join us!

## **BIBLE BASICS**

Another round of Bible Basics is upon us! If you or anyone you know is interested in either the *Basics of Christian Teaching* class (Tuesdays) or the *Basics of Christian Living* class (Wednesdays), sign up today on our website! ([livingshepherd.com](http://livingshepherd.com))

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*Call or Text Anytime!!*

