

## Introit



**A** Be strong, and let your heart take | courage,\*  
all you who wait | for the Lord!

**C** But I trust in you, | O Lord;\*  
I say, "You | are my God."

Prove me, O Lord, and | try me;\*  
test my heart | and my mind.

My times are | in your hand;\*  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my  
perse- | cutors!

Make your face shine on your | servant;\*  
save me in your | steadfast love!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen..

**A** Be strong, and let your heart take | courage,\*  
all you who wait | for the Lord!

(Psalm 31:14–16; antiphon: v. 24)

## Collect of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, our support and defense in every need, continue to preserve Your Church in safety, govern her by Your goodness, and bless her with Your peace; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## Old Testament – Isaiah 50:4–10

<sup>4</sup>The Lord GOD has given me  
the tongue of those who are taught,  
that I may know how to sustain with a word  
him who is weary.

Morning by morning he awakens;  
he awakens my ear  
to hear as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious;  
I turned not backward.

<sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who strike,  
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;  
I hid not my face  
from disgrace and spitting.

<sup>7</sup>But the Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like a flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

<sup>8</sup>He who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.

Who is my adversary?  
Let him come near to me.

<sup>9</sup>Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?  
Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment;  
the moth will eat them up.

<sup>10</sup>Who among you fears the LORD  
and obeys the voice of his servant?  
Let him who walks in darkness  
and has no light  
trust in the name of the LORD  
and rely on his God.

## Gradual

**A** Fear the Lord, | you his saints,\*  
for those who fear him lack | nothing!  
Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,\*  
but the Lord delivers him out | of them all.

## Epistle – James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup>For we all stumble in many ways, and if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. <sup>3</sup>If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. <sup>4</sup>Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven

*The numbers on the right refer to the page numbers which are found in the Hymnal (LSB) which is located in the pew rack*

### *The Preparation*

Hymn of Invocation	<b>726</b>
Invocation	151
Confession & Absolution	151

### *The Service of the Word*

Introit	<b>Bulletin</b>
Kyrie	152
Gloria in Excelsis	154
Salutation & Collect	156
<b>The First Reading</b>	<b>Bulletin</b>
<b>Gradual</b>	<b>Bulletin</b>
<b>Epistle</b>	<b>Bulletin</b>
Alleluia and Verse	156
<b>The Holy Gospel</b>	<b>Bulletin - Back</b>
Apostles Creed	159
Hymn of the Day:	<b>849</b>
Sermon	
Prayer of the Church	159
Offering	159
Offertory	159

### *The Service of the Sacrament*

Preface	160
Sanctus	161
Lord's Prayer	162
The Words of Our Lord	162
Pax Domini	163
Agnus Dei	163
Distribution Hymns:	<b>620, 846, 533</b>
Dismissal	164
Thank the Lord	164
Post-Communion Collect	166
Benediction	166
Closing Hymn:	<b>783</b>

Readings Continued on Back →

by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup>So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! <sup>6</sup>And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup>For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, <sup>8</sup>but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup>With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup>From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup>Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? <sup>12</sup>Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

### **The Holy Gospel – Mark 9:14-29**

When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. <sup>15</sup>And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to [Jesus] and greeted him. <sup>16</sup>And he asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" <sup>17</sup>And someone



from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. <sup>18</sup>And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." <sup>19</sup>And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." <sup>20</sup>And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. <sup>21</sup>And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. <sup>22</sup>And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." <sup>23</sup>And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes." <sup>24</sup>Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" <sup>25</sup>And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." <sup>26</sup>And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead." <sup>27</sup>But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. <sup>28</sup>And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" <sup>29</sup>And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."



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# *Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church*

*The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod*

**A Biblical, Confessional and Traditional congregation in the Chicago region committed to ministering to sinners with the forgiving presence of Jesus Christ.**

**17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2024**

**THE DIVINE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**PAGE 151**

**A WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME** to all who gather in the Lord's House today. You have joined with the seen and unseen host of God, around the throne of the Lamb, to be served by the Triune God through the preaching of His Word and the administration of the Holy Sacraments. Apart from these Means of Grace there are no Christians and there is no Church! Therefore the entire Liturgy places God at center stage as He acts towards His people through the Word and Sacraments to bring His gifts of life and salvation. That is why the Liturgy is called "Divine Service" - it is God's Service to His people! This service reaches its fulfillment in the Lord's Supper or Sacrament of the Altar.

**Dear Visitors and Friends** Our practice of close communion is the historic practice of the church. It is prompted by love, both for God's Word and for God's people. It does not deny that members of other denominations are Christians. Rather, it bows the knee to the Bible's deep concern for doctrinal truth (Rom.16:17) and the Bible's witness that doctrinal unity is central to the common reception of this Sacrament.

For this reason, the congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have agreed to follow the Biblical and historical practice of "Closed Communion." **If you desire to receive the Lord's Supper and are not a communicant member of Divine Shepherd, or a sister congregation in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod we respectfully ask that you not commune this morning.** Rather, we would invite you to speak with Pastor Zimmer about Holy Communion and about becoming a communicant member of this congregation. It is the sincere prayer of this congregation that our careful practice of the administration of the Lord's Supper will not be a hindrance to our fellowship with you but instead that it would lead you to appreciate the high regard we have for Christ and His Word concerning this precious gift. **We do invite those who are not a member of the LCMS to come to the altar for a blessing. God bless you for Your understanding.**