FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 15, 2019 • 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

As We Gather

If the Lord describes Himself in Scripture as our "Shepherd," it follows that we, who belong to Him, are His "sheep." Although the agrarian setting of the Shepherd-sheep relationship may be unfamiliar to many in our day, it's a powerful scriptural image that shows forth the saving work of Jesus. All we like sheep wander away from our Shepherd's provision, wrongly assuming we can find our own way. Not only can we never find our own way to lasting life, but we can find our own way *only* to everlasting death.



Because the Shepherd became one of us as the very "Lamb of

God,

who takes away the sin of the world," we know that the Lord never gives up on us! He pursues His wandering sheep. Finding us and claiming us, He carries us home. And that's exactly where He gathers us today: at home in His presence so that He, our Shepherd, can fill us, His sheep, with His love and mercy. Thank the Shepherd for coming to your rescue!

+ Gathering in Our Shepherd's Name +

The sign of the cross (\pm) may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Opening Sentences

- Come, Lord God, create new hearts within us and renew our spirits. Amen.
- **P** I long for Your salvation, LORD,
- **G** and Your law gives me delight.

- P Let me live that I may praise You,
- **G** and may Your laws sustain me.
- **P** I have strayed like a lost sheep.
- **C** Seek Your servant, for I have not forgotten Your commands. (Psalm 119:174-176)

Opening Hymn

LSB 711 | "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead

Us″



Please stand.

Confession and Forgiveness

- As sheep who have wandered from the Shepherd, we all have turned from the Lord in our disobedience to His commands.
- "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6).
- Confident in the pursuit of our Shepherd, Jesus, for those who wander from Him, let us confess our sins to God our Father.

(A time for silent reflection upon God's Word and personal confession)

- **P** Together, we pray:
- Good Shepherd, we are Your wandering people. We need You. We need Your love. We need Your forgiveness. We need Your pursuit of us all. Guide us back into the fold of Your care that we be cleansed of our sins. Create in us hearts to worship You in truth and follow Your Word, which alone gives us life. Amen.
- In the mercy of almighty God, we are redeemed by Jesus Christ. In Him, our Good Shepherd, who laid down His life for us all, we are fully and freely forgiven. Receive this forgiveness today as you, like wandering sheep, are drawn back into His rescuing mercy. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

Sharing of the Peace

We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3).





Prayer of the Day

- Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd, without whom nothing is secure. Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever but follow You, rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.
- $\stackrel{+}{}_{\pm}$ Listening to Our Shepherd's Voice $\stackrel{+}{}_{\pm}$

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 34:11-24

The Sovereign LORD will search for and seek out His scattered sheep. He promises to rescue His lost sheep and to setup and send a loving Shepherd who will lead them to eternal life.

¹¹"For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: 'I myself will search for My sheep and look after them. ¹²As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after My sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. 14I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I Myself will tend My sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. 16 will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.' ¹⁷As for you, My flock, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: 'I will judge between one sheep and another, and between rams and goats. ¹⁸Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture? Must you also trample the rest of your pasture with your feet? Is it not enough for you to drink clear water? Must you also muddy the rest with your feet? ¹⁹Must My flock feed on what you have trampled and drink what you have muddled with vour feet?' ²⁰Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says to them: 'See, I Myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, ²²I will save My flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. ²³I will place over them one Shepherd, My servant David, and He will tend them; He will tend them and be their Shepherd. ²⁴I the LORD will be their God, and My servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken."

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

Epistle Reading

The letters to Timothy are called the Pastoral Epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.

1 Timothy 1:12-17

¹²I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, Who has given me strength, that He considered me faithful, appointing me to His service. ¹³Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. ¹⁴The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display His unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on Him and receive eternal life. ¹⁷Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!



Holy Gospel

Luke 15:1-10

Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that his or her recovery brings joy in heaven.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.



¹Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear Him. ²But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. ⁸Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' ¹⁰In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



$\overset{+}{\scriptscriptstyle +}$ Responding to Our Shepherd's Mercy $\overset{+}{\scriptscriptstyle +}$

Profession of Faith Second Article of the Apostles' Creed
■ Today we speak the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed and its meaning from Luther's Small Catechism:

- And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
- **P** What does this mean?
- A I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed

me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Please be seated.

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day LSB 740 | "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb" 1 I Je - sus' lit - tle lamb, Ev - er am glad at 2 Day day, by at home, a - way, Je - sus is my 3 Who so T E - ven hap - py as am. now the Shep - herd guides me, heart I am; For my gent - ly staff and stay. When Ι hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me, Shep - herd's lamb? And when my short life is end - ed. Knows my need well pro-vides me, and Loves me ev -'rv - to pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; When Ι thirst. He In His an - gel at - tend - ed. He shall fold By host me the E ven calls me by day same, my name. -Where qui - et bids me go the wa - ters flow. There His to His breast, with - in arms to rest.

Message

Offering

A SPECIAL NOTE: The mission and ministries of Ascension are supported by the love, generosity and sacrificial giving of our members and friends. If you are a GUEST today, please do not feel obligated to make a contribution, but know that any financial gift which you make will be used to help share Christ's love and salvation. Our offerings are an important part of our worship. Also, take a moment to fill out a blue Friendship Card and place it in the offering plate. Thank you!

Choral Anthem (10:30 am)

"There's a Wideness in God's

Mercy"

Arr. by John Zundel

Prayer of the Church

- In Faithful Shepherd, You are so good to us. Even when we stray from Your presence through disobedience to Your commands, You bring us back into Your presence through the good news that we have received in this time of worship.
- **G** Grant that we treasure all we possess in the Gospel of Christ.
- Guiding Shepherd, lead us with Your mercy so that we may dwell in Your presence forever. Salvation is found solely in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Enable us to bring the good news of His life, death, and resurrection to all souls for whom He offered His life.
- **C** Enable us to open our lips and declare Your wonders to the world.
- Loving Shepherd, You care for all You have made, for all the world is Yours. Grant that those who are broken in heart, mind, and spirit find refreshment in Your presence. Open our eyes to the needs of our neighbors, for in them we see You.
- **G** Give us hearts to serve others with the mercy You give to us all.
- Protecting Shepherd, guard and bless those who take refuge in You. Watch over the land in which we live. Guide all public servants to act justly with Your wisdom. Enable us to dwell in security and peace. Lead all Christians to be people of worship, prayer, service and witness so that our communities are blessed by You through the works of our hands.
- **C** Send us out to represent our Savior in all we say and do.
- Healing Shepherd, bind up the wounds of those who suffer in both soul and body (especially . . .). Whatever their needs and circumstances, draw Your sheep into the fold of Your care that they may receive the healing You desire for them.
- **Open our eyes to see Your healing hand at work.**
- (Other petitions may be offered.) As sheep who trust in their faithful Shepherd, we bring these prayers before You, along with all the unspoken prayers of our hearts.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



+ Feasting at Our Shepherd's Table +

Preparation for Holy Communion

Holy Communion is celebrated at Ascension in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine, but His very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of our sins and to strengthen our union with Him and one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who are baptized and who trust His words, repent of all sins, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes again. The following questions are helpful for those preparing to receive the Lord's Supper:



- Do I believe that I am sinful and without hope of eternal life without God's mercy in Christ Jesus?
- Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and my personal Savior?
- Do I believe that He is personally and truly present in this meal with His body and blood?
- Do I intend by the power of the Holy Spirit to live a godly life?

Preface



It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Shepherd, for by His death and resurrection He has rescued Your wandering sheep by becoming the very Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus

Tune | O DASS ICH TAUSEND ZUNGEN HÄTTE

Sing holy praise to God the Father And to His Son, forever one. The Spirit came new life to give us, Joined with our God, we bear His name. Lift your hosannas to the Lord, Blessed be our God the Holy One.

© Rev. Russell A. Nebhut, 2004

Lord's Prayer

- **P** Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:
- A 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.

Words of Our Lord Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Agnus Dei

Tune | O DASS ICH TAUSEND ZUNGEN HÄTTE

O Lamb of God the pure and holy, Have mercy on my soul this day. O Lamb of God the pure and holy, Grant me forgiveness for my sin. Let me receive Your gracious gift, and take from me my sin and guilt.

© Rev. Russell A. Nebhut, 2004

Please be seated.

Distribution Hymns

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Choir Anthem (10:30 am) | "Softly and Tenderly" | arr. by Will Thompson
LSB 710 | "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"
LSB 700 | "Love Divine, All Love Excelling"
LSB 611 | "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"
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Dismissal

- P The body and blood of our Lord and Shepherd strengthen and preserve you steadfast in the true faith to life everlasting. Depart + in peace.
- C Amen.

Please stand.

+ Departing with Our Shepherd's Blessing +

Benediction

- P As our Shepherd, our Savior will lead us as we walk with Him in faith.
- **C** Following our Shepherd every day, let us share His mercy with everyone we meet.
- P The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
- **C** Amen.

Closing Hymn

LSB 895 | "Now Thank We All Our God"



Sending

- Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Joyfully follow our Shepherd!
- C Thanks be to God!

Postlude

$^+$ Exiting to Witness for Our Shepherd $^+$

Acknowledgments

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This Week a⁺ Notes - September 15 Ascension Feder

Flowers Today

Flowers in the altar area are given by the Cooper family in celebration of Robyn and Riley's birthdays.

Library

Visit your church library Tuesday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Sunday mornings.

Paper Products Donations

The Board of Christian Service is collecting donations of paper products for the Opportunity Center for the homeless & Ysleta Lutheran Mission—paper towels, paper plates, napkins and toilet paper are all helpful to the ministry. There is a large plastic bin in the fellowship hall to place donations. Thank you!

Membership

Those interested in membership at Ascension can go through the New Member Class online at our website: www.ALConnect.faith. Click on "Media" then the "New Member Class" link and follow the prompts.

Refreshments for Fellowship Time

Sign up today to share refreshments between services! Sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall by the kitchen.

Sign Up to Provide Sunday Flowers for our Sanctuary

(Sept 22 & 29 and Oct 6 & 13 are available!) This is a lovely way to remember birthdays, anniversaries, and loved ones. Both arrangements are \$50 or you can split it with another family and you can each take an arrangement home after the late service. Please place your check in the offering plate or drop it off in the church office.

15



Bestian will continue the study on the Book of Acts during Family Bible Hour @ 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All members & friends of Ascension are encouraged to attend.

Youth Ministry News



Who do you say Jesus is? Today, the youth are further exploring the answer to this question. All youth are encouraged to join us at 9:15 am downstairs in the Youth Room.

Children's Sunday School



In Sunday School this week students studied "The Fall of Jericho." We are reminded that God is our mighty fortress who delivers us from the false walls of our sin and saves us in the true Joshua, (Jesus) that we might become and remain His people. Ask students, *"What did the people of Jericho think their wall (fortress) would do for them? What does God our Fortress do for us?"*

Interim Sunday School Head Coordinator: Kim Bestian Preschool – Kindergarten: Lauren Hannemann Grades 1-3: Linda Canada Grades 4-6: Cheryl Canada





Soap for Hope is a service opportunity sponsored by the Children's Ministry of Ascension! The children will be collecting all kinds of soap for those in need. Items include: liquid hand soap, bar soap, dish detergent, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, shaving cream, disinfectant spray, window cleaner, toilet bowl cleaners and brushes, powder cleansers, sponges, and so forth. People are in need of His Word and also in need of soap. Please bring your contributions to

church with you through September! Thank you for your gifts!

Stewardship Corner



Job Vacancy: Church Custodian



The Board of Trustees is looking to fill the church custodian position effective October 2019. The church custodian is a paid part-time position with oversight provided by the Board of Trustees. The custodial duties include but are not limited to cleaning the sanctuary, fellowship hall and associated areas on a weekly basis. The hours are flexible. Interested persons are asked to contact Trustee Chairman Kent Switzer at (915) 227-7589 or at <u>kswitzer@elp.rr.com</u>.

Prayer Ministry



If you have a prayer request for the prayer chain, please call Olga Sullivan at 581-1450 or e-mail Jan Schlak at oveja6925@aol.com.

Please call the church office @ 833-1009 to include a prayer request for the bulletin.

Grieving: We pray for the families of **Ralph Matarrazo** and **Elizabeth Karl** as they mourn their deaths.

Missions: Apple of His Eye Ministry & Ysleta

Lutheran Mission.

Christina Immediate Concerns: Maria Oswald (Inge Wozniak's mother), Maldonado (Wozniak's daughter), John Tiedeman (cancer), Scarlett Orwig (leukemia - teammate of Madison Schwitters), Sandra Larrison (heart issues pastor's sister), Judy Marxhausen (successful eye surgery - Kim Bestian's sister-in-law), Sean Miller (Pam Miller's son - surgery), Jesus Gomez (Alicia Gomez's father), Pastor Daniel Salinas (heart attack), Candy Gebler (recovery from surgeries), Katy Fredericksen (recovery from brain surgery - friend of Bestians), Sue Anderson, Christine Dechert (takotsubo David Regalado (stroke), cardiomyopathy - niece of Mary Rosenbaum), Kim Pfeiffer (Jennifer Cummings' niece recovery from injuries), Martha Neal, Harry Clark, Judie Pinal (successful cancer

treatments), Rosie Aguirre (friend of John Witty - cancer treatment), Aaron Levenhagen (Linda Canada's nephew _ correct diagnosis), Mona Chandler (Alzheimer's - Harry Clark's sister), Suzette Barber (knee injury), Cindy McGuire (motorcycle accident), Kay McLeod (hospice care), Jerad Knight, Olga Sullivan Judy Freubenburg (Ordella Uhde′s (Parkinson's), sister-in-law), James Goldsmith. June McClanahan (Pastor's aunt - pancreatic cancer), Brent Behrens (continued healing after stroke), Pauline Sudnahufski (family of Schwitters' -Natalie Knight, Gloria Garcia (friend of Weyers - heart attack), hospice care), **Tony Evans** (ALS diagnosis), Erin Naylor Leach (friend of Hite family -Herb Harper (effective treatment), Lorie Nadelborg successful rehab), (inoperable brain tumor).

Ongoing Prayers: Dave Epperson, Bob Gallagher, Ron Spott, Annabelle Leupp, Todd Maki, Jerry Aguilera, Helen Allen, Rick Barber, Eric Bell, Juan Chacon, Peter Chisholm, Ron Cleavenger, Micah Cohen, Josephine DeMartelaere, Julie DeRusha, Humberto Garcia, Angelika Grossnick, Tina Guerrero, Wayne Kendrick, William Peevey, Lenae Rasmussen, Cheryl Rassette, Eloisa Regalado, Gideon Rhodes, Alicia Rich, Paul Robinson, Julio Rodriguez, Gabriella Rubio, Jim Schwab, Garry Simmons, Bill Strickland, Louise Strickland, Anthony Sullivan, Tony Sullivan, Fred Svarney, Jim Swegarden, Jim VanEtten, Greg Vaughan, Grace Wells, Jim Werner, Marge Jordan

Deployed Troops: Christopher Dahl. Please pray for all deployed troops and their families as they serve our country around the world.

This Week at Ascension



SUNDAY | 15

- 8:00 am Worship with Communion
- 9:15 am Family Bible Hour
- 10:30 am Worship with Communion
- 11:45 am Confirmation

MONDAY | 16

Church Office Closed

TUESDAY | 17

- 10:30 am Woman-to-Woman Bible Study (church)6:30 pm Men's Bible Study (church)6:30 pm Women's Bible Study (Wade home)
- 6:45 pm Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY 118

- 8:45 am Preschool Chapel
- 10:00 am Weight Watchers
- 11:15 am Sit & Sew
- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY | 19

- 9:45 am Women's Bible Study (Schlak home)
- 3:00 pm October newsletter articles & calendar updates due in office
- 6:30 pm Ladies Night Out (Julio's Mexican)

SATURDAY | 21

- 8:00 am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (church)
- 9:30 am Board of Stewardship

Bible Study Leaders/Sunday School Teachers & Helpers

At Ascension, there are several opportunities to grow deeper in God's Word! We thank those teachers, substitute teachers and helpers who give of their time to teach, lead, and facilitate the study of Scripture!

Weekday Bible Study Leaders



Sunday School

Interim Sunday School Head Coordinator Kim Bestian	
Cradle Roll Coordinator	Keri Howell
Junior/Senior Youth Bible Study	Luz Soto
Adult Bible Class & Confirmation Class	Pastor Brian Bestian

Sunday School Teachers & Helpers

We are blessed with this year's Sunday School teachers and helpers: Lynn Burchfield, Cheryl Canada, Linda Canada, Jean DeWitt, Debbie Epperson, Melanie Gallagher, Lauren Hannemann, Keri Howell, Nethia Kelly, Mary Rosenbaum, Jacky Ryberg and Jan Schlak.

If you are so moved by the Holy Spirit to join the teaching team or substitute teach, please talk with Kim Bestian. May God richly bless these willing souls who put much, prayer and preparation into the lessons as they partner with parents!



Sermon Notes