

July 23, 2023

# “You Are My Witnesses”

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

**GATHERING MUSIC** Aaron Lack and the Vibetet

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 139

Assisting Minister: O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O LORD, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

**All:**           Where can I go from your spirit?  
Or where can I flee from your presence?  
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

**If I take the wings of the morning  
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me fast.**

**If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and night wraps itself around me,"  
even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.**

Assisting Minister: Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my thoughts.  
See if there is any wicked way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.

## **OPENING HYMN #593   *Drawn to the Light***

### **TIME OF HONESTY**

Assisting Minister: Lord Jesus Christ, we remember with gratitude  
those people who generously sowed the seeds of faith in our  
lives.

(time of reflection)

Assisting Minister: Above all, we recognize how you have blessed our  
lives with the gift of the Holy Spirit so that our faith has  
miraculously and mysteriously grown.

**All: We confess the times we fail to involve ourselves in planting  
any seeds of faith in the lives of others; the times when our  
personal agendas become more important than yours; the  
times when our lives become so entangled with the values of  
the world that we forget what you have said and done and  
promised.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, we know that when we become disconnected from you, our lives becomes parched and unfruitful and we fail to trust in You. Forgive and renew our lives, we pray, so that we remain connected to you and your love.

**All: Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** Aaron Lack and the Vibetet

(You are invited to the Baptismal font to touch the waters of God's presence of love and grace.)

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**WELCOME/LIFE IN COMMUNITY** [shephills.org](http://shephills.org)

**Altar Flowers:** Given by friends, "In celebration of Barb Hampton's birthday."  
Gather Us In, Above and Beyond, Stewarding for Growth Data

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**HOLY GOSPEL... MATTHEW 13:24-30** NRSV

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away.

So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?'

He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them.

Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' ”

## **SONG OF RESPONSE #512     *Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil***

### **HOLY GOSPEL...MATTHEW 13:36-43** NRSV

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one,

and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers,

and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

Pastor:     This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All:            Thanks be to God.**

### **MESSAGE** Pastor Tom Grevlos

## **MESSAGE SONG #677     *This Little Light of Mine***

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the  
Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **THANK OFFERING**

- To make a gift online to the mission and ministry of Shepherd of the Hills, use this link: [shephills.org/give](https://shephills.org/give).
- Scan the QR Code with your camera phone to give now.
- By mail, send to 3525 Bee Caves Rd, Austin, TX 78746



### **MISSION MOMENT** Water To Thrive

### **OFFERING MUSIC #692**

*We Are an Offering*

### **PRAYER OF THANKS**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

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;

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.

## **COMMUNION INVITATION**

As we celebrate this sacrament, all are invited to receive the  
Risen presence of Jesus.

*God is really present—in bread and wine—forgiving sins and  
promising new life.*

*Bread/wafer— “The body of Christ given for you”;  
Wine— “The blood of Christ shed for you.”*

## **COMMUNION MUSIC** Aaron Lack and the Vibetet

## **POST - COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER**

## **BENEDICTION**

## **SENDING SONG #543     *Go, My Children, with My Blessing***

## **COMMISSIONING**

Assisting Minister: May we plant seeds of hope as we go out to love  
and serve the Lord...

**All: Thanks be to God. And, we will!**

## **POSTLUDE** Aaron Lack and the Vibetet

## **PRAYERS**

**We pray** for Rodney Varner, Nancy Etzler and Margaret McQuiston.

**We pray** for family and friends of Shepherd members:

Krista Bowers, niece of Herb and Kathy Palmer.

Stirling Johnson, granddaughter of Sylvia & Curtis Johnson.

**O God, we pray** for our youth and adults heading home from the Boundary Waters trip today. We thank you for their experience in your creation, and we pray for a safe journey on this final leg home.

**God of joy and adventure**, we give you thanks for this wonderful summer of ministry, especially with our young people--Camp Chrysalis, day camp, Picklebell camp, and the Boundary Waters trip. As our young people have enjoyed play and laughter, renewed friendships, and growth in faith, we pray for these experiences to be carried with them throughout the coming year.

**Merciful and Loving God**, as war and violence rage in Ukraine and other parts of the world, we pray that leaders of the world will practice peace-making, bringing together people of every tribe and race under the umbrella of your amazing grace.

**We pray** for our global ministry partners: Rev. Karen Castillo in Guatemala; Iglesia Luterana Augustina Virgen del Rosario, Aurora 8 de Octubre, Guatemala. We pray for Malcolm and Joy Henderson and the ministry of CHARIS in Haiti.

**We pray** for our local ministries: Mariposa Family Learning Center, Bread For All, and Upbring Ministries.

**We pray** for our faith community, that we may be a church without walls and live out loud...faithfully!

*\*Prayers for family and friends are listed for 2 weeks,  
unless we are notified otherwise.*

## **WORSHIP TEAM**

<b>Pastors</b>	Pr. Tom Grevlos, Pr. Lauren Dow Wegner
<b>Director of Worship/Arts</b>	Kevin McClure
<b>Musicians</b>	Aaron Lack and the Vibetette
Aaron Lack, Vibraphone, Chris Bell, Guitar, Nick Davis, Bass and Pablo Ranlett-Lopez, Drums.	
<b>Acolyte</b> (10:45)	Austin Eckermann
<b>Altar Flowers:</b> Given by friends, “In celebration of Barb Hampton’s birthday.”	
<b>Altar Steward</b> (8:15)	Kitt Richter; (10:45) Richard and Jennifer Arndt
<b>Assisting Minister</b> (8:15)	Tim Stein; (10:45) Jennifer Arndt
<b>AV</b>	Bill Dawson, Dave Wegner, Pete Forsberg, Jamie Nichols, Peter Walsh, Jonathan Wolff, Erin Courtney, Devon Schueppert
<b>Bread</b>	Kitt Richter
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	
(8:15) Tim Stein, Kitt Richter;	
(10:45) Richard and Jennifer Arndt, Austin Eckermann	
<b>Food For Fellowship</b>	Audrey Lunecki and Janice Benzel
<b>Hosts</b> (8:15)	Donna Auby; (10:45) the Oehler family
<b>Tellers</b> (10:45)	Anita Knight, Amanda Land Palmer
<b>Admin Ministry Coordinator</b>	Amanda Forsberg
<b>Campus Operations</b>	Dave Wegner
<b>Communications Director</b>	Dabney Gomes
<b>Program Ministry Coordinator</b>	Joel Timmons
<b>Executive Director</b>	Bill Dawson
<b>Finance Controller</b>	Kevin Marlow
<b>Children's Ministry Coordinator (Interim)</b>	Megan Getman
<b>Spiritual Wellness and Spiritual Director</b>	Rebecca Guengerich

***HAVE A BLESSED WEEK!***

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran  
3525 Bee Caves Rd, Austin TX

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