

**SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS AT HOME WORSHIP
JULY 21, 2024**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God our mother, our father, **Because we love you, we also love Jesus, your beloved son and our sibling. By the power of your Holy Spirit, give us the immovable faith that spurs us to action in love on behalf of all that you have created. Make us living channels for your mercy and healing, that we might bring joy and wholeness to all those we encounter today and every day. Amen.**



SCRIPTURE READINGS:

FIRST READING: 1 JOHN 5: 1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: JOHN 14: 18-19,25-26

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ”I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you O Christ

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL BY ASSISTING MINISTER JOHN YARBERRY

“This is the one who came by water and the blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only, but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.” Water and blood, both seem to be required to begin to understand Jesus’s earthly life.

Jesus began his ministry when he was baptized in the Jordan river by John, and the Holy Spirit descended on him, with the words, “this is my son with whom I am well pleased.” With these words the Spirit is testifying to the truth of Jesus’s divinity as the Son of God.

When we experience our own water of baptism is when we die to ourselves, rise dedicated to the Lord, as a child of God, and a sibling of Jesus’s.

This began his three-year ministry as he chose his disciples, and began to preach, teach, and heal.

His earthy ministry ended with his blood, freely given as an atonement for our sins.

As Lutherans, we have only two holy sacraments, Baptism, and Holy Communion. We are baptized with water and the Holy Spirit, and when we celebrate Holy Communion, we know we have been redeemed by the blood, and body of Christ.

The Holy Spirit testifies to these things in our own hearts, minds, and body’s. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, the teacher, and reminder of everything Christ did and taught.

Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY | YOU ARE MINE

<https://youtu.be/Sgm9lkTNQmc?feature=shared>

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Confident in the breadth and depth of God’s love and grace, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, help us to recognize the gentleness of your commandments, that we might follow them with our whole hearts with complete trust in your goodness and mercy.

God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Conquering the world does not mean wantonly exploiting or destroying it simply because we can. Turn us away from our high-impact, insatiable consumerism toward lifestyles that nurture and restore the natural world. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

It is love, not violence, that conquers the world. Ground all who lead in this foundational love, that they might find peaceful solutions to difficult problems. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Surround all who are dealing with physical, emotional, and spiritual challenges with your loving arms. We pray especially for Janice...Dave...Dorothy...Terry...all those we lift through our Prayer Chain, and for Rick and Kelly as Rick finds wholeness in his recovery. Work through medical professionals and other care providers to bring healing and hope to those in need. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Help us to see the message that faith in Christ Jesus conquers the world *not* as a call to force others to believe as we do, but as a call to live in the unconditional love of God for all people, regardless of their individual beliefs. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Let us love, not in words or speech, but in truth and action. Strengthen and equip us to care for those in need through the outreach ministries of our community: The Little Free Pantry, Community Infant Program, All Roads in Boulder, Rise Against Suicide, and other acts of kindness we share with one another. Use us to share Christ's love with our neighbors in need, especially those who are lost, poor, beaten down, abused, forgotten, silenced, or avoided. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Encourage the work of the Joshua School and organizations like them. Empower those who nurture the minds, bodies and spirits of children and adults living on the Autism Spectrum. Help us to help them reach their fullest potential. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for peace in Jerusalem, Israel, and Palestine. Grant that your holy and life-giving Spirit may move among us, breaking down walls that divide, giving light and courage to the refugee and the most vulnerable in society, ushering in the day that all may live in safety and security. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Other intercessions are invited here.

With joy we remember those who have died with complete faith in your victory over death. May we follow them gladly to the end of our days, trusting in the promise of eternal life in you. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

With all our siblings in Christ here and around the world, we lift all our prayers to you, through Jesus Christ our savior and friend. **Amen.**

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

May the love of God create new life within you.

May the power of God transform your old habits into new hope.

May the Spirit of God grant you wisdom and vision, emboldening you to proclaim the good news of God's love to all.

Amen.

DAILY NARRATIVE LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 21, 2024

Monday, July 22, 2024

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/1-john-54-5-faith-conquers-the-world2024>

1 John 5:4-5 Faith Conquers the World

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/1-john-56-8-the-spirit-the-water-and-the-blood2024>

1 John 5:6-8 The Spirit, the Water, and the Blood

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/1-john-59-human-testimony-and-gods-testimony2024>

1 John 5:9 Human Testimony and God's Testimony

Thursday, July 25, 2024

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/1-john-510-testimony-in-our-hearts2024>

1 John 5:10 Testimony in Our Hearts

Friday, July 26, 2024

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/1-john-511-12-this-is-the-testimony2024>

1 John 5:11-12 This is the Testimony

Saturday, July 27, 2024

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/1-john-513-why-john-is-writing2024>

1 John 5:13 Why John is Writing

Sunday, July 28, 2024

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/1-john-59-13-gods-testimony2024>

1 John 5:9-13 God's Testimony

