

# Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church



## Weekly Sermon Series

### Our Heart

We are familiar with secular sayings like “a joyful heart is the inevitable result of a heart burning with love.” Mother Teresa. Or “a loving heart is the truest wisdom.” Charles Dickens. These sayings make us feel good.

David and Paul talk about using our hearts to show the love of God. David, the psalmist, talks to God when he says, “I will praise thee with my whole heart.” David is prepared to own who God is to him with the whole force of his life, his heart, in the presence of the opposition and confusion around him. David will praise the Lord with enthusiasm and eagerness.

Our whole heart should be filled with loving kindness because of the gift of grace from God. Sometimes we find our hearts broken and split into pieces – compartmentalized by the cares and concerns of our lives and not filled with God. Do you have compartments in your heart that contain pieces of your life? What piece belongs to God? When do you open God’s share?

Paul is writing to the Philippians from prison in Rome, sharing about his humble witness to fellow inmates and prison guards. Paul says that the truth of God’s word through Christ is a clear, sure, lasting path to glorifying God.

God sent us Christ as a mirror to reflect his glory. We are humble in the gift of his presence. We can't even imagine what God can and will do with us. Our heart as the mirror of Christ is open for his divine dwelling, sacrifice, intercession, and priesthood, and God gives us spiritual strength in our souls.

Our spirit is filled with Christ, who was "meek and lowly." Therefore, we receive the work of the Spirit, which enables us to drop to our knees and enter into a place of humility in front of God and the world. We know whose we are, and, through Christ, we humbly worship and praise our Lord. Our hearts are filled because Christ loves us and we receive the comfort of his love, the fellowship of his spirit, and the tender mercies of his compassion.

Because we hear the words of God, we know God. Because we know God, we will walk in his ways by the example of Christ. On our way, we know where we are going. We are among good company as we walk with the saints and prophets who have led the way.

Can you sing God's praises as you walk along? Can you sing songs to his honor, for his assurance, that he will complete his work in you, and that your grace will grow?

-- Week of February 7, 2010