



# WALKER'S CHAPEL

September 14, 2025 • The Sundays of Pentecost



*An Example to the Flock*

Elder Ordination Service



## Service of Worship

September 14, 2025 • The Sundays of Pentecost

### *Prelude, Announcements, and Preparation*

#### *Words of Greeting*

**Leader:** May the grace of our Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People:** And also with you.

### **God Calls His People and Reveals Himself**

*God calls His people to worship and come before Him. The Creator of all things reveals Himself through His Word and calls us into His presence.*

#### ***Call to Worship • Psalm 100***

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the Lord, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

For the Lord is good;

his steadfast love endures forever,

and his faithfulness to all generations.

#### ***Invocation***

***Hymn of Praise • Come, Thou Almighty King (Hymnal, 101)***

### **God Calls His People to Confession, Repentance, and Reconciliation**

*The People of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.*

***Prayer of Confession • Psalm 23:1-3; Isaiah 53:6; Jer 50:6; Zech 10:2; John 10:27; 2 Tim 4:3-4; Heb 3:12-14***

**Leader:** Lord, you are our Shepherd, who restores our souls and leads us in paths of righteousness, yet we often refuse your guidance.

**People:** We often fear evil, for we flee your presence and lack the assurance of your protection.

**Leader:** Your Word says that we have all gone astray like sheep, turning to our own paths.

**People:** Forgive us for our wandering hearts that seek fulfillment apart from you.

**Leader:** As shepherds, we have sometimes led your people astray, removing them from the protection of your fold and exposing them to danger.

**People:** **We have sometimes listened to false shepherds who attract our attention by appealing to our passions.**

**Leader:** Help us to heed your voice and follow you, so that we may enjoy your protection and be assured that no one will snatch us out of your hand.

**All:** **Keep us from hardening our hearts so that we may not fall away from you. Give us the grace to keep our confidence in you to the end. Amen.**

## *Silent Prayers of Confession*

### *Assurance of Pardon • 1 Peter 2:24-25*

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.” **Amen.**

### *Hymn of Prayer • Jesus, Lover of My Soul (Hymnal, 508)*

### *Ordination of Elders • Virgil Hurt, Providence Church, Lynchburg*

## **God Teaches Us Through His Word**

### *Scripture Reading • 1 Peter 5:1-11*

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

## *Sermon*

*An Example to the Flock – Virgil Hurt, Pastor, Providence Church, Lynchburg*

## **God’s People Respond in Grateful Praise**

### *Hymn of Adoration • Amidst Us Our Beloved Stands (Hymnal, 427)*

## **Profession of Faith • Psalm 23**

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” *Amen*

## **God Nourishes His People at His Table**

*God offers to His people the gift of communion with Him through the grace of the sacrament and we respond in thanksgiving.*

**Guidelines for the Lord’s Supper.** *The Lord’s Supper is the family meal for Christians. We invite all Christians who are members of a congregation that proclaims the gospel, and who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ to join us. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. Suggested prayers are provided below.*

*At Walker’s Chapel, we come forward to receive communion. Come as directed until the spaces around the rail are all taken. Groups will be dismissed together, at which point another group can gather at the rail. Wine or juice are both available depending on your conviction. Wine is on the outside ring of the tray, and juice is in the middle section. You may kneel if you so desire, but this is not required.*

### **Prayers for Those Not Taking the Lord’s Supper**

*If you are not able to partake in the Lord’s Supper today, please use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers.*

**Prayer for Those Searching for Truth.** *Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen*

**Prayer of Belief.** *Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen*

**Prayer of Commitment.** *Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship through regular assembly with your people. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen*

## *Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession*

### *The 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.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen*

### **God Sends His People Out to Be Light in Darkness**

*After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, and instructing them in His Word, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.*

### *Hymn of Prayer • Lead On, O King Eternal (Hymnal, 580)*

### **Charge & Benediction • Hebrews 13:17, 20-21**

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. *Amen.*”

### *O Thou in Whose Presence*

Dear Shepherd, I hear and will follow Thy call; I  
know the sweet sound of Thy voice. Re-store and defend me, for  
Thou art my All, and in Thee I will ever re-joice.

**Announcements** *Please send prayer requests to [jp@walkerschapel.org](mailto:jp@walkerschapel.org).*

- **Offerings.** If you have offerings to the Lord you'd like to give through Walker's Chapel, you may do so in the box on the wall as you leave the sanctuary on your left. You can also give online by using your smart phone to scan the QR code to the right or clicking on the "Give" menu on our homepage. Gifts can be given online via credit card, debit card, and bank draft on a one-time or recurring basis. *Thank you!*



- **New Reading Group Session Begins This Week.** We will resume our weekly book discussions on Friday at 9:30 am downstairs in the fellowship area. Our next book is Dante's *Divine Comedy*. We will be reading the translation by Anthony Esolen. These are great times of fellowship and discussion, and everyone is welcome. We will discuss Cantos 1 and 2 this week.
- **Help Others Find Walker's Chapel.** Many people new to our area begin their search for a church by typing "churches near me" into Google. Once they see the list of churches Google returns, the reviews on a church's listing carry significant weight toward influencing a person's potential visit to that church. If you've enjoyed the ministry at Walker's Chapel but haven't reviewed us, please consider doing so in order to help others find us more easily online. Churches with more reviews show up nearer the top of the Google list and get more attention. Just scan the QR code to the right to leave your review. *Thank you!*



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Scripture quotes are from the ESV.

Cover image: *Shepherd and Sheep* (detail), Anton Mauve, c. 1880, Cincinnati Art Museum