



**Welcome to Worship** with Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, whether you worship with us in-person and online worshipers (live-streamed on Facebook @HSLCORinda or archived at [www.holyshepherd.org](http://www.holyshepherd.org).) In whatever way you join us, may you know God's grace as we worship.

**Please Note** though many indoor masking requirements have been lifted in Contra Costa County – in-person worshipers are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings while indoors on our campus. Wearing face coverings is one way we can actively love our neighbors as ourselves!

**Know that You Are Welcome!** We share in Holy Communion during the context of this morning's service. This is the Lord's table. He is the host. We are his guests. He welcomes everyone to come and eat and be nourished, fed and forgiven. Come and eat and live!

**Your Offerings** While continuing pandemic restrictions discourage the traditional 'passing of the offering plate', know that we welcome your gifts to the work of our congregation both locally and globally. An offering plate is located in our entryway / narthex area if you would like to share a gift to support our efforts. Alternatively, we'd invite you to visit our website at [www.holyshepherd.org](http://www.holyshepherd.org) and utilize Givelify, our online giving platform.

▲ indicates that you are invited to stand as you are able

**GATHERING MUSIC** GLORIOUS DAY  
Lyrics and Music by Michael Bleecker and Mark Hall

#### WORDS OF WELCOME

#### ▲ OUR CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We gather here in this place in a spirit of honesty. Just as we are, not just as we hope we might be. Whole yet broken, filled yet empty, hopeful yet hopeless.

C: **May God's Spirit of wholeness blow through our lives.**

L: We gather in a spirit of humility. Thankful that God has given us in Jesus Christ a gift which we could never obtain on our own.

C: **May God's Spirit of truth open our eyes to God's goodness.**

L: We gather in a spirit of unity. Side by side at God's table of grace, that we might be fed by the Bread of life.

C: **May God's Spirit of healing work in us and through us. May God's blessing alive in us become a blessing to those around us.**

▲ **GATHERING SONG** DRAWN TO THE LIGHT  
Lyrics and Music by John C. Ylvisaker / ELW #593

**People who walk in darkness have sought a light in the heart of the darkest night. Just when we thought all would be lost, we were drawn to the light of God.**

**Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the light and the morning. Glorious and bright, oh, what a sight to be drawn to the light of God.**

**How can we tell a heaven from hell, if ev'ryone dwells in the dark of night? Morning dispels, gently compels, and we're drawn to the light of God.**

**Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the light and the morning. Glorious and bright, oh, what a sight to be drawn to the light of God.**

**Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none! The Lamb is the one who is shining bright, Bids us to come! Life has begun when we're drawn to the light of God.**

**Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the light and the morning. Glorious and bright, oh, what a sight to be drawn to the light of God.**

▲ **OUR OPENING LITANY** CALLED TO BE CHURCH  
based on the Book of Acts

L: The last time Jesus was with His disciples, he told them: "When the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will be able to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, all over Judea and Samaria, even to the ends of the world."

C: **So we pray, 'Come, Holy Spirit.'**

- L: And the Spirit came among them.
- C: **And they began to speak to their neighbors about the amazing love of God.**
- L: And the Spirit stayed among them.
- C: **And they devoted themselves to learning and fellowship, to worship and prayer.**
- L: And the Spirit wove them together.
- C: **And they supported one another as they could, and were thankful for what they had.**
- L: The Spirit called them into action.
- C: **To speak the truth and to speak for God.**
- L: The Spirit challenged their assumptions.
- C: **And their eyes were opened to new possibilities.**
- L: The Spirit invited them to journey
- C: **And wherever they went, they spoke of the mighty acts of God.**
- L: May the same Spirit which called, gathered, enlightened and sanctified those first Christians be present with us.
- C: **For we pray, 'Come, Holy Spirit.'**
- L: So let us pray ....
- C: **Almighty God, by the power of your Word, you reshaped Paul's life-priorities and caused him to become your witness to the ends of the earth. Grant that our lives might be reshaped by your Word, so that we too might be numbered as faithful witnesses to the truth of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## THE LESSON

Acts 9:1-22

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and

though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." All who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?" Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

## KIDTALK

Pastor John Valentine

## A SONG OF PRAISE

OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART  
Lyrics and Music by Paul Baloche

***Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.  
Open the eyes of my heart.  
I want to see you, I want to see you.***  
(Repeat)

***To see you high and lifted up,  
shining in the light of your glory.  
Pour out your power in love,  
as we sing holy, holy, holy.***  
(Repeat Song)

***Holy, holy, holy,  
Holy, holy, holy,  
Holy, holy, holy,  
I want to see You.***

## THE SERMON

Pastor John Valentine

### ▲ OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH based on Acts 10:38-43

**We are people who have heard the Good News.**

- **How God anointed Jesus with the Spirit of Truth.**
- **How Jesus healed those he encountered along the way.**
- **How Jesus was killed by those who feared his goodness.**
- **How Jesus was raised from death by the Creator of all that is.**

**We have been called to be witnesses to that Good News.**

- **That God is the God of the living and the dead.**
- **That God offers forgiveness to all who would trust God.**
- **That God is better to us than we are to ourselves.**
- **That God calls us to respect God and embody God's love to our neighbors.**

**May we be Good News people this day and always!  
Amen.**

### ▲ THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*Empowered by the Holy Spirit to manifest the Good News to the ends of the earth, we pray for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation, utilizing the prayer refrain "God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**"*

### ▲ THE COMMUNION LITANY

L: Let us pray: Lord Jesus, you came to us as a tiny Baby born in danger and discomfort. You grew into a Man whom the world can never forget. You offered up your body and blood for the sake of our broken lives and our broken world. So come to us now in this bread and this wine. Unite us and strengthen us by your presence and through your Word, that we might be your faithful children in this world.

For together we remember that – on the night in which he was betrayed – our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for

all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me." And that same Jesus who called us to remember, and who is present with us now, is the One who taught us all to pray:

C: **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.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

*As we share in the gift of Holy Communion this morning, we invite you to come to the Altar Rail and kneel or stand as you are able. You are encouraged to remove your mask once you have arrived at the Altar Rail, and don it anew before returning to your seat.*

*During the serving of Holy Communion, you are invited to sing the following song with our Worship Team.*

### WE COME TO YOU

Lyrics and Music by Joshua Blakesley

***By Your body and blood,  
by Your life and Your love;***

***Renew us.***

***May Your sacrifice be  
Forgiveness in me;  
Heal us.***

### Chorus

***We come to You, We come to You  
Broken, hungry,  
We come to You, We come to You  
Make us whole again.***

***In the body of Christ,  
We are brought to new life;  
Restore us.***

***May the flesh that we eat,  
And the blood that we drink  
Save us.***

(Chorus 2x)

### HIS GOODNESS WILL FLOW (Psalm 23)

Lyrics and Music by Tom Henry

***With wondrous love and faith renewed;  
We journey the road to follow you;***

*We are the sheep, your faithful, so true;  
We are fulfilled, sustained through and through.*

*Yet times in life we wander alone;  
We fear the dark, we struggle for home;  
That's when your light will find its way,  
To open our hearts and guide us day to day.*

*The Lord is our shepherd, His grace our goal,  
He sustains our life, He feeds our soul.  
His mercy and goodness, they lead us on;  
We prepare the table, a feast to honor the Son.*

*With you, O Lord, our wants fulfilled;  
In pastures green, we rest so still;  
Clear waters refresh and cleanse our heart;  
No valley of death ... shall e'er tear us apart.*

*The Lord is our shepherd, no evil we fear,  
He sustains our life, our prayers He hears.  
His grace and His love, will never let go,  
Our cup is filled, through us His goodness will flow.*

*The Lord is our shepherd, He feeds our soul,  
He sustains our life, we are made whole.  
His grace, his love, in us they grow. Our cup is filled,  
through us his goodness will flow.*

## THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### ▲ THE BENEDICTION

L: Go now as witnesses to the love and grace and hope that we find in Jesus Christ. And may God raise you from all that would entomb you; may Christ Jesus call you by name and go ahead of you; and may the Holy Spirit empower you for all that is good.

C: **Amen!**

#### ▲ THE SENDING SONG

I AM THE RESURRECTION  
Lyrics and Music by Ray Repp

*I am the resurrection and the life;  
Those who believe in me will never die.  
I am the resurrection and the life;  
Those who believe in me will live a new life.*

*I have come to bring the truth;  
I have come to bring you life;  
If you believe, then you shall live.*

*In my word, you all will come to know  
It is love which makes the Spirit grow  
If you believe, then you shall live.*

*I am the resurrection and the life;  
Those who believe in me will never die.  
I am the resurrection and the life;  
Those who believe in me will live a new life.*

*Keep in mind the things that I have said  
Remember me in the breaking of the bread  
If you believe, then you shall live.*

*I am the resurrection and the life;  
Those who believe in me will never die.  
I am the resurrection and the life;  
Those who believe in me will live a new life.*

#### ▲ THE CHARGE

L: Go – in peace – to love God by serving your neighbor!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

#### SENDING MUSIC

I AM THE RESURRECTION (Reprise)

Thank you to this morning's Worship Team for sharing their gifts of music with us today, including:

**Tom Henry** – Guitarist, Vocalist and Creative Director  
**Elizabeth Humphrey** – Vocalist  
**Diana Riveness Young** – Vocalist  
**Bethany Valentine** – Vocalist  
**Marci Bauer** – Vocalist  
**Pastor Pam Schaefer Dawson** – Vocalist  
**Ed Szaky** – Vocalist  
**Pastor John Valentine** – Vocalist  
**Marc Levine** – Pianist

For those interested in reading ahead as we journey through the Book of Acts this summer, next week's text is Acts 10:34-48

A memorial service honoring the life of Opal Bliese will be held on Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10am in our sanctuary, with a light lunch reception to follow

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