

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church
Orinda, California
9:30am on September 4, 2022

Welcome to Worship with Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, whether you worship with us in-person or are online worshippers (live-streamed on Facebook @HSLCORinda or archived at 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 worshippers 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 and utilize Givelify, our online giving platform.

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

GATHERING MUSIC THE BREAD HAS BEEN BROKEN
Lyrics and Music by Jeff Deyo

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** "COME, LORD, COME"
Lyrics and Music by Harmony Smith and Nigel Briggs

**There's a cry in us, An ancient anthem of longing
For Your kingdom to come, Show Your Glory**

**There's a hope in us, The promise of Your returning
King of heaven come, In Your Glory**

**We join with all tribes and all nations and say
Come, Lord, come**

**We join with the earth that is groaning and say
Come, Lord, come**

**We join with the church through the ages and say
Come, Lord, come**

**We join with the angels and worship the Lamb
Come, Lord, come**

**There's a hope in us, The promise of Your returning
Risen Savior, come, We are waiting**

**We join with all tribes and all nations and say
Come, Lord, come**

**We join with the earth that is groaning and say
Come, Lord, come**

**We join with the church through the ages and say
Come, Lord, come**

**We join with the angels and worship the Lamb
Come, Lord, come, Come, Lord, come**

Come, Lord, come, Come, Lord, come (Repeat)

▲ **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: **Gracious God, by the witness of your apostle Paul you caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world: Grant that we may follow his example and be witnesses to the truth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

THE LESSON

Acts 26:1-18

Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and began to defend himself:

"I consider myself fortunate that it is before you, King Agrippa, I am to make my defense today against all the accusations of the Jews, because you are especially familiar with all the customs and controversies of the Jews; therefore I beg of you to listen to me patiently.

"All the Jews know my way of life from my youth, a life spent from the beginning among my own people and in Jerusalem. They have known for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that I have belonged to the strictest sect of our religion and lived as a Pharisee. And now I stand here on trial on account of my hope in the promise made by God to our ancestors, a promise that our twelve tribes

hope to attain, as they earnestly worship day and night. It is for this hope, Your Excellency, that I am accused by Jews! Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead? Indeed, I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And that is what I did in Jerusalem; with authority received from the chief priests, I not only locked up many of the saints in prison, but I also cast my vote against them when they were being condemned to death. By punishing them often in all the synagogues I tried to force them to blaspheme, and since I was so furiously enraged at them, I pursued them even to foreign cities.

"With this in mind, I was traveling to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, when at midday along the road, Your Excellency, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my companions. When we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.' I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The Lord answered, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But get up and stand on your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and testify to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you. I will rescue you from your people and from the gentiles—to whom I am sending you to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

KIDTALK

Pastor John Valentine

A SONG OF PRAISE

FLY LIKE A BIRD

Lyrics and Music by Ken Canedo

Refrain

***Fly like a bird to the Lord, my soul
I want to soar like an eagle.
Though I may journey far away from home
I know I'll never be alone.***

***O God you know who I am;
You know my hopes and my dreams;
In my pondering and fears
In my joy and in my tears;
O God your presence is real. (Refrain)***

***Where can I run to your love?
Where can I find all your grace?
From the dawn of morning's light
to the darkness of the night;
O God your presence is real. (Refrain)***

***When I am down and afraid;
When I am falling away;
You extend a gentle hand
And I know you understand;
O God your presence is real.*** (Refrain)

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 songs with our Worship Team.

ABOVE ALL

Lyrics and Music by Lenny LeBlanc

***Above all powers, above all things
Above all nature and all created things
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man
You were here before the world began***

***Above all kingdoms, above all thrones
Above all wonders the world has ever known
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth
There's no way to measure what You're worth***

Refrain

***Crucified, laid behind the stone
You lived to die, rejected and alone
Like a rose trampled on the ground
You took the fall
And thought of me — above all***
(Repeat)

CHRIST ABOVE ME

Lyrics and Music by John Chisum and George Searcy

Chorus

***Christ above me, Christ beside me,
Christ within me ever guiding;
Christ behind me, Christ before,***

Christ, my love, my life, my Lord.

**Bread of life from heaven,
Lover of my soul;
Peace of God so ever present,
I surrender my control to**
(Chorus)

**Mercy everlasting,
Tenderness divine;
Word of God so ever healing,
I surrender heart and mind to**
(Chorus)

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. 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 LIFE'S RAILWAY TO HEAVEN Lyrics and Music by Charlie Tillman, J.R. Baxter & M.E Abbey

**Life is like a mountain railway,
with an engineer that's brave
We must make the run successful,
from the cradle to the grave
Heed the curves, the hills, the tunnels,
never falter never fail
Keep your hand upon the throttle,
and your eye upon the rail**

**Blessed Savior, thou will guide us
Till we reach that blissful shore
Where the angels wait to join us
In God's praise for evermore**

**As we roll along the mainline,
there'll be storms and there'll be night
There'll be sidetracks unexpected,
on the left and on the right
But with the straight always before us,
and our hearts upon the prize
There'll be no disembarkation
until we reach paradise**

**Blessed Savior, thou will guide us
Till we reach that blissful shore**

**Where the angels wait to join us
In God's praise forevermore**

▲ THE CHARGE

L: Go – in peace – to love God by serving your neighbor!
C: **Thanks be to God!**

SENDING MUSIC LIFE'S RAILWAY TO HEAVEN (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
Steve Swanback – Vocalist
Bob Schmalz – Vocalist
Pastor John Valentine – Vocalist
Marc Levine – Pianist

For those interested in reading ahead as we our year-long journey through major stories from the Bible, next week's text is a portion of the story of Noah and the Ark – as recorded in Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17

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