

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church
Orinda, California
9:30am on September 18, 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. 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 STRANGE WAY TO SAVE THE WORLD
Lyrics and Music by David Clark, Donald Koch & Mark Harris

WORDS OF WELCOME

▲ OUR WORDS OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the Holy Trinity (+) one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: **Amen.**

L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires

known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another Gracious God,

C: **Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

L: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ (+) your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: **Amen.**

▲ **OUR GATHERING SONG** HERE I AM TO WORSHIP
Lyrics and Music by Tim Hughes

**Light of the world you stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You,
Hope of a life spent with You.**

Chorus

**So here I am to worship; here I am to bow down;
Here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me.**

**King of all days, oh, so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above,
Humbly You came to the Earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor.**
(Chorus twice)

Bridge: **And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross.
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross.
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
(Chorus twice)**

▲ OPENING LITANY

- L: In the days of Noah, God placed a rainbow in the sky as the sign of a covenant of God's love for all the earth.
- C: **In the beauty of the rainbow, we see a sign of God's grace for all creation.**
- L: In the days of Moses, the words of God were written on tablets of stone, as the sign of a covenant between God and all of God's people.
- C: **In those tablets of stone, we first learned of God's call to love the Lord our God and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.**
- L: In the days of the prophets, God promised to place a new covenant in our hearts.
- C: **Blessed be the God who has written the promise of love on the World, in the Word and on our hearts. May our lives be reflections of our choice to honor God in thankfulness for all that God does and is.**

▲ THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

- L: The Lord be with you.
- C: **And also with you.**
- L: Let us pray ...
- C: **God of the Covenant, you promised Abraham and Sarah land, descendants, and a blessing so that they might be a blessing for all. Show us how to honor your covenant, so that we might be a blessing to others. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

THE LESSON

Genesis 11:27 – 12:9

Now these are the descendants of Terah. Terah was the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran, and Haran was the father of Lot. Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldeans. Abram and Nahor took wives; the name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah. She was the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and Iscah. Now Sarai was barren; she had no child.

Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot son of Haran and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they went out together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there. The days of Terah were two hundred five years, and Terah died in Haran.

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." [c]

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak[d] of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east, and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

KIDTALK

Pastor John Valentine

OUR SONG OF THE DAY

SING ALLELU (Ode 40)

Lyrics and Music by Fernando Ortega

*Grace pouring forth like a fountain flowing
Our hearts open wide to sing your praise
And our sound becomes sweet
With your anthems ringing
Praise to the name of the Lord*

*Sing allelu, Sing allelu
We rejoice in Your love, Most High
Sing allelu, Sing allelu
In Your light You shine forever
Shine in us, O Lord, forever
We're the light to the world, allelu*

*Let us who are afraid find refuge in Christ
And redemption assured in His name
By day and by night, We delight in your love
And forever Your Word will remain*

*Sing allelu, Sing allelu
We rejoice in Your love, Most High
Sing allelu, Sing allelu
In Your light You shine forever
Shine in us, O Lord, forever
We're the light to the world, allelu*

**Allelu, Allelu
Allelu, Allelu
Allelu, Allelu**

**Sing allelu, Sing allelu
We rejoice in Your love, Most High
Sing allelu, Sing allelu
In Your light You shine forever
Shine in us, O Lord, forever
We're the light to the world, allelu**

THE SERMON

Pastor John Valentine

▲ OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

▲ THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation, utilizing the prayer refrain "God of grace, hear our prayer."

▲ OUR COMMUNION LITURGY

L: Let us gather around the table to share the meal which Christ makes possible for us all. This is the welcome table of God, where all who seek to be at peace with their neighbor and all who seek the mercy of God in Christ are embraced. Come, for we are invited into this holy mystery. Come.

C: **We come, hungry for the hope which Jesus alone can give.**

L: Jesus said: "I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger, and all who believe in me shall never be thirsty."

C: **We come, thirsty for the peace which Jesus' presence offers.**

L: 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 so – gathered into one by the Holy Spirit – let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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 Holy Communion this morning, we invite you to come to the Altar Rail and kneel or stand as you are able. During the serving of Holy Communion, you are invited to join in singing the following songs:

HE KNOWS MY NAME

Lyrics and Music by Tommy Walker

***I have a maker, he formed my heart
Before even time began my life was in his hands***

***He knows my name
He knows my every thought
He sees each tear that falls
And hears me when I call.***

***I have a father, he calls me his own
He'll never leave me no matter where I go.***

***He knows my name
He knows my every thought
He sees each tear that falls
And hears me when I call.***

***He knows my name
He knows my every thought
He sees each tear that falls
And hears me when I call.***

THERE IS NONE LIKE YOU
Lyric and Music by Lenny LeBlanc

***There is none like You,
No one else can touch my heart like You do,
I can search for all eternity Lord
And find, there is none like You.***

***There is none like You.
No one else can touch my heart like You do,
I can search for all eternity Lord
And find, there is none like You.***

***I could search for all eternity long
and find, there is none,
there is none, there is none like You.***

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BENEDICTION

L: God's promises endure from generation to generation. So now may the God of Abraham and Sarah, the God of Moses and of Miriam, the God of Ruth and of Esther, the God who raised Jesus from the dead, bless you abundantly and shape your life in God's image.

C: **Amen!**

▲ **OUR SENDING SONG** TAKE TO THE WORLD
Lyrics and Music by Derek Webb

***Go in peace
To love and to serve,
And let your ears
Ring long with what you've heard
And may the bread on your tongue
Leave a trail of crumbs,
To lead the hungry back
To the place that you are from***

***Take to the world this love, this hope and faith
And take to the world this rare, relentless grace
And like the three in one,
Know you must become what you wanna save
'Cause that's still the way, He takes to the world***

***So go and go far,
Take light deep in the dark
Believe what's true,
He uses all, even you
And may the bread on your tongue***

***Leave a trail of crumbs
To lead the hungry back
To the place that you are from.***

***Take to the world this love, this hope and faith
And take to the world this rare, relentless grace
And like the three in one,
Know you must become what you wanna save
'Cause that's still the way, He takes to the world***

▲ THE CHARGE

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

SENDING MUSIC

TAKE TO THE WORLD (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

Interested in reading ahead as we journey through the Old Testament this Fall? Next week's text is Genesis 39:1-23

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