



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 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 the Christ-Child's guests. Jesus welcomes everyone to come and eat and be nourished, fed and forgiven. Come and eat and live!

Your Offerings We have resumed the practice of 'passing the offering plate' during our musical offertory. If you would prefer to support the work of our congregation electronically, 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

CALL TO WORSHIP LENTEN BELLS
Arr. by Barbara Kinyon / played by Shepherd's Bells

WORDS OF WELCOME

▲ WORDS OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: During this season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: **Merciful God, you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We have ignored your truth. We have neglected your commandments. And we have failed to love those whom you have called our neighbors. Have mercy**

on us and wash away our sin. Create in us clean hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

L: Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, (+) forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

P: **Amen.**

▲ **GATHERING SONG** OUR FATHER, WE HAVE WANDERED
Lyrics by K. Nichols / Music by J.S. Bach / ELW #606

***Our Father, we have wandered
And hidden from your face;
In foolishness have squandered
Your legacy of grace.
But now, in exile dwelling,
We rise with fear and shame,
As distant but compelling,
We hear you call our name.***

***And now at length discerning
The evil that we do,
Behold us, Lord, returning
With hope and trust to you.
In haste you come to meet us
And home rejoicing bring,
In gladness there to greet us
With calf and robe and ring.***

***O Lord of all the living,
Both banished and restored,
Compassionate, forgiving
And ever caring Lord,
Grant now that our transgressing,
Our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing,
In pardon and in peace.***

▲ THE GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

P: **And also with you.**

▲ **THE KYRIE** ELW pg. 147-148

The prayer "Kyrie, eleison" — "Lord, have mercy" — has been at the heart of Christian worship for two millennia.

L: *In peace, let us pray to the Lord.*

P: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: *For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.*

P: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: *For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.*

P: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: *For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.*

P: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: *Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.*

P: **Amen.**

▲ THE HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW pg.148/149

L: *Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.*

P: **Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,
We worship you, we give you thanks,
We praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world:
Have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
Receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
With the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father.
Amen**

▲ THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you.

P: **And also with you.**

L: Forgiving God, you encouraged your people to forgive and modeled forgiveness by releasing us from our bondage to sin. Help us to forgive others, so that we might live in harmony with all. We pray these things in the name of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

P: **Amen.**

THE LESSON

Matthew 18:15-35

"If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are

listened to, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

KIDTALK

Pastor John Valentine

SONG OF THE DAY FORGIVE OUR SINS AS WE FORGIVE
Lyrics by R. Herklots / Music The Sacred Harp / ELW #605

***'Forgive our sins as we forgive,'
you taught us, Lord, to pray,
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.***

***How can your pardon reach and bless
the unforgiving heart,
that broods on wrongs and will not let
old bitterness depart?***

***In blazing light your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew:
what trivial debts are owed to us,
how great our debt to you!***

***Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls,
and bid resentment cease;
then, bound to all in bonds of love,
our lives will spread your peace.***

THE SERMON

Pastor John Valentine

▲ OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*The words of the ancient "Christ hymn" – as recorded in
Philippians 2 – constitute one of the earliest faith
statements of the Church. They invite us to consider both
who Jesus is and whom we are called to be.*

**As people of God, we find our hope and salvation in
Christ Jesus our Lord, who, though he was in the
form of God, did not regard equality with God as
something to be exploited, but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave, being born in human
likeness. And being found in human form, he
humbled himself and became obedient to the point
of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also
highly exalted him and gave him the name that is
above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every
knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under
the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus
Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

▲ THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*We pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole
human family — using the prayer refrain, "Lord, in your
mercy, **hear our prayer**".*

THE OFFERTORY

WE ARE PILGRIMS

Lyrics by John Ray / Music by Susan Naylor Callway

▲ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW pg. 152/153

L: *The Lord be with you.*

P: **And also with you.**

L: *Lift up your hearts.*

P: **We lift them to the Lord.**

L: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

P: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

L: *It is indeed right and salutary and join their
unending hymn:*

P: **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

L: *In 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 now gathered into one
by the Holy Spirit, let us pray that prayer that Jesus
taught us:*

P: **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, we invite you to come
down the center aisle and come to the altar rail to receive
the bread and wine that bear the promise that God is with
us. After consuming the elements, please deposit your
empty cup in the small basket and return to your seat by
the side aisle. During the serving of Holy Communion, you
are invited to join in singing the following songs:*

LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

African American Spiritual / ELW #471

**Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.**

**When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

**Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees.**

**When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

**Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

WHERE CHARITY AND LOVE PREVAIL

Lyrics by O. Westendorf / Music by L. Chapin / ELW #359

**Where charity and love prevail
there God is ever found
brought here together by Christ's love
by love we are thus bound.**

**With grateful joy and holy fear,
God's charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and soul
now love God in return.**

**Let us recall that in our midst
dwells Christ God's holy Son
as members of each body joined
in him we are made one.**

**Let strife among us be unknown
let all contentions cease
Be God's the glory that we seek
be his our only peace.**

**Let us forgive each other's faults
as we our won confess
that we may love each other well
in Christian gentleness.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BENEDICTION

L: May the Peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

P: **Amen!**

▲ SENDING SONG THERE'S A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY

Lyrics by F. Faber / Music Trad. Amer. / ELW 588

**There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment giv'n.**

**There is welcome for the sinner,
and a promised grace made good;
there is mercy with the Savior;
there is healing in his blood.
There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.**

**'Tis not all we owe to Jesus;
it is something more than all:
greater good because of evil,
larger mercy through the fall.
Make our love, O God, more faithful;
let us take you at your word,
and our lives will be thanksgiving
for the goodness of the Lord.**

▲ THE CHARGE

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

P: **Thanks be to God!**

SENDING MUSIC

Julie Hamre

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

Bethany Valentine – Vocalist and Creative Director

Gretchen Stenson – Vocalist

Diana Riveness Young — Vocalist

Sharon Tissue — Vocalist

Elizabeth Humphrey – Vocalist

Pastor Pam Schaefer Dawson — Vocalist

Joe Zingale – Vocalist

Michael Stenson – Vocalist

Pastor John Valentine – Vocalist

Julie Hamre – Organist and Pianist

Interested in reading ahead as we journey through Matthew's Gospel? Next week's text is Matthew 20:1-16

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