



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 COME, CELEBRATE THE CROSS

▲ WORDS OF WELCOME

- L: People of God, stand up! Come and join in the journey with Jesus - a journey that leads through city streets and an upper room - and ultimately to a cross and a tomb.
- P: **We come in our own different ways, walking in our own styles, at our own speeds; but we come to join the journey.**
- L: Let us walk in the truth of who we are and who God is. Let us walk the way with Jesus into real life, as he listens and learns, as he laughs and cries, as he lives and dies.
- P: **We come to walk with the One who is the Way and the Truth and the Life.**

L: We begin our time of worship this morning in the name of the Father, and of the Son (+), and of the Holy Spirit.

P: **Amen.**

▲ **GATHERING SONG** FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH
Lyrics and Music by by F.S. Pierpoint, J. Horness & S. Dyer

***For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies
For the love which even from our birth
Over and around us lies***

***For the wonder of each hour
Of the day and of the night
Every hill and valley, tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light***

**Chorus: *Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Lord of All, to Thee we raise,
Hallelujah! Hallelu - jah!
This our song of grateful praise***

***For the joy of human love
Brother, sister, parent, child
All our friends on earth and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild*** (chorus 2X)

***And for You, best Gift divine
To our world so freely given
For that great and wondrous love of Thine
Peace on earth and joy in heaven*** (chorus 2X)

(Ending) ***This our song of grateful praise
This our song of grateful praise
Lord, receive our grateful praise***

▲ WORDS OF CONFESSION AND HOPE

- L: These days of Lent are days for us to pay special attention to Jesus' journey to the cross. They are days for us to hear the stories of people whom Jesus encountered along the way. And they are days for us to realize that we are those very people We think of someone like Peter.
- P: **And we realize that we too are guilty of running away from our commitments.**
- L: We think of someone like Judas.
- P: **And we realize that we too are more interested in our own agendas than the agenda of our Lord.**
- L: We think of someone like Pontius Pilate.
- P: **And we realize that we too are tempted to choose**

easy answers rather than the right ones.

L: We think of someone like Caiaphas.

P: And we realize that we too are tempted to abuse what authority we've been given.

L: We think of people like Mary and Mary Magdalene, the disciples and the crowd.

P: And we realize that in their story we find our stories too.

L: But most of all, we discover in Jesus' story – in His giving Himself for us all – that there is forgiveness of our sin, hope for our future and strength for our journeys.

▲ PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: May God be with you!

P: And also with you!

L: Holy God

P: Generous God, you have promised to open your kingdom to all people, despite their circumstances. Bring us close to you, and help us to proclaim the goodness of your generosity. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE LESSON

Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus spoke this parable to his friends and followers: "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who

have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

KIDTALK

Pastor John Valentine

SONG OF THE DAY

GLORY AND PRAISE TO OUR GOD

Lyrics and Music by Dan Schutte

Chorus: ***Glory and Praise to our God
Who alone brings light to our days.
Many are the blessings He bears
To those who trust in His ways.***

***We the daughters and sons of Him
Who built the valleys and plains
Praise the wonders our God has done
In every heart that sings.*** (Chorus)

***In His wisdom He strengthens us,
Like gold that's tested in fire,
Though the power of sin prevails,
Our God is there to save.*** (Chorus)

***Every moment of every day
Our God is waiting to save,
Always ready to seek the lost,
To answer those who pray.*** (Chorus)

THE SERMON

Pastor John Valentine

▲ OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The words of the ancient "Christ hymn" – as recorded in Philippians 2 – 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 SONG OF RECONCILIATION

Lyrics and Music by S. Ashton, M. Becker and C. Dente

THE COMMUNION LITANY

L: In the breaking of bread and the sharing of the cup, Jesus offered his first followers peace and friendship, trust and forgiveness, the love and embrace of God - and Jesus offers those same gifts. For - 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:

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

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

Lyrics and Music by John B. Foley

(Refrain) **One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.**

**Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more** (Refrain)

**Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all** (Refrain)

**Grain for the fields scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all** (Refrain)

COMMUNION SONG

Lyrics and Music by Sonny Salsbury

**In the upper room,
twelve friends were sitting around the Lord.
As He stood to share the meal,
they heard him say**

Chorus

**This is my body which is broken for you,
and for you I've known the pain.
This wine you drink recalls the blood that is shed,
please don't let it be in vain.**

**For two thousand years,
believers have remembered still.**

**That our Savior died,
and rose again that day.**

(Chorus)

**Ev'ryone through
all of time is dead or dying still;
But this good gift means
that we can live again.**

(Chorus)

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

GRACE THAT IS GREATER
Lyrics and Music by Bart Millard

**Marvelous grace of our loving Lord
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilled**

**Grace, grace, God's grace
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within
Grace, grace, God's grace
Grace that is greater than all our sin**

*Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace
Freely bestowed on all who believe
You who are longing to see His face
Will you this moment His grace receive?*

*Grace, grace, God's grace
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within
Grace, grace, God's grace
Grace that is greater than all our sin*

*Grace, grace, God's grace
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within
Grace, grace, God's grace
Grace that is greater than all our sin
Grace that is greater than all our sin*

▲ THE CHARGE

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

P: **Thanks be to God!**

SENDING MUSIC GRACE THAT IS GREATER (Reprise)

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

Tom Henry – Vocalist, Guitarist and Creative Director
Bethany Valentine – Vocalist
Diana Riveness Young — Vocalist
Elizabeth Humphrey – Vocalist
Pastor Pam Schaefer Dawson — Vocalist
Steve Swanback – Vocalist
Bob Schmalz – Vocalist
Pastor John Valentine – Vocalist
Marc Levine – Pianist

Interested in reading ahead as we journey through Matthew's Gospel? Next week's text is Matthew 22:1-14

Earlier this week, Pastor Pam's mother Barbara Schaefer died peacefully in her sleep while at a care facility in Petaluma. Please hold Pastor Pam, her father (Pastor Marty Schaefer), and the whole of their family in prayer as they remember, as they grieve and as they rejoice in Barbara's arrival at the gathering of the saints triumphant.

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