



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. 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

GATHERING MUSIC

Julie Hamre

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

GATHER US IN

Lyrics and Music by Marty Haugen / ELW #532 (vss. 1/3/4)

***Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away,
see in this space our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in -the lost and forsaken,
gather us in the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.***

***Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
Give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.***

***Not in the dark of building confining,
not in some heaven, light years away,
but here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the Kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.***

▲ 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: God of celebration, you have invited all people to rejoice in the goodness of your love. Help us to be hospitable to all people at your banquet, so that all might receive your blessing. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

P: **Amen.**

THE LESSON

Matthew 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves,

saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

KIDTALK

Pastor John Valentine

SONG OF THE DAY

HERE I AM, LORD

Lyrics and Music by Daniel Schutte / ELW #574

***I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people's cry,
All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright,
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?***

Chorus: ***Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?***

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

***I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?***

(Chorus)

***I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide, 'til their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?***

(Chorus)

▲ 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

FOR A MOMENT

Lyrics by Pamela Martin / Music by Craig Courtney

▲ 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:

WE COME TO THE HUNGRY FEAST

Lyrics and Music by Ray Makeever / ELW #479

**We come to the hungry feast,
hungry for a word of peace.
To hungry hearts unsatisfied
The love of God is not denied.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.**

**We come to the hungry feast
hungry for a world released
from hungry folk of ev'ry kind,
the poor in body, poor in mind.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.**

**We come to the hungry feast
hungry that the hunger cease,
and knowing, though we eat our fill,
the hunger will stay with us; still
We come, we come to the hungry feast.**

COME, LET US EAT

Lyrics and Music by Billema Kwillia / ELW #491

*Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
Our Lord's body let us take together,
our Lord's body let us take together.*

*Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together,
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.*

*In Jesus' presence now we meet and rest,
in Jesus' presence now we meet and rest.
In the presence of our Lord we gather,
in the presence of our Lord we gather.*

*Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word,
rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word.
Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom,
Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom.*

FOR THE BREAD WHICH YOU HAVE BROKEN
Lyrics by L. Benson / Music Trad German / ELW #494

***For the bread which you have broken,
For the wine which you have poured,
For the words which you have spoken,
Now we give you thanks, O Lord.***

***By this promise that you love us,
By your gift of peace restored,
By your call to heav'n above us,
Hallow all our lives, O Lord.***

***With the saints who now adore you
Seated at our Father's board,
May the Church still waiting for you
Keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.***

***In your service, Lord, defend us;
In our hearts keep watch and ward,
In the world to which you send us
Let your kingdom come, O Lord.***

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** **GOD BE WITH YOU TILL WE MEET ...**
Lyrics by J. Rankin / Music by W. Tomer / ELW #536

***God be with you till we meet again;
by good counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.***

Refrain:
***Till we meet, till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.***

***God be with you till we meet again;
holy wings securely hide you,
daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again.*** [Refrain]

***God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you;
God be with you till we meet again.*** [Refrain]

▲ 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
Sharon Tissue – 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 25:1-13

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