

4th Sunday of Easter

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church
Orinda, California
9:30am on Sunday, April 30, 2023

Welcome to Worship with Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, whether you worship with us in-person or online (live-streamed on Facebook @HSLCORinda or archived at www.holyshepherd.org.) In whatever way you join us, may you know the joy of Easter as we worship.

Please Note though 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 table of the Lord. Jesus is the host and we are his guests. He 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: Gathered in the name of the One who raised Jesus from the dead, we begin our time of worship by reflecting upon those very things which have separated us from both God and those whom God has called our neighbors Gracious God:

P: **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. Amen.

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.

P: **Amen**

▲ GATHERING SONG

CHRIST IS ALIVE!

Lyrics by Brian Wren / Music by T. Williams / ELW #389

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

**Christ is alive! No longer bound
To distant years in Palestine,
But saving, healing, here and now,
And touching ev'ry place and time.**

**In ev'ry insult, rift, and war,
Where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
And lives, where even hope has died.**

**Women and men, in age and youth,
Can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
And find the way, the life, the truth,
Revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**

**Christ is alive, and comes to bring
Good news to this and ev'ry age,
Till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

▲ 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 #157

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

P: **Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord, have mercy.**

L: *For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord ...*

P: **Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord, have mercy.**

L: *For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word. Let us pray to the Lord ...*

P: **Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord, have mercy.**

L: *Help, save and defend us, O God.*

P: **Amen.**

▲ THE HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW #167

(Refrain) **Now the feast and celebration,
All of creation sings for joy
To the God of life and love and freedom:
Praise and glory forevermore!**

**Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
Whose blood has freed and united us
To be one great people of God.** (Refrain)

**Power and riches, wisdom and might
All honor and glory to Christ forever.** (Refrain)

**For God has come to dwell with us,
To make us people of God;
To make all things new.** (Refrain)

▲ PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you!

P: **And also with you!**

L: Let us pray:

P: **God of all, you opened your gates wide to receive all your children into the heavenly kingdom. Help us to be vehicles of promise and proclamation for all who will listen, so that every soul might live in your grace. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

THE LESSON

Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a childhood friend of Herod the ruler, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

In Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet and had never walked, for he had been lame from birth. He listened to Paul as he was speaking. And Paul, looking at him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And the man sprang up and began to walk. When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!" Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.

The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates; he and the crowds wanted to offer sacrifice. When the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting, "People, why are you doing this? We are mortals just like you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. In past generations he allowed all peoples to follow their own ways, yet he has not left himself without a witness in doing good, giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons and filling you with food and your hearts with joy." Even with these words, they scarcely restrained the crowds from offering sacrifice to them.

KIDTALK

Pastor Pam Schaefer Dawson

A SONG OF CELEBRATION

O ZION, HASTE

Lyrics by M. Thomson / Music by J. Walch / ELW #668

**O Zion haste, your mission high fulfilling,
to tell to all the world that God is Light;
that he who made all nations is not willing
one soul should perish, lost in shades of night:
Publish glad tidings; tidings of peace;
Tidings of Jesus, redemption and release.**

**Proclaim to every people, tongue and nation
that God, in Whom they live and move, is love:
tell how he stooped to save his lost creation,
and died on earth that we might live above.
Publish glad tidings; tidings of peace;
Tidings of Jesus, redemption and release.**

**He comes again! O Zion, ere you meet him,
make known to every heart his saving grace;
let none whom he has ransomed fail to greet him,
through your neglect, unfit to see his face.
Publish glad tidings; tidings of peace;
Tidings of Jesus, redemption and release.**

THE SERMON

Pastor Pam Schaefer Dawson

▲ OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Our Easter Season Affirmation of Faith is based on an account of Peter's declaration as to why Jesus mattered to him. It also invites us to consider why Jesus still matters.

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

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need — utilizing the prayer refrain: "*Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.***"

THE OFFERTORY

THE RISEN CHRIST

Words & Music by K. Getty & P. Madeira / arr. Tom Fettke

▲ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 God thanks and praise.**

L: *It is our duty and delight we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

P: **Holy, holy, holy are you, God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes in your name**

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

P: 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 that same Jesus who called us to remember, and who is present with us now, invites 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. Please indicate to the Presiding Minister if you would prefer a gluten-free wafer rather than pita bread. The Communion Assistant offers both (red) wine and (white) grape juice. After receiving Communion, please return to your seat by the side aisle, placing your communion cup in the basket while returning to your seat. During the serving of Holy Communion, you are invited to sing the following songs with our Worship Team.

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.***

HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL

Lyrics and Music by Marty Haugen / ELW #612

Refrain

***Healer of our every ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.***

***You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.*** [Refrain]

***In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love.*** [Refrain]

***Give us strength to love each other,
every sister, every brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.*** [Refrain]

***You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.*** [Refrain]

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

▲ THE BENEDICTION

L: May that same gracious power by which God raised Jesus to life anew, strengthen you in hope, enrich you with love, and fill your hearts with joy! For Christ is risen!

P: **He is risen indeed!**

▲ THE SENDING SONG LORD, DISMISS US

Lyrics by J. Fawcett and G. Thring / Music Anon. / ELW 545

***Lord, dismiss us with your blessing,
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us,
trav'ling through this wilderness.***

***Thanks we give and adoration
for your gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of your salvation
in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
to your truth may we be found.***

***Savior, when your love shall call us
from our struggling pilgrim way,
let no fear of death appall us,
glad your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
reign with you in endless day.***

▲ THE CHARGE

L: Go – in peace – to love and serve the Lord! For Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed!**

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

Elizabeth Humphrey – Vocalist

Pastor Pam Schaefer Dawson – Vocalist

Joe Zingale – Vocalist

Pastor John Valentine – Vocalist

Julie Hamre – Organist and Pianist

Interested in reading ahead to prepare for worship?

Next week's text is Romans 1:1-17

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