

# 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Orinda, California  
9:30am on Sunday, May 7, 2023

**Welcome to Worship** with Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, whether you worship with us in-person or online (live-streamed on Facebook @HSLCORinda or via our website at [www.holyshepherd.org](http://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. 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](http://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** IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE ...  
Lyrics by W.C. Smith / Music Trad. Welsh / ELW #834

***Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!***

***Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.***

***To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.***

***Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all laud we would render; oh, help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!***

### ▲ 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 humanity, you welcomed all — sinners and saints — into your kingdom. Help us to be as welcoming and accepting as you. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### THE LESSON

Romans 1:1-17

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world. For God, whom I serve with my spirit by announcing the gospel of his Son, is my witness that without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers, asking that by God's will I may somehow at last succeed in coming to you. For I long to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift so that you may be strengthened— or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you, as I have among the rest of the gentiles. I am obligated both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish, hence my eagerness to proclaim the gospel to you also who are in Rome. For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is God's saving power for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith, as it is written, "The one who is righteous will live by faith."

### KIDTALK

Pastor John Valentine

### A SONG OF CELEBRATION

LORD, TAKE MY HAND ...

Lyrics by J. von Hausmann / Music by F. Silcher / ELW #767

**Lord, take my hand and lead me upon life's way;  
direct, protect, and feed me from day to day.  
Without your grace and favor I go astray;  
so take my hand, O Savior, and lead the way.**

**Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear;  
for you, the Rock of Ages, are always near.  
Close by your side abiding, I fear no foe,  
for when your hand is guiding, in peace I go.**

**Lord, when the shadows lengthen and night has come,  
I know that you will strengthen my steps toward home,  
then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend!  
So, take my hand and lead me unto the end.**

### THE SERMON

Pastor John Valentine

### RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

*This morning, we celebrate those persons who have expressed their desire to become members of our congregation and welcome them as partners in the mission and ministry which we share. In the context of our Rite of Reception, all are invited to affirm our faith in the Triune God, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.*

L: Do you — in harmony with saints of God in every time and every place — believe in God the Father?

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

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, and our Lord?

P: **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.**

L: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

P: **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

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** THERE'S A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY  
Words by Frederick Faber / Music by Paul Langford

## ▲ 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.**

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 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.*

### 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.**

### BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

Lyrics: Anonymous / Music: Silesian Folk Tune ELW #838

**Beautiful Savior, King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!**

*Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,  
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.*

*Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,  
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.*

*Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,  
bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
than all the angels in the sky.*

*Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,  
now and forevermore be thine!*

#### THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

P: **Amen.**

#### 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

BE NOT AFRAID

Music and Lyrics by Bob Dufford / Gather #608

*You shall cross the barren desert,  
but you shall not die of thirst.*

*You shall wander far in safety  
though you do not know the way.*

*You shall speak your words in foreign lands  
and all will understand.*

*You shall see the face of God and live.*

*Be not afraid. I go before you always.*

*Come, follow me, and I will give you rest.*

*If you pass through raging waters in the sea,  
you shall not drown.*

*If you walk amid the burning flames,  
you shall not be harmed.*

*If you stand before the pow'r of hell  
and death is at your side,*

*know that I am with you through it all.  
Be not afraid. I go before you always.  
Come, follow me, and I will give you rest.*

*Blessed are your poor,  
for the kingdom shall be theirs.  
Blest are you that weep and mourn,  
for one day you shall laugh.  
And if wicked tongues insult and hate you  
all because of me,  
blessed, blessed are you!  
Be not afraid. I go before you always.  
Come, follow me, and I will give you rest.*

##### ▲ 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

This morning we are most pleased to welcome the following persons into membership — as our siblings in Christ and co-workers in the Gospel!

**Donald and Paula Eisman**

**John and Linda Goetz**

**Lynnette Gibson**

**Vika, Mau and William Otuaolo**

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 5:1-11

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