

6th Sunday of Easter

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church
Orinda, California
9:30am on Sunday, May 14, 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.) 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 – you are invited 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 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** FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH
Lyrics by F.S. Pierpoint / Music by C. Kocher / ELW #879

**For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:**

Refrain: **Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
sun and moon and stars of light:** [Refrain]

**For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above;
for all gentle thoughts and mild:** [Refrain]

**For each perfect gift of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
for thyself, best gift divine,
to our world so freely giv'n:** [Refrain]

▲ 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: **Gracious God, you have welcomed all people into your kingdom. Remove from us the barriers that we build to keep people from you, so that all might live in your grace and peace. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

THE LESSON

Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts

through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

KIDTALK

Pastor John Valentine

A SONG OF CELEBRATION

MY HOPE IS BUILT ...

Lyrics by Edward Mote / Music by John Dykes / ELW #597

**My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

Refrain: **On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand.**

**When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale
my anchor holds within the veil.** [Refrain]

**His oath, his covenant, his blood
sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed away,
he then is all my hope and stay.** [Refrain]

**When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone,
redeemed to stand before the throne!** [Refrain]

THE SERMON

Pastor John Valentine

▲ OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Our Easter Season Affirmation of Faith is based on Acts 10:38-43 — Peter's testimony as to why Jesus mattered to him. It 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

FAITH TO CARRY ON

Words by Don Besig & Nancy Price / Music by Don Besig

▲ 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.

AMAZING GRACE

Lyrics by J. Newton / Music by W. Walker / ELW #779

**Amazing grace!— how sweet the sound—
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

**The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.**

JESUS LOVES ME!

Lyrics by A. Warner / Music by W. Bradbury / ELW #595

*Jesus loves me! this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.*

Refrain: *Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me! he who died
heaven's gates to open wide;
he will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in.* [Refrain]

*Jesus loves me! he will stay
close beside me all the way;
when at last I come to die,
he will take me home on high.* [Refrain]

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 ALLELUIA! SING TO JESUS
Lyrics by W.C. Dix / Music by R. Prichard / ELW #392

*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus, out of ev'ry nation
has redeemed us by his blood."*

*Alleluia! Not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! he is near us;
faith believes, nor questions how.*

*Though the cloud from sight received him
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise:
"I am with you evermore"?*

*Alleluia! King eternal,
Lord omnipotent we own:
Alleluia! born of Mary,
earth your footstool, heav'n your throne.
As within the veil you entered,
robed in flesh, our great high priest,
here on earth both priest and victim
in the eucharistic feast.*

*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood;
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
has redeemed us by his blood."*

▲ 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
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 6:1-14

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