

7th Sunday of Easter

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church
Orinda, California
9:30am on Sunday, May 21, 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 that – 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. 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

PRELUDE HALLELUJAH (Your Love Makes Me Sing)
Lyrics and Music by Brenton Brown

WORDS OF WELCOME

OUR CALL TO WORSHIP

L: People of God, stand up! Come and join in the journey of faith - a journey that begins at an empty tomb and leads us out into life.

P: **We come to walk with the God of new beginnings, a God who reveals strength in weakness, who loves in the face of indifference, who brings life into the midst of death.**

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: **Christ has died. Christ is risen! Christ will come again!**

▲ GATHERING SONG

BY GRACE ALONE

Lyrics and Music by Tom Henry

***He is the resurrection
and the light unto the world
Whoever believes in Him
shall see the glory of God.
Come out of the darkness
and find the Son of Man.
Open your hearts to Him
and sing across the land.***

Chorus

***We are saved by grace alone
By our faith in this free gift of God.
We've all sinned and fallen short;
But by grace we are saved!***

***God revealed Himself to us
in the presence of His Son.
May you be strengthened
by His power and His love.
Sing on high the ministry
of the word, the truth, the light.
Everlasting life is ours,
that's the good news of the Lord.***

(Chorus)

***Harden not your hearts, my friends,
but sing unto the Lord.
Everlasting love is ours,
your faith has shown the way.
Remember to do His will
and praise His name on high.
Come together and join your hands
and share His news today.***

(Chorus)

***For by grace we are saved!
For by grace we are saved!***

▲ WHAT EASTER MEANS

L: Easter means we celebrate the newness and wholeness God brings to a broken world.

P: **Easter means we celebrate a love that expects nothing in return and discover what Jesus meant**

when he said, "Love one another as I have loved you."

L: Easter means we celebrate the One whose presence disturbs us and inconveniences us, revealing to us the hardness of our hearts and challenging us to new ways of thinking.

P: Easter means we celebrate a resurrection that never denies the pain of crucifixion and we meet the Christ who reaches out to us with open arms and wounded hands.

L: Easter means that God is alive and at work in the world. Jesus' took death upon himself that we might know life in this world and beyond. So let us pray

P: God of resurrection, you have promised new life to all who believe. Make us believers, and show us how to live into this new life. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE LESSON

Romans 6:1-14

What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

A SONG OF PRAISE AMAZING LOVE (You Are My King)
Lyrics and Music by Billy Foote

***I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted, You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again.***

(Repeat verse)

Chorus

***Amazing Love how can it be
That You my King would die for me?
Amazing Love I know it's true,
It is my joy to honor you.***

(Repeat Chorus)

***In all I do, I honor You.
You are my King, You are my King
Jesus, You are my King, Jesus You are my King.***

(Repeat Chorus)

THE SERMON

Pastor Pam Schaefer Dawson

▲ OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Our Easter Season Affirmation of Faith is based on an account (found in Acts 10:38-43) of Peter's witness as to why Jesus mattered to him. Peter's words invite 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.**

A MUSICAL OFFERING IT'S ABOUT THE CROSS
Lyrics and Music by Jamison J. Statema

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Set free by the Good News of Easter, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation, utilizing the prayer refrain "Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**"

▲ 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:

C: **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. You are encouraged to remove your mask once you have arrived at the Altar Rail, and don it anew before returning to your seat.

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

HERE IS BREAD

Lyrics and Music by Graham Kendrick / ELW #483

**Here is bread, here is wine,
Christ is with us, He is with us.
Break the bread, drink the wine,
Christ is with us here.**

Refrain

**In this bread there is healing,
in this cup there's life forever.
In this moment, by the Spirit,
Christ is with us here.**

**Here is grace, here is peace,
Christ is with us, He is with us.
Know His grace, find peace,
feast on Jesus here.** (Refrain)

**Here we are, joined as one,
Christ is with us, He is with us.
We'll proclaim, 'til he comes,
Jesus crucified.** (Refrain)

SING ALLELU (Ode 40)

Lyrics and Music by Fernando Ortega

**Grace pouring forth like a fountain flowing
Our hearts open wide to sing your praise
And our sound becomes sweet
With your anthems ringing
Praise to the name of the Lord**

**Sing allelu, Sing allelu
We rejoice in Your love, Most High
Sing allelu, Sing allelu
In Your light You shine forever
Shine in us, O Lord, forever
We're the light to the world, allelu**

**Let us who are afraid find refuge in Christ
And redemption assured in His name
By day and by night, We delight in your love
And forever Your Word will remain**

**Sing allelu, Sing allelu
We rejoice in Your love, Most High
Sing allelu, Sing allelu
In Your light You shine forever
Shine in us, O Lord, forever
We're the light to the world, allelu**

**Allelu, Allelu
Allelu, Allelu
Allelu, Allelu**

**Sing allelu, Sing allelu
We rejoice in Your love, Most High
Sing allelu, Sing allelu
In Your light You shine forever
Shine in us, O Lord, forever
We're the light to the world, allelu**

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 you with joy in the faith.

C: **Amen!**

▲ THE 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 and serve the Lord! For Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed!**

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
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 to prepare for worship next Sunday? It's Pentecost Day – the 'birthday of the Church' – and our text will be Romans 8:14-39. Remember that you're invited to 'wear something red' to celebrate!

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