

Pentecost 17

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church
Orinda, California
September 24, 2023

Welcome to Worship with Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, whether you worship with us in-person or online (on Facebook Live or archived at www.holyshepherd.org.) May you know God's grace as we worship.

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

▲ OUR CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails and whose promise is sure.

P: **Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

P: **Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. We have not been good stewards of your abundant goodness. In the name of Jesus, forgive us.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God, we confess that we have sinned.

We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. And we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In the name of Jesus, forgive us.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Beloved of God, hear the Good News. God's grace is greater than our sin. God's hope is greater than our fear. Claim the gift of God's mercy and know God's gift of peace, for you are freed and forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ.

P: **Amen.**

▲ **GATHERING SONG** LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS
Lyrics by Jan Struther / Music Irish Traditional / ELW #765

**Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares can destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.**

**Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane & the lathe
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.**

**Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.**

**Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.**

▲ 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: Holy God, your servant Jacob wrestled with your angel and prevailed. In honor of his persistence you gave him a new name. Teach us to persist in the face of struggle, and call us by name – for this we ask in Jesus' name.

P: **Amen.**

THE LESSON

Genesis 32:3-8; 22-30

Jacob sent messengers before him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom, instructing them, "Thus you shall say to my lord Esau: Thus says your servant Jacob, 'I have lived with Laban as an alien and stayed until now, and I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, male and female slaves, and I have sent to tell my lord, in order that I may find favor in your sight.' "

The messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him." Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed, and he divided the people who were with him and the flocks and herds and camels into

two companies, thinking, "If Esau comes to the one company and destroys it, then the company that is left will escape."

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved."

KIDTALK

Pastor John Valentine

SONG OF THE DAY

O GOD OF JACOB (set to St. Anne)

Lyrics by P. Doddridge / Music by W. Croft / LBW #477

***O God of Jacob, by whose hand
Your people still are fed,
Who through this weary pilgrimage
A wav'ring Israel led:***

***Our vows, our prayers, we now present
Before your throne of grace.
O God of Jacob, be the God
Of their succeeding race.***

***Through each perplexing path of life
Our wand'ring footsteps guide;
Give us this day our daily bread,
And shelter fit provide.***

***Oh, grant us your protecting care
Till all our wand'rings cease,
That to those mansions kept for us
We all may come in peace.***

THE SERMON

Pastor John Valentine

▲ OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

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.

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

*Empowered by the Holy Spirit to manifest the Good News to the ends of the earth, we pray for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation, utilizing the prayer refrain "God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**"*

THE OFFERTORY

WE ARE PILGRIMS

Arranged by John Ray and Susan Callaway

▲ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW #191

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. After consuming the Communion elements, please deposit your empty cup in the small basket and return to your seat by the side aisle. During the sharing of Holy Communion, you are invited to join our Worship Team in the following songs:

ON EAGLE'S WINGS

Lyrics and Music by Michael Joncas / ELW #787

**You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord
Who abide in His shadow for life
Say to the Lord, "My refuge,
My rock in whom I trust!"**

(Refrain)

**And He will raise you up on eagles' wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand**

**The snare of the fowler will never capture you
And famine will bring you no fear
Under His wings your refuge,
His faithfulness your shield** (Refrain)

**You need not fear the terror of the night
Nor the arrow that flies by day
Though thousands fall about you,
Near you it shall not come** (Refrain)

**For to His angels He's given a command
To guard you in all of your ways
Upon their hands they will bear you up
Lest you dash your foot against a stone**

(Final Refrain)

**And He will raise you up on eagles' wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand
And hold you, hold you in the palm of His hand**

PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND

Lyrics and Music by Thomas Dorsey / ELW #773

***Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.***

***When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call,
Hold my hand lest I fall:
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.***

***When the darkness appears
And the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand,
Guide my feet, hold my hand:
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.***

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

WHAT A FELLOWSHIP ...

Lyrics by E. Hoffman / Music by A. Showalter / ELW #774

***What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.***

***Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.***

***What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.***

▲ THE CHARGE

L: Go – in peace – to love God by serving your neighbor!

C: **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

Pastor Pam Schaefer Dawson – Vocalist

Diana Riveness – Vocalist

Won K. Yang – Vocalist

Joe Zingale – Vocalist

John Goetz – Vocalist

Pastor John Valentine – Vocalist

Julie Hamre – Pianist and Organist

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Interested in following our lectionary reading schedule to prepare yourself for worship next week? The lesson for October 1, 2023 is Exodus 1:8-14; 3:1-15 — the story of Moses and the Name of God.