



The 6th Sunday after Epiphany

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church
Orinda, CA
February 16, 2025

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!

Offerings are an Act of Worship! Offerings are one way we express both our gratitude for God's wondrous love and our commitment to for work of ministry. To support our work electronically, visit 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 WORDS OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- L: On the first day of creation, God said, "Let there be light." In the person of Jesus Christ, God said, "I am the Light of the world." By the power of the Spirit, God has ignited the light of life in us.
- P: **But we have focused on the darkness that surrounds and overwhelms us, that frightens and numbs us.**
- L: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
- P: **But we have used artificial lights to try and eliminate the darkness in our lives.**
- L: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
- P: **But we have tried to deny the power of the darkness by pretending that it isn't there.**
- L: Forgive us, O God, for these our actions of failure and our failures to act.

P: **Forgive us, Lord God, for putting our trust in ourselves rather than You.**

L: Hear the good news! God has come as a light in the darkness. In the light of Christ we find forgiveness for our past, strength for our present and hope for our future. In Christ, we are enabled to begin life anew. Thanks be to God!

▲ GATHERING SONG

DRAWN TO THE LIGHT

Lyrics and Music by John Ylvisaker / ELW #593

**People who walk in darkness have sought
a light in the heart of the darkest night.
Just when we thought all would be lost,
we were drawn to the light of God.**

Refrain:

**Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night,
drawn to the light and the morning.
Glorious and bright, oh, what a sight
to be drawn to the light of God.**

**How can we tell a heaven from hell
if ev'ryone dwells in the dark of night?
Morning dispels, gently compels,
and we're drawn to the light of God.** [Refrain]

**Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none!
The Lamb is the one who is shining bright,
Bids us to come! Life has begun
when we're drawn to the light of God.** [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: **God of mystery, just as the crowds wondered about Jesus, we too, wonder about you. Who are you to us? Are you the one? Show us that you are God, mysterious, wonderful, mighty. Amen.**

THE LESSON

Luke 7:18-35

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. So John summoned two of his disciples and sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to expect someone else?" When the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to expect someone else?' " Jesus had just then cured many people of diseases, afflictions, and evil spirits and had given sight to many who were blind. And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight; the lame walk; those with a skin disease are cleansed; the deaf hear; the dead are raised; the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who put on fine clothing and live in

luxury are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' "I tell you, among those born of women no one is greater than John, yet the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." (And all the people who heard this, including the tax collectors, acknowledged the justice of God, having been baptized with John's baptism. But the Pharisees and the experts in the law, not having been baptized by him, rejected God's purpose for themselves.)

"To what, then, will I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not weep.' "For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Nevertheless, wisdom is vindicated by all her children."

KIDTALK

Pastor John Valentine

THE HYMN OF THE DAY

ON JORDAN'S BANK

Lyrics by C. Coffin / Music by M. Praetorius / ELW #249

***On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and harken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!***

***Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.***

***We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flow'rs that wither and decay.***

***Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more;
oh, let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.***

***All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.***

THE SERMON

Pastor John Valentine

▲ WORDS TO LIVE BY

based on Philippians 2

As people of God, we find our hope and salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

OFFERTORY

ARISE, SHINE

Lyrics and Music by Robert Lau

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

We pray for the Church, the world, and all in need, utilizing the prayer refrain: *"Source of all goodness, let there be light."*

▲ THE COMMUNION LITURGY

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, we invite you to come down the center aisle and kneel/stand at the altar rail to receive the bread and wine. After consuming the elements, please deposit your empty cup in the 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:

I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT

Lyrics and Music by Kathleen Thomerson / ELW #815

I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God.

I want to look at Jesus.

***Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father.***

In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.

I want to be with Jesus.

***When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus.***

In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER

Carolina Sandell Berg / Swedish Folk Tune / ELW #781

*Children of the heavenly Father
safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven
such a refuge e'er was given.*

*God his own doth tend and nourish,
in his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil powers he spares them,
in his mighty arms he bears them.*

*Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth,
and their sorrows all he knoweth.*

*Though he giveth or he taketh,
God his children ne'er forsaketh;
his the loving purpose solely
to preserve them pure and holy.*

THE COMMUNION BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BENEDICTION

L: The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the (+) Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

P: **Amen!**

▲ SENDING SONG WE ARE MARCHING IN THE LIGHT
Lyrics and Music anon. South African / ELW #888

*We are marching in the light of God.
we are marching in the light of God
We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God
We are marching, oo
we are marching in the light of God
We are marching, oo
we are marching in the light of God.*

*We are dancing in the light of God.
we are dancing in the light of God
We are dancing in the light of God,
we are dancing in the light of God
We are dancing, oo
we are dancing in the light of God*

*We are dancing, oo
we are dancing in the light of God.*

*We are praying in the light of God.
we are praying in the light of God
We are praying in the light of God,
we are praying in the light of God
We are praying, oo
we are praying in the light of God
We are praying, oo
we are praying in the light of God.*

*We are singing in the light of God.
we are singing in the light of God
We are singing in the light of God,
we are singing in the light of God
We are singing, oo
we are singing in the light of God
We are singing, oo
we are singing in the light of God.*

▲ THE CHARGE

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

P: **Thanks be to God!**

SENDING MUSIC

Julie Hamre

Thank you to this morning's Worship Team for sharing their gifts of music with us, including:

Bethany Valentine — Creative Director
Julie Hamre — Organist and Pianist
Diana Riveness Young — Vocalist
Gretchen Stenson — Vocalist
Sharon Tissue — Vocalist
Elizabeth Humphrey — Vocalist
Pastor Pam Schaefer Dawson — Vocalist
Steve Swanback — Vocalist
Pastor John Valentine — Vocalist

Interested in reading ahead as we journey through the Gospel according to Luke this Epiphany season?
Next week's text is Luke 7:36-50.

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