

Lent 2

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church
Orinda, CA
March 16, 2025 at 9:30a

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 CANON OF GRACE
Music by Linda R. Lamb / as played by Shepherd's Bells

OUR WORDS OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity (+), one God, who journeys with us these days of Lent, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

P: **Amen.**

L: Let us acknowledge before God and one another, our need for repentance and God's mercy Holy God:

P: **We confess to you our faults and our failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; too often we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; too often we spoil rather than steward your creation; too often we cause hurt though you call us to heal; too often we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.**

L: Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God sent Jesus to be both 'God with us' and God for us', that life may be real in Him. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

P: **Amen.**

▲ **GATHERING SONG** BLESS NOW, O GOD, THE JOURNEY
Lyrics by Sylvia Dunstan / Music Trad. Welsh / ELW #326

***Bless now, O God, the journey
that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence,
the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert
and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters,
the road where faith is found.***

***Bless sojourners and pilgrims
who share this winding way;
your hope burns through the terrors,
your love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom
while often we are bound;
together we are seeking
the road where faith is found.***

***Divine eternal lover,
you meet us on the road.
We wait for land of promise
where milk and honey flow,
but waiting not for places,
you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written
on roads, as faith is found.***

▲ 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: **Holy One of mighty power, your word is powerful. Your word casts out demons. Your word heals incurable diseases. Your word devours empires. Your word transforms the fabric of the universe. Help us to stand in awe and fear of what your word is capable of doing. Give us courage to speak your word and wisdom to hear it, for the sake of the one whose very whisper can demolish sin, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE LESSON

Luke 13:1-9, 31-35

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? No, I tell

you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the man working the vineyard, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.'"

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

KIDTALK

Vicar Meagan Kim

THE SONG OF THE DAY

THY HOLY WINGS

Lyrics by C. Sandell Berg / Trad. Swedish / ELW #613

***Thy holy wings, O Savior,
spread gently over me,
and let me rest securely
through good and ill in thee.
Oh, be my strength and portion,
my rock and hiding place,
and let my ev'ry moment
be lived within thy grace.***

***Oh, let me nestle near thee,
within thy downy breast
where I will find sweet comfort
and peace within thy nest.
Oh, close thy wings around me
and keep me safely there,
for I am but a newborn
and need thy tender care.***

***Oh, wash me in the waters
of Noah's cleansing flood.
Give me a willing spirit,
a heart both clean and good.***

***Oh, take into thy keeping
thy children great and small,
and while we sweetly slumber,
enfold us one and all.***

THE SERMON

Vicar Meagan Kim

▲ OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

These words – as recorded in Philippians 2 – invite us to consider both who Jesus is and whom we are called to be.

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. Amen.

THE OFFERTORY

WE ARE PILGRIMS

Lyrics and Music by Susan Naylor Callaway

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*In this season of repentance and healing, we offer our prayers on behalf of God's community in the church and the world, and utilizing the prayer refrain, "Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**"*

▲ 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.***

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 Holy Communion, we invite you to come down the center aisle and come to the altar rail to receive the bread and wine that bear the promise that God is with us. After consuming the elements, please deposit your empty cup in the small basket and return to your seat by the side aisle. During the serving of Holy Communion, you are invited to join in singing the songs listed below.

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.***

IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY

Lyrics by J. Bowring / Music by I. Conkey / ELW #324

*In the cross of Christ I glory,
tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.*

*When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me;
lo, it glows with peace and joy.*

*When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming
adds more luster to the day.*

*Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.*

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BENEDICTION

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

P: **Amen!**

▲ OUR SENDING SONG HE LEADETH ME
Lyric by J. Gilmore / Music by W.B. Bradbury / LBW #501

*He leadeth me: O, blessed thought!
Oh, words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me!*

Refrain:

*He leadeth me, he leadeth me,
By his own hand he leadeth me.
His faithful foll'wer I would be,
For by his hand he leadeth me.*

*Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,
Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
By waters calm, o'er troubled sea,
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me. [Refrain]*

*Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,
Nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see,
Since 'tis my God that leadeth me. [Refrain]*

*And when my task on earth is done,
When by thy grace the vict'ry's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
Since God through Jordan leadeth me. [Refrain]*

▲ 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 today, including:

Bethany Valentine – Vocalist and Creative Director
Gretchen Stenson – Vocalist
Diana Riveness Young – Vocalist
Pastor Pam Schaefer Dawson – Vocalist
Vicar Meagan Kim – Vocalist
John Goetz – Vocalist
Steve Swanback – Vocalist
Pastor John Valentine – Vocalist
Julie Hamre – Organist and Pianist

Additionally, our heartfelt thanks are extended to **Shepherd's Bells** for this morning's Call to Worship under the direction of **Julie Hamre**, including:

Donald Eismann	Joan Birke
Paula Eismann	Diana Riveness
Bethany Valentine	Janet Zingale
Joan Kiekhaefer	Michael Stenson

You are invited to a **Memorial Service** in thankfulness for the life of **Bob Valentine** on Saturday, March 22nd at 10am here at Holy Shepherd. A brunch reception will follow in our Center for Ministry building.

Interested in reading ahead as we journey through Luke's Gospel? Next week's text is Luke 15:1-32

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