

# Lent 4

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Orinda, California  
March 15, 2026

**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](http://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](http://www.holyshepherd.org) and utilize Givelify, our online giving platform.

▲ indicates that you are invited to stand as you are able

**GATHERING MUSIC** IN THIS VERY ROOM  
Lyrics and Music by Gary McSpadden

## ▲ WORDS OF WELCOME

- L: People of God, stand up! Come and join in the journey with Jesus – a journey that leads through city streets and an upper room – and ultimately to a cross and a tomb.
- P: **We come in our own different ways, walking in our own styles, at our own speeds; but we come to join the journey.**
- L: Let us walk in the truth of who we are and who God is. Let us walk the way with Jesus into real life, as he listens and learns, as he laughs and cries, as he lives and dies.
- P: **We come to walk with the One who is the Way and the Truth and the Life.**

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: **Amen.**

▲ **GATHERING SONG** COME, JUST AS YOU ARE  
Lyrics and Music by Joseph Sabolick

*Chorus: **Come just as you are**  
**Hear the Spirit call**  
**Come just as you are**  
**Come and see**  
**Come receive**  
**Come and live forever**  
(Repeat)*

*Verse: **Life everlasting**  
**Strength for today**  
**Taste the living water**  
**And never thirst again***

*Chorus / Verse / Chorus*

## ▲ WORDS OF CONFESSION AND HOPE

- L: These days of Lent are days for us to pay special attention to Jesus' journey to the cross. They are days for us to hear the stories of people whom Jesus encountered along the way. And they are days for us to realize that we are those very people ..... For we think of someone like Peter.
- P: **And we realize that we too are guilty of running away from our commitments.**
- L: We think of someone like Judas.
- P: **And we realize that we too are more interested in our own agendas than the agenda of our Lord.**
- L: We think of someone like Pontius Pilate.
- P: **And we realize that we too are tempted to choose easy answers rather than the right ones.**
- L: We think of someone like Caiaphas.
- P: **And we realize that we too are tempted to abuse what authority we've been given.**
- L: We think of people like Mary and Mary Magdalene, the disciples and the crowd.
- P: **And we realize that in their story we find our stories too.**
- L: But most of all, we discover in Jesus' story – in His giving Himself for us all – that there is forgiveness of our sin, hope for our future and strength for our journeys.

## ▲ PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: May God be with you!

P: **And also with you!**

L: Let us pray ....

P: **God of truth, too often we bend truth to fit our needs. Show us how to recognize and follow your truth, shown to us by the love and life of your son, Jesus. Amen.**

## THE LESSON

John 18:28-40

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover.

So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" They shouted in reply, "Not this man but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was an insurrectionist.

## KIDTALK

Pastor John Valentine

## SONG OF THE DAY

LORD HAVE MERCY

Lyrics and Music by Steve Merkel

*Jesus I've forgotten the words  
that You have spoken.  
Promises that burned within my heart  
have now grown dim  
With a doubting heart I follow  
the paths of earthly wisdom.  
Forgive me for my unbelief,  
renew the fire again.*

### Chorus

*Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy,  
Lord have mercy, on me.  
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy,  
Lord have mercy, on me.*

*I have built an altar  
where I worship things of man.  
I have taken journeys  
that have drawn me far from You.  
Now I am returning  
to Your mercies ever flowing.  
Pardon my transgressions,  
help me love You again.*  
(Chorus)

*I have longed to know You  
and Your tender mercies,  
like a river of forgiveness  
ever flowing without end.  
I bow my heart before You  
in the goodness of Your presence.  
Your grace forever shining  
like a beacon in the night.*  
(Chorus Twice)

## ▲ OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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. Amen.**

## ▲ THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*We pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family — using the prayer refrain, "Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**".*

### THE OFFERTORY

I'M GOING UP A YONDER  
Lyrics and Music by Walter Hawkins

### ▲ 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:

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.*

#### OFFERING

Lyrics and Music by Paul Baloche

***The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love  
There is no shadow in Your presence  
No mortal man would dare to stand before Your throne  
Before the Holy One of heaven***

***It's only by Your blood  
And it's only through Your mercy***

***Lord, I come,  
I bring an offering of worship to my King  
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing  
Jesus, may You receive  
The honor that You're due  
O Lord, I bring an offering to You  
I bring an offering to You***

#### WE ALL BOW DOWN

Lyrics and Music by Lenny LeBlanc

***Princes and paupers, sons and daughters  
Kneel at the throne of grace  
Losers and winners, saints and sinners  
One day will see His face***

***And we all bow down  
Kings will surrender their crowns  
And worship Jesus  
For He is the love  
Unfailing love  
He is the love of God***

***Summer and winter, the mountains and rivers  
Whisper our Savior's name  
Awesome and holy, a friend to the lonely  
Forever His love will reign***

***And we all bow down  
Kings will surrender their crowns  
And worship Jesus  
For He is the love  
Unfailing love  
He is the love of God***

***He's the light of the world  
And Lord of the cross***

***And we all bow down  
Kings will surrender their crowns  
And worship Jesus  
For He is the love  
Unfailing love  
He is the love of God***

### THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Merciful Savior, we thank you for the life and hope and healing which you have offered us at this table of grace. May your presence fill us with strength for our life and our Lenten journeys.

P: **Amen.**

## 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!**

### ▲ OUR SENDING SONG

▲ **SENDING SONG**      LORD, I LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH  
Lyrics and Music by Rick Founds

*Lord, I lift Your name on high  
Lord, I love to sing Your praises  
I'm so glad You're in my life  
I'm so glad You came to save us*

*You came from heaven to earth to show the way  
From the earth to the cross my debt to pay  
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky  
Lord, I lift your name on high!*

(Repeat both verse and refrain)

### ▲ THE CHARGE

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

P: **Thanks be to God!**

**SENDING MUSIC**      LORD, I LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH  
(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  
**Diana Riveness Young** – Vocalist  
**Marci Bauer** – Vocalist  
**Elizabeth Humphrey** – Vocalist  
**Steve Swanback** – Vocalist  
**Bob Schmalz** – Vocalist  
**Pastor John Valentine** – Vocalist  
**Marc Levine** – Pianist

Interested in reading ahead as we journey through John's Gospel? Next week's text is John 19:1-16a.

HOLY WEEK IS COMING: Our worship schedule for the days of Holy Week include:

**Maundy Thursday** (April 2) – 6pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette (1035 Carol Lane)  
**Noon on Good Friday** (April 3) – Noon at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette (1035 Carol Lane)  
**Evening on Good Friday** (April 3) – 6pm here at Holy Shepherd (433 Moraga Way)  
**Easter Sunday** (April 5) – 9:30am here at Holy Shepherd with a celebrative Easter brunch and fun activities for kids to follow in our Center for Ministry!

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