



**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 Have a Place at the Table!** 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 love and our commitment to the work of ministry. If you'd like to support us 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** OUR GOD IS HERE  
Lyrics and Music by Chris Muglia / arr. by Tom Henry

## 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 in the name of the One who is revealed to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

▲ **GATHERING SONG** HIS MERCY IS MORE  
Lyrics and Music by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa

**What love could remember no wrongs we have done,  
Through grace and in love, He counts not their sum  
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,  
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more**

Chorus

**Praise the Lord! His mercy is more  
Stronger than darkness, New every morn  
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more**

**What patience would wait as we constantly roam,  
What Father, so tender, is calling us home  
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor,  
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more!**

(Chorus)

**What riches of kindness He lavished on us,  
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford,  
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more**

(Chorus)

### ▲ 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 all that is — both known and unknown, both seen and unseen — Your mysteries are astounding. Give us knowledge where you see fit, and let us sit comfortably with that which we can never understand. Amen!**

## THE GOSPEL LESSON

Acts 17:16-31

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, "What does this pretentious babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities." (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.)

So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means." Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.'

What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we, too, are his offspring.'

"Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

## KIDTALK

Pastor John Valentine

## A SONG OF CELEBRATION HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD

Lyrics and Music: Anon. African American

***He's got the whole world in his hands,  
he's got the whole world in his hands,  
he's got the whole world in his hands,  
he's got the whole world in his hands.***

***He's got the sun and the rain in his hands,  
he's got the moon and the stars in his hands,  
he's got the wind and the cloud in his hands,  
he's got the whole world in his hands***

***He's got the rivers and the mountains in his hands,  
he's got the oceans and the seas in his hands,  
he's got you and me in his hands,  
he's got the whole world in his hands.***

***He's got everybody here in his hands,  
he's got everybody there in his hands,  
he's got everybody everywhere in his hands,  
he's got the whole world in his hands.***

***He's got the whole world in his hands,  
he's got the whole world in his hands,  
he's got the whole world in his hands,  
he's got the whole world in his hands.***

## 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

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need — utilizing the prayer refrain: "Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**"

## THE OFFERTORY

IS HE WORTHY?  
Lyrics and Music by Chris Tomlin

### ▲ 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 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. Note that the Communion Assistant offers both (red) wine and (white) grape juice. After receiving the gift of Holy Communion, please return to your seat by the side aisle, and place the communion cup in the small basket 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)

#### WE COME TO YOU

Lyrics and Music by Joshua Blakesley

***By Your body and blood,  
by Your life and Your love;  
Renew us.  
May Your sacrifice be  
Forgiveness in me;  
Heal us.***

***We come to You, We come to You  
Broken, hungry,  
We come to You , We come to You  
Make us whole again.***

***In the body of Christ,  
We are brought to new life;  
Restore us.***

***May the flesh that we eat,  
And the blood that we drink  
Save us.***

***We come to You, We come to You  
Broken, hungry,  
We come to You , We come to You  
Make us whole again.***

***We come to You, We come to You  
Broken, hungry,  
We come to You , We come to You  
Make us whole again.***

### THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

L: Like those disciples on the road to Emmaus, may your eyes be opened and your heart be expanded to the love of God made real in Jesus in this meal which we have shared.

P: **Amen.**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ▲ THE BENEDICTION

L: Go now as God's chosen witnesses, to testify that Christ has been raised and that we are raised with him. Do not look for him among the dead, but be glad and rejoice in his salvation. And may God raise you from all that would entomb you; may Christ Jesus call you by name and go ahead of you; and may the Holy Spirit empower you for all that is good. For Christ is risen!

P: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## ▲ 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! Alleluia!**

## 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** – Guitarist, Vocalist 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 with the earliest Christians through days of discovery and opportunity? Next week's text is Philippians 1:1-18a

Our Church Council has called for a **special meeting of the congregation** next Sunday (May 10<sup>th</sup>) beginning at 10:50am in the Center for Ministry. The only items on the agenda are the election of a Nominating Committee and a motion to seat a Call Committee to add a second pastor to our congregation's pastoral staff. Please join us as you are able.

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