



**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.

**We Continue** our five-week-long sermon series on the Ten Commandments — those simple but poignant words which form the foundation of the lives of God's people. If you'd like to see them in their entirety you can find them in both Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5.

**Know that You Have a Place at the Table!** We share in Holy Communion during 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** are one way to express both your gratitude for God's love and your commitment to the work of ministry. To support the work of our congregation 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** WE COME TO YOU  
Lyrics and Music by Josh Blakesley

▲ **OUR CALL TO WORSHIP**

- L: Let us begin our time of worship by confessing our sin and our sinfulness to the Holy One in whose name we gather this day.
- P: **In a spirit of honesty, we come before you, God, to confess what you already know — that we have failed to keep your laws and follow your teachings. We have followed our own selfish will, rather than your holy will for our lives. We have**

**twisted your decrees to suit our selfish interests. We have not loved you with our whole heart , and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, O God, for — apart from You — we have no hope.**

- L: My siblings in Christ, hear the promise of God: "'I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God — showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments." In love, God sent Jesus to bless you and redeem you. God forgives you all your sins and restores you to life. Know God's love. Know God's life. And cherish God's guidance.

P: **Amen!**

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

**Come just as you are, Hear the Spirit call  
Come just as you are  
Come and see, Come receive  
Come and live forever**

**Come just as you are, Hear the Spirit call  
Come just as you are  
Come and see, Come receive  
Come and live forever**

**Life everlasting, Strength for today  
Taste the living water and never thirst again**

**Come just as you are, Hear the Spirit call  
Come just as you are  
Come and see, Come receive  
Come and live forever**

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

**Come just as you are, Hear the Spirit call  
Come just as you are  
Come and see, Come receive  
Come and live forever more**

▲ **OUR OPENING LITANY** based on Psalm 1

- L: Happy are those who follow the path that is the pathway of God.
- P: **Happy are those who cherish God's instruction.**
- L: God's ways are paths of mercy and justice.
- P: **May our lives be shaped by mercy and justice.**

L: God's ways are revealed in the texts of Holy Scripture.

P: **May our lives be marked by that life-giving Word.**

L: God's ways lead to refreshment and hope

P: **May our lives be nourished in faith, hope and love..**

L: Happy are those who follow the path that is the pathway of God.

P: **Happy are those who cherish God's instruction.**

L: So let us pray ....

P: **Holy God, you lay your teaching before us as a guide for life and a mirror for self-reflection. Fill us with your Spirit that we might keep your Commandments close to our hearts, to the end that we might love and trust You and gladly do what you command. For this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## THE FIRST LESSON

Exodus 20:1-2, 12

Then God spoke all these words,

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

"Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you."

## THE SECOND LESSON

Matthew 15:1-9

Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands before they eat." He answered them, "And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? For God said, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.' But you say that whoever tells father or mother, 'Whatever support you might have had from me is given to God,' then that person need not honor the father. So, for the sake of your tradition, you nullify the word of God. You hypocrites! Isaiah prophesied rightly about you when he said: 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' "

## SONG OF THE DAY

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

Lyrics and Music by Bernadette Farrell / ELW #715

*Longing for light, we wait in darkness  
Longing for truth, we turn to You.  
Make us Your own, Your holy people  
Light for the world to see.*

Refrain:

*Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in Your church gathered today.*

*Longing for peace, our world is troubled  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice.*

[Refrain]

*Longing for food, many are hungry  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us Your bread, broken for others  
Shared until all are fed.*

[Refrain]

*Many the gifts, many the people  
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another  
Making Your kingdom come.*

[Refrain]

## 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

*Strengthened in faith and hope by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need — using the prayer refrain: "God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**"*

### OFFERTORY

HIS MERCY IS MORE

Lyrics and Music by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa

### ▲ OUR COMMUNION LITANY

L: Here is bread — bread which invites all who hunger for justice to come and eat.

Here is wine — wine which invites all who thirst for righteousness to come and drink.

Here is the table — the table which invites all who are weary to gather and be fed.

Here is community — the community of the whole people of God.

Here is Jesus — the One who invites us all to come and share in the life and love of God.

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 in 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 in 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, 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 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:*

### ABOVE ALL

Lyrics and Music by Lenny LeBlanc

***Above all powers, above all things  
Above all nature and all created things  
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man  
You were here before the world began***

***Above all kingdoms, above all thrones  
Above all wonders the world has ever known  
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth  
There's no way to measure what You're worth***

***Crucified, laid behind the stone  
You lived to die, rejected and alone  
Like a rose trampled on the ground  
You took the fall  
And thought of me — above all***

(Repeat)

### AS THE DEER

Lyrics and Music by Martin Nystrom

***As the deer panteth for the water  
So my soul longeth after thee  
You alone are my hearts desire  
And I long to worship thee***

### Chorus

***You alone are my strength, my shield  
To You alone may my spirit yield  
You alone are my hearts desire  
And I long to worship thee***

***You're my friend and You are my brother,  
Even though you are a king.  
I love you more than any other,  
So much more than anything.*** [Chorus]

***I want You more than gold or silver,  
Only You can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joy Giver,  
And the apple of my eye.*** [Chorus]

### THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

L: Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

P: **Amen.**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ▲ THE BENEDICTION

L: The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. So go out into the world and love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and love others as you yourself are loved by God. And may the Holy Spirit go where you go and protect you on your way.

P: **Amen!**

## ▲ SENDING SONG

LIFE'S RAILWAY TO HEAVEN  
Lyrics by M.E. Abbey / Music by Charlie D. Tillman

*Life is like a mountain railway,  
with an engineer that's brave  
We must make the run successful,  
from the cradle to the grave  
Heed the curves, the hills, the tunnels,  
never falter never fail  
Keep your hand upon the throttle,  
and your eye upon the rail*

*Blessed Savior, thou will guide us  
Till we reach that blissful shore  
Where the angels wait to join us  
In God's praise for evermore*

*As we roll along the mainline,  
there'll be storms and there'll be night  
There'll be sidetracks unexpected,  
on the left and on the right  
But with the straight always before us,  
and our hearts upon the prize  
There'll be no disembarkation  
until we reach paradise*

*Blessed Savior, thou will guide us  
Till we reach that blissful shore  
Where the angels wait to join us  
In God's praise forevermore*

## ▲ THE CHARGE

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

P: **Thanks be to God!**

## SENDING MUSIC

LIFE'S RAILWAY TO HEAVEN (Reprise)

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

**Diana Riveness Young** — Vocalist and Creative Director  
**Elizabeth Humphrey** — Vocalist  
**Bethany Valentine** — Vocalist  
**Marci Bauer** — Vocalist  
**Bob Schmalz** — Vocalist  
**Steve Swanback** — Vocalist  
**Pastor John Valentine** — Vocalist  
**Marc Levine** — Pianist

There is a **Special Meeting of the Congregation** scheduled at 10:45am (following worship) on Sunday, September 13, 2026. The purpose of that meeting is to consider extending a pastoral call to recent seminary graduate Meagan Kim to serve as a pastor in our congregation. Please join us as you are able!

The **Food Bank fo Contra Costa and Solana Counties** needs healthy foodstuffs, and we are committed to loving God by serving our neighbors. So let's help our hungry neighbors eat! The focus items for the month of September is ???

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