

Reformation Sunday

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church
Orinda, CA
October 25, 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.) May you know God's grace as we worship.

Today (the last Sunday in October) we celebrate **Reformation Sunday!** It's a day for us to remember the labors of those who have been renewers of the Church throughout the ages, as well as to remind ourselves that it is through Christ alone, by grace alone and through faith alone that we have a place at God's feast of life.

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 our 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. If you would like 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

WORDS OF WELCOME

▲ OUR CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose word never fails and whose promise is sure.

P: **Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of

our neighbors. Merciful God ...

P: **We confess that we have sinned. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. We have not been good stewards of your abundant goodness. In the name of Jesus, forgive us.** (Silence is kept for reflection.)

L: Righteous God,

P: **We confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. And we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In the name of Jesus, forgive us.** (Silence is kept for reflection.)

L: Beloved of God, hear the Good News. God's grace is greater than our sin. God's hope is greater than our fear. Claim the gift of God's mercy and know God's gift of peace, for you are freed and forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ.

▲ GATHERING SONG

A MIGHTY FORTRESS

Lyrics and Music by Martin Luther / ELW #504

**A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
Has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might,
He arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.**

**No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.**

**God's Word forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fight by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
goods, honor, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away,
They cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!**

▲ OUR REFORMATION DAY LITANY

L: Every day we journey on this earth is a day in which we make choices — left or right, up or down, in or out, yes or no? Some choices are simple, and some are very complex. But one choice informs all the others: Who will be our God? Whom will we trust to see us through this journey? Who has been with us from before the beginning, bringing us into existence? Who has loved us and blessed us and sent us on our way?

P: **Only One. The One and Only. Holy One. The One and Holy.**

L: Will you choose this day to stay faithful to the One who is faithful to us?

P: **Count us in.**

L: Will you choose this day to place your trust in the One who is trustworthy?

P: **Count us in.**

L: Will you choose this day to love the One who loved us first?

P: **Count us in.**

L: Will you choose this day to live out your faith in God by loving those whom Jesus calls our neighbors?

P: **Count us in.**

L: So let us pray:

P: **Gracious Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and all your people. Keep us steadfast in your word, protect and comfort us in times of trial, defend us against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the whole of your church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

THE LESSON

2 Samuel 11:1-5, 26-27; 12:1-9

In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

It happened, late one afternoon when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was

purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. The woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.

Then the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds, but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb that he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meager fare and drink from his cup and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared that for the guest who had come to him." Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; he shall restore the lamb fourfold because he did this thing and because he had no pity."

Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your bosom and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah, and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.

KIDTALK

Pastor John Valentine

THE SONG OF THE DAY LORD, KEEP US STEADFAST
Lyrics by M. Luther / Music by J. Klug / ELW #517

***Lord, keep us steadfast in your word;
curb those who by deceit or sword
would wrest the kingdom from your Son
and bring to naught all he has done.***

***Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known,
for you are Lord of lords alone;
defend your holy church, that we
may sing your praise eternally.***

***O Comforter of priceless worth,
send peace and unity on earth;
support us in our final strife
and lead us out of death to life.***

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

IN CHRIST ALONE

Lyrics and Music by Stuart Townend

THE COMMUNION LITURGY

L: Let us gather around the table to share the meal which Christ makes possible for us all. This is the welcome table of God, where all who seek to be at peace with their neighbor and all who seek the mercy of God in Christ are embraced. Come, for we are invited into this holy mystery. Come.

P: **We come, hungry for the hope which Jesus alone can give.**

L: Jesus said: "I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger, and all who believe in me shall never be thirsty."

P: **We come, thirsty for the peace which Jesus' presence offers.**

L: We remember that 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 so — gathered into one by the Holy Spirit — let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.**

L: These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come to the Table of Grace!

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.

AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT

Lyrics and Music by Marty Haugen / ELW #465

Refrain

***As the grains of wheat, once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
So may all your people from all the ends of earth,
be gathered into one in you.***

***As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst
may we share the presence of your love.*** (Refrain)

***Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you.*** (Refrain)

AS WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE

Lyrics by Carl Daw / Music by J. Rontgen / ELW #522

***As we gather at your table,
As we listen to your word,
Help us know, O God, your presence;
Let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
Till we claim it as our own;
Teach us through this holy banquet
How to make Love's victory known.***

*Turn our worship into witness
In the sacrament of life;
Send us forth to love and serve you,
Bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
To forgive as you forgave;
May we still behold your image
In the world you died to save.*

*Gracious Spirit, help us summon
Other guests to share that feast
Where triumphant Love will welcome
Those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
Nor will pride our peace destroy,
As we join with saints and angels
To repeat the sounding joy.*

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

P: **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

▲ THE BENEDICTION

L: For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters! But do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence. Rather, through love become enslaved to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

P: **Amen.**

▲ **SENDING SONG** FOR THE BREAD WHICH
Lyrics by L. Benson / Music Trad German / ELW #494

*For the bread which you have broken,
For the wine which you have poured,
For the words which you have spoken,
Now we give you thanks, O Lord.*

*By this promise that you love us,
By your gift of peace restored,
By your call to heav'n above us,
Hallow all our lives, O Lord.*

*With the saints who now adore you
Seated at our Father's board,
May the Church still waiting for you
Keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.*

*In your service, Lord, defend us;
In our hearts keep watch and ward,
In the world to which you send us
Let your kingdom come, O Lord.*

▲ THE CHARGE

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

C: **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
Elizabeth Humphrey — Vocalist
Marci Bauer — Vocalist
Won K. Yang — Vocalist
Pastor John Valentine — Vocalist
Julie Hamre — Organist and Pianist

Interested in reading ahead as we journey through key stories from the Old Testament this Fall? Next week's lesson is the story of **King Solomon's Wisdom**, as recorded in 1 Kings 3:4-28

Upcoming Concerts! **Chromatica Chorale** presents "Our Journey Home" on Saturday, November 7th at 3pm here at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church on Sunday, November 8th at 7pm at Peace Lutheran Church in Danville. Speak with Bethany Valentine for more information.

Biblical passages are resourced from the New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission

MUSIC REPRINTED AND STREAMED WITH
PERMISSION UNDER ONE LICENSE #A-710728
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED AND/OR CCLI LICENSE 1030607.