

Pentecost 10

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church
Orinda, California
August 6, 2023

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. He welcomes everyone to come and eat and be nourished, fed and forgiven. Come and eat and live!

Your Offerings We have resumed the practice of 'passing the offering plate' during our musical offertory. If you would prefer to support the work of our congregation electronically, visit our website at 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

▲ OUR CALL TO WORSHIP

- L: We gather here in this place in a spirit of honesty. Just as we are, not just as we hope we might be. Whole yet broken, filled yet empty, hopeful yet hopeless.
- C: **May God's Spirit of wholeness blow through our lives.**
- L: We gather in a spirit of humility. Thankful that God has given us in Jesus Christ a gift which we could never obtain on our own.
- C: **May God's Spirit of truth open our eyes to God's goodness.**
- L: We gather in a spirit of unity. Side by side at God's

table of grace, that we might be fed by the Bread of life.

- C: **May God's Spirit of healing work in us and through us. May God's blessing alive in us become a blessing to those around us.**

▲ GATHERING SONG

"COME, THOU FOUNT ..."

Lyrics by R. Robinson / Music by J. Wyeth / ELW #807

***Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.***

***Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.***

***Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.***

▲ OUR OPENING LITANY

based on 1 John 4

- L: God has not given us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power and love.
- C: **All who love are born of God.**
- L: Greater love has no one than this: that a person lay down their life for a friend.
- C: **God loved the world so much that God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.**
- L: If God so loved us, we ought to love one another.
- C: **We shall love our neighbors as ourselves.**
- L: Let us not love in word and speech alone, but in deed and in truth.
- C: **May our love be honest and genuine.**

L: Let us love one another.

C: **For love is of God.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: So let us pray ...

C: **Holy God – the Holy Scriptures have been written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read them, and inwardly digest them, that our lives might be shaped by your truth and formed in your image. For we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!**

THE LESSON

Leviticus 16 (selected verses)

'Scapegoating' – is the practice of placing both unmerited blame and negative treatment on person or group – finds its foundation in this story from the third book of the Old Testament.

The Lord spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they drew near before the Lord and died.

The Lord said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron not to come just at any time into the sanctuary inside the curtain before the cover that is upon the ark, or he will die, for I appear in the cloud upon the cover. He shall take from the congregation of the Israelites two male goats for a purification offering and he shall take the two goats and set them before the Lord at the entrance of the tent of meeting, and Aaron shall cast lots on the two goats, one lot for the Lord and the other lot for Azazel. Aaron shall present the goat on which the lot fell for the Lord and offer it as a purification offering, but the goat on which the lot fell for Azazel shall be presented alive before the Lord to make atonement over it, that it may be sent away into the wilderness to Azazel.

"He shall slaughter the goat of the purification offering that is for the people ... [and] when he has finished atoning for the holy place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall present the live goat. Then Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the iniquities of the Israelites, and all their transgressions, all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat and sending it away into the wilderness by means of someone designated for the task. The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to a barren region, and the goat shall be set free in the wilderness."

KIDTALK

Pastor Pam Schaefer Dawson

A SONG OF PRAISE

GOD, WHEN HUMAN BONDS ...

Lyrics by Fred Kann / Music by William Monk / ELW #603

***God, when human bonds are broken
and we lack the love or skill
to restore the hope of healing,
give us grace and make us still.***

***Through that stillness, with your Spirit
come into our world of stress,
for the sake of Christ forgiving
all the failures we confess.***

***You in us are bruised and broken:
hear us as we seek release
from the pain of earlier living;
set us free and grant us peace.***

***Send us, God of new beginnings,
humbly hopeful into life.
Use us as a means of blessing:
make us stronger, give us faith.***

***Give us faith to be more faithful,
give us hope to be more true,
give us love to go on learning:
God, encourage and renew!***

THE SERMON

Pastor Pam Schaefer Dawson

▲ OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH THE APOSTLES' CREED

For the past 1500 years, the Christian community has cherished the Apostles' Creed as a testimony to the God in whom we live and move and have our being:

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

*Empowered by the Holy Spirit to manifest the Good News to the ends of the earth, we pray for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation, utilizing the prayer refrain "God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**"*

THE OFFERTORY

HIS MERCY IS MORE

Lyrics and Music by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa

▲ THE COMMUNION LITANY

L: Let us pray: Lord Jesus, you came to us as a tiny Baby born in danger and discomfort. You grew into a Man whom the world can never forget. You offered up your body and blood for the sake of our broken lives and our broken world. So come to us now in this bread and this wine. Unite us and strengthen us by your presence and through your Word, that we might be your faithful children in this world.

For together 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 that same Jesus who called us to remember, and who is present with us now, is the One who taught us all to pray:

C: **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. After consuming the Communion 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 sing the following songs with our Worship Team.

CHIEF OF SINNERS THOUGH I BE

Lyrics by W. McComb / Music by R. Redhead / ELW #609

**Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed his blood for me,
died that I might live on high,
lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am his, and he is mine.**

**Oh, the height of Jesus' love!
Higher than the heav'ns above,
deeper than the depths of sea,
lasting as eternity.
Love that found me -- wondrous thought --
found me when I sought him not.**

**Only Jesus can impart
balm to heal the wounded heart,
peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,
joy that lifts the soul to heav'n;
faith and hope to walk with God
in the way that Enoch trod.**

**Chief of sinners though I be,
Christ is all in all to me;
all my wants to him are known,
all my sorrows are his own.
He sustains the hidden life
safe with him from earthly strife.**

**O my Savior, help afford
by your Spirit and your word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
keep me in the narrow way;
grace in time of need supply
while I live and when I die.**

I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY

Lyrics by H. Bonar / Music: English Folk Tune / ELW #611

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn, and sad;
I found him in a resting-place,
and he has made me glad.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank**

*of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.*

*I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till trav'ling days are done.*

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

▲ THE BENEDICTION

L: Go now into the world to be God's witnesses —
sustained and supported by the God who is known to
us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen!**

▲ SENDING SONG PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY Lyrics by J. Neander / Music Anonymous / ELW #858

*Praise to the Lord,
the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him,
for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!*

*Praise to the Lord,
who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle,
uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?*

*Praise to the Lord,
who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy
shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
as with his love he befriend you.*

*Praise to the Lord!
Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath,
come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!*

▲ 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 – Vocalist
Elizabeth Humphrey – Vocalist
Pastor Pam Scafefer Dawson – Vocalist
Won K. Yang – Vocalist
John Goetz – Vocalist
Pastor John Valentine – Vocalist
Julie Hamre – Organist and Pianist

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