



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 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!

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 FAIREST LORD JESUS
arr. by Anna Laura Page / offered by Shepherd's Bells

WORDS OF WELCOME

▲ OUR EASTER 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 this morning in the name of the Father, and of the Son (+), and of the Holy Spirit.

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

▲ **GATHERING SONG** GLORY AND PRAISE TO OUR GOD
Lyrics and Music by Dan Schutte / Gather #522

Chorus: **Glory and Praise to our God
Who alone brings light to our days.
Many are the blessings He bears
To those who trust in His ways.**

**We the daughters and sons of Him
Who built the valleys and plains
Praise the wonders our God has done
In every heart that sings.** (Chorus)

**In His wisdom He strengthens us,
Like gold that's tested in fire,
Though the power of sin prevails,
Our God is there to save.** (Chorus)

**Every moment of every day
Our God is waiting to save,
Always ready to seek the lost,
To answer those who pray.** (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: **Jesus, your followers established churches in communities near and far. Take us outside of ourselves, and teach us to give away what you have given to us. For you live and reign with the Creator and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!**

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 17:1-9

After Paul and Silas had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days argued with them from the scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead and saying, "This is the Messiah, Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you." Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. But the Jews became jealous, and with the help of some ruffians in the marketplaces they formed a mob and set the city in an uproar. While they were searching for Paul and Silas to bring them out to the assembly, they attacked Jason's house. When they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some brothers and sisters before the city authorities, shouting, "These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also, and Jason has entertained them as guests. They are all acting contrary to the decrees of the emperor, saying that there is another king named Jesus." The people and the city officials were disturbed when they heard this, and after they had taken bail from Jason and the others, they let them go.

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

From Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace! We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

KIDTALK

Pastor John Valentine

A SONG OF CELEBRATION

ANCIENT WORDS

Lyrics and Music by Lynn DeShazo

***Holy words long preserved
for our walk in this world,
They resound with God's own heart
Oh, let the Ancient words impart.***

***Words of Life, words of Hope
Give us strength, help us cope
In this world, where e'er we roam
Ancient words will guide us Home.***

***Ancient words ever true
Changing me, and changing you.
We have come with open hearts
Oh let the ancient words impart.***

***Holy words of our Faith
Handed down to this age.
Came to us through sacrifice
Oh heed the faithful words of Christ.***

***Ancient words ever true
Changing me, and changing you.
We have come with open hearts
Oh let the ancient words impart.***

THE SERMON

Pastor John Valentine

▲ OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Our Affirmation of Faith is based on an account in Acts 10 of Peter's witness as to why Jesus mattered to him. Peter's words invite us to consider why Jesus still matters.

We are people who have heard the Good News.

- **How God anointed Jesus with the Spirit of Truth.**
- **How Jesus healed those he encountered along the way.**
- **How Jesus was killed by those who feared his goodness.**
- **How Jesus was raised from death by the Creator of all that is.**

We have been called to be witnesses to that Good News.

- **That God is the God of the living and the dead.**
- **That God offers forgiveness to all who would trust God.**
- **That God is better to us than we are to ourselves.**

- **That God calls us to respect God and embody God's love to our neighbors.**

**May we be Good News people this day and always!
Amen.**

THE OFFERTORY HALLELUJAH (Your Love Makes Me Sing)

Lyrics and Music by Brenton Brown and Brian Doerksen

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 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 to us.

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.

GIVE THANKS

Lyrics and Music by H. Smith

***Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, His Son.***

***Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, His Son.***

***And now let the weak say, "I am strong."
Let the poor say, "I am rich"
because of what the Lord has done for us.***

***And now let the weak say, "I am strong."
Let the poor say, "I am rich"
because of what the Lord has done for us.***

***Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, His Son.
Give thanks.***

SING ALLELU (Ode 40)

Lyrics and Music by Fernando Ortega

***Grace pouring forth like a fountain flowing
Our hearts open wide to sing your praise
And our sound becomes sweet
With your anthems ringing
Praise to the name of the Lord***

***Sing allelu, Sing allelu
We rejoice in Your love, Most High
Sing allelu, Sing allelu
In Your light You shine forever
Shine in us, O Lord, forever
We're the light to the world, allelu***

***Let us who are afraid find refuge in Christ
And redemption assured in His name
By day and by night, We delight in your love
And forever Your Word will remain***

***Sing allelu, Sing allelu
We rejoice in Your love, Most High
Sing allelu, Sing allelu
In Your light You shine forever
Shine in us, O Lord, forever
We're the light to the world, allelu***

***Allelu, Allelu
Allelu, Allelu
Allelu, Allelu***

Sing allelu, Sing allelu
We rejoice in Your love, Most High
Sing allelu, Sing allelu
In Your light You shine forever
Shine in us, O Lord, forever
We're the light to the world, allelu

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

▲ THE BENEDICTION

L: May that same gracious power by which God raised Jesus to life anew, strengthen you in hope, enrich you with love, and fill your hearts with joy! For Christ is risen!

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

▲ THE SENDING SONG GRACE THAT IS GREATER Lyrics and Music by Julia Johnston

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! Hallelujah!**

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 — Creative Director (in absentia)
Diana Riveness Young — Vocalist
Bethany Valentine — Vocalist
Diana Riveness Young — Vocalist
Elizabeth Humphrey — Vocalist
Pastor Pam Schaefer Dawson — Vocalist
Marci Bauer — Vocalist
Bob Schmalz — Vocalist
Ed Szaky — Vocalist
Steve Swanback — Vocalist
Pastor John Valentine — Vocalist
Marc Levine — Pianist

Shepherd's Bells (directed by Julie Hamre)

Juanita Gilbertson	Paula Eismann
Joan Kiekhaefer	Janet Zingale
Diana Riveness Young	Barbara Swanson
Bethany Valentine	Nils Kjell
Sharon Tissue	Michael Stenson
Joan Birke	Donald Eismann

Interested in reading ahead as we journey with the first Christians through days of discovery? Next week's texts are Acts 18:1-4 and 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Chromatica Chorale (the community choir which regularly practices and performs at Holy Shepherd) present a world premiere of Transfigurations – a composition of Grammy-award winning artist Christopher Tin this coming weekend! The premiere takes place on Saturday evening, April 27th at 7pm at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Walnut Creek and will also be offered at 4pm at Peace Lutheran Church in Danville. For more details, visit www.ChromaticaChorale.org or speak with Bethany Valentine

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