



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 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 the offertory. If you would prefer to support the work of our congregation electronically, please 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

▲ OUR CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We gather this morning to worship. We gather in the name of the God who has been revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. So let us begin our time of worship by acknowledging those truths about our lives that separate us both from God and from our neighbors.

P: **Giver of every good gift, we confess that we are people with clenched fists. We hold tightly to the things of this world and are unwilling to part with them. We hold in our grasp the brokenness of our past and yet are afraid to give it up. We feel life slipping through our fingers, but don't know how to change. Gracious God, forgive our sinfulness and our selfishness, the works of our hands.**

L: Our God is a God of open hands! God opened God's hands in the act of creation that we might know life. God opened God's hands to the hopeless and hurting that we might learn how to love. God opened God's hands and was nailed to a cross that we might receive forgiveness. We are alive and forgiven and enabled to love because of God's open hands. And may those gifts of life and love and forgiveness become real to you as we worship together this morning.

▲ GATHERING SONG

WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD

Lyrics by Julia Cory / Music by A. Valerius / ELW #870

**We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.**

**We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.**

**With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!**

▲ OUR OPENING LITANY

'FOR GOD SO LOVED US'

L: God has not given us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power and love.

P: **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.

P: **God loved the world so much that God took on humanity in the person of Jesus Christ, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.**

L: If God so loved us, we ought to love one another.

P: **May we love our neighbors as ourselves.**

L: If we keep God's commandments, we will abide in God's love.

P: **This commandment we have from God – that we love one another.**

L: Let us not love in word and speech alone, but in deed and in truth.

P: **May our love be honest and genuine.**

L: Let us love one another.

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

L: So let us pray

P: Lord, we know that all that we are and all that we have comes in trust from you. Give us generous spirits, that our lives might be shaped by the awareness that we are simply stewards of your amazing goodness to all the world. For we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE LESSON

Luke 16:1-13

The so-called "Parable of the Dishonest Manager" is among the most perplexing stories that Jesus is remembered to have told. Yet – at its heart – lies the question: "How best can we utilize what God has entrusted to us?"

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

KIDTALK

Pastor John Valentine

SONG OF THE DAY

WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN

Lyrics by W. How / Music by L. Mason (ELW #686)

*We give thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.*

*May we thy bounties thus
as stewards true receive,
and gladly, as thou blessest us,
to thee our first-fruits give.*

*The captive to release,
to God the lost to bring,
to teach the way of life and peace -
it is a Christ-like thing.*

*And we believe thy word,
though dim our faith may be:
whate'er we do for thine, O Lord,
we do it unto thee.*

THE SERMON

Pastor John Valentine

▲ OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Psalm 8

Psalm 8 is a hymn of praise and an invitation. It invites us to marvel in the wonder of God's creation and it invites us to acknowledge a mystery — that this Creator has appointed us stewards of all that God has made.

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are humans that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*We pray for the church, the world and all in need — utilizing the prayer refrain: "God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**"*

THE OFFERTORY LORD, WE COME TO THANK YOU
Lyrics and Music by Don Besig and Nancy Price

▲ THE COMMUNION LITURGY

L: 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 in 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.

**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: Jesus said: "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and who believes in me will never be thirsty." So now come to the table of the Lord.

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 as you return to your seat. During this time, you are invited to sing the following songs with our Worship Team.

WE COME TO THE HUNGRY FEAST
Lyrics and Music by Ray Makeever / ELW #479

***We come to the hungry feast,
hungry for a word of peace.
To hungry hearts unsatisfied
The love of God is not denied.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.***

***We come to the hungry feast
hungry for a world released
from hungry folk of ev'ry kind,
the poor in body, poor in mind.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.***

***We come to the hungry feast
hungry that the hunger cease,
and knowing, though we eat our fill,
the hunger will stay will us; still
We come, we come to the hungry feast.***

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING
Lyrics by Albert Bayly / Music Anon. Gaelic / ELW #689

***Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
For all things living, you have made good:
Harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
Hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.***

***God, bless the labor we bring to serve you,
That with our neighbor we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,
Harvesting, milling for daily bread.***

***Father, providing food for your children,
By Wisdom's guiding teach us to share
One with another, so that, rejoicing
With us, all others may know your care.***

***Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,
Freely confessing your gracious hand.
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger;
Your love sustaining showers the land.***

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: May the Holy One — the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit — bless you now and forever.

P: **Amen!**

▲ SENDING SONG NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

Lyrics by M. Rinkhart / Music by J. Cruger / ELW 840

*Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms,
has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.*

*Oh, may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us all in grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm
in this world and the next.*

*All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.*

▲ THE CHARGE

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

P: **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
Sharon Tissue – Vocalist
Elizabeth Humphrey – Vocalist
Pastor Pam Schaefer Dawson – Vocalist
Vicar Megan Kim – Vocalist
Joe Zingale – Vocalist
John Goetz – Vocalist
Won Yang – Vocalist
Pastor John Valentine – Vocalist
Julie Hamre – Pianist

A memorial service honoring the life of Pastor Marty Schaefer (Pastor Pam's dad) will be held this coming Saturday, August 17 at 11am at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (4000 Clayton Road, Concord CA). The service can also be live-streamed online at www.qsconcord.com – under the 'Sunday Worship tab.

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