



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 OFFERING
Lyrics and Music by David Carr and Mark Lee

▲ **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** LOVE ONE ANOTHER
Lyrics and Music by Greg Ronning

Chorus: **Love one another, share your heart;
Love one another, let it start;
The magic of love isn't magic at all;
It's you and me and Jesus doing it all.**

**Hearts weren't meant to stand alone;
Hearts aren't made out of cold grey stone;
Together in love, there's a chance;
We can turn mourning into a dance.**
[Chorus]

**On the horizon there's a shining light;
There's an end to the lonely night;
It ain't no star or shining sun;
It's you and me together in the kingdom as one.**
[Chorus]

**When you see somebody down and out;
Give them love, not a reason to doubt;
As long as someone's hurt you're never free;
Give them a hand, give them a kingdom to see.**
[Chorus]

▲ **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

Matthew 25:14-30

In the so-called "Parable of the Talents", Jesus challenged his first friends and followers to consider how they might be faithful stewards of that which was entrusted to them. Two thousand years later, that challenge still stands.

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a

harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

KIDTALK

Pastor John Valentine

SONG OF THE DAY

FLY LIKE A BIRD

Lyrics and Music by Ken Canedo

Refrain: ***Fly like a bird to the Lord, my soul
I want to soar like an eagle.
Though I may journey far away from home
I know I'll never be alone.***

***O God you know who I am;
You know my hopes and my dreams;
In my pondering and fears
In my joy and in my tears;
O God your presence is real.*** (Refrain)

***Where can I run to your love?
Where can I find all your grace?
From the dawn of morning's light
to the darkness of the night;
O God your presence is real.*** (Refrain)

***When I am down and afraid;
When I am falling away;
You extend a gentle hand
And I know you understand;
O God your presence is real.*** (Refrain)

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

THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS
Lyrics and Music by Greg Ronning

▲ 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.

TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE

Lyrics by F. Havergal / Music by C. Tomlin / ELW 685

***Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise***

***Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee***

***Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee***

***Take my silver and my gold,
Not a might would I withhold
Take my intellect and use
Every power as You choose***

***Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne***

***Take my love, my Lord I pour
At Your feet, it's treasure store
Take myself and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee***

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

Lyrics and Music by John B. Foley

(Refrain) **One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.**

**Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more** (Refrain)

**Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all** (Refrain)

**Grain for the fields scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all** (Refrain)

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

HERE I AM, LORD

Lyrics and Music by D. L. Schutte

***I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people's cry,
All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright,
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?***

Chorus

***Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.***

***I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,***

give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

(Chorus)

***I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide,
'til their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?***
(Chorus)

▲ THE CHARGE

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

P: **Thanks be to God!**

SENDING MUSIC

HERE I AM, LORD (Reprise)

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

Tom Henry — Vocalist, Guitarist and Creative Director
Diana Riveness Young — Vocalist
Bethany Valentine — Vocalist
Elizabeth Humphrey — Vocalist
Marci Bauer — Vocalist
Pastor Pam Schaefer Dawson – Vocalist
Bob Schmalz — Vocalist
Steve Swanback — Vocalist
Ed Szaky — Vocalist
Pastor John Valentine — Vocalist
Marc Levine — Pianist

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