



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** SING TO THE LORD OF HARVEST
Lyrics by J. Monsell / Music by J. Steurlein / ELW #694

***Sing to the Lord of harvest
your songs of love and praise;
with joyful hearts and voices
your hallelujahs raise;
by him the rolling seasons
in fruitful order move;
sing to the Lord of harvest
a joyous song of love.***

***God makes the clouds drop fatness,
the deserts bloom and spring,
the hills leap up in gladness,
the valleys laugh and sing.
God fills them with his fullness,
all things with large increase,
and crowns the year with goodness,
with plenty and with peace.***

***Bring to this sacred altar
the gifts his goodness gave,
the golden sheaves of harvest,
the souls Christ died to save.
Your hearts lay down before him
when at his feet you fall,
and with your lives adore him
who gave his life for all.***

▲ **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 FIRST LESSON

Psalm 37:18-29

Better is a little that the righteous person has than the abundance of many wicked.
For the arms of the wicked shall be broken,
but the Lord upholds the righteous.

The Lord knows the days of the blameless,
and their heritage will abide forever;
they are not put to shame in evil times;
in the days of famine they have abundance.
But the wicked perish, and the enemies of the Lord are like the glory of the pastures;
they vanish — like smoke they vanish away.

The wicked borrow and do not pay back,
but the righteous are generous and keep giving;
surely those blessed by the Lord shall inherit the land,
but those cursed by him shall be cut off.

Our steps are made firm by the Lord
when he delights in our way;
though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong,
for the Lord holds us by the hand.

I have been young and now am old,
yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken
or their children begging bread.
They are ever giving liberally and lending,
and their children become a blessing.

Depart from evil, and do good;
so you shall abide forever.

For the Lord loves justice;
he will not forsake his faithful ones.

The righteous shall be kept safe forever,
but the children of the wicked shall be cut off.
The righteous shall inherit the land
and live in it forever.

THE SECOND LESSON

Matthew 6:1-4

Jesus said: "Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

KIDTALK

Pastor John Valentine

SONG OF THE DAY

AS SAINTS OF OLD

Lyrics by F. von Christerson / English Folk Tune/ ELW #695

***As saints of old their first-fruits brought
of vineyard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good,
the source of bounteous yield;
so we today our first fruits bring:
the wealth of this good land,
of farm and market, shop and home,
of mind and heart and hand.***

***A world in need now summons us
to labor, love, and give,
to make our life an offering
to God, that all may live.
The church of Christ is calling us
to make the dream come true:
a world redeemed, by Christ-like love,
all life in Christ made new.***

***With gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best to you,
not just to serve your cause, but share
your love with neighbors too.
O God, who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ your Son,
help us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.***

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

WE COME TO SAY THANK YOU
Lyrics and Music by Pepper Choplin

▲ 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.

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)

WE PLOW THE FIELDS AND SCATTER

Lyrics by M. Claudius / Music by J. Schulz / ELW #681

*We plow the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand,
who sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.*

Refrain: *All good gifts around us
are sent from heav'n above.
We thank you, Lord, we thank you Lord,
For all your love.*

*You only are the maker
of all things near and far.
You paint the wayside flower,
you light the evening star.
The wind and waves obey you,
by you the birds are fed;
much more to us, your children,
you give our daily bread.*
(Refrain)

*We thank you, our creator,
for all things bright and good,
the seed-time and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer
for all your love imparts
but what you most would treasure —
our humble, thankful hearts.*
(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 SENT FORTH BY GOD'S BLESSING

Lyrics by O. Westendorf / Welsh Folk Tune / ELW #547

*Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from his dwelling take leave.
The service is ended; oh, now be extended
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.*

*The seed of his teaching, receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us; his love shall unite us
to work for God's kingdom and answer his call.*

*With praise and thanksgiving to you ever living,
The tasks of our ev'ry day life we will face,
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
Embracing your children of each tribe and race.
With your feast you feed us; with your light now lead us.
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and his name that we bear*

▲ 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
Sharon Tissue – Vocalist
Elizabeth Humphrey – Vocalist
Vicar Meagan Kim – Vocalist
Joe Zingale – Vocalist
John Goetz – Vocalist
Pastor John Valentine – Vocalist
Julie Hamre – Organist and Pianist

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