



**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](http://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. Jesus welcomes everyone to come and eat and be nourished, fed and forgiven. Come and eat and live!

**Offerings are an Act of Worship!** Offerings are one way we express both our gratitude for God's wondrous love and our commitment to for work of ministry. To support our work electronically, visit [www.holyshepherd.org](http://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 ADVENT INVITATION

- L: Advent is a time of expectation.
- P: **A time to celebrate the One true hope of the world in which we live.**
- L: Advent is a time of preparation.
- P: **A time to prepare ourselves for the arrival of the Prince of Peace.**
- L: Advent is a time to remember ancient words.
- P: **A time to recall that those words are meant for us.**
- L: That the days are surely coming when righteousness and justice will abound.
- P: **That the days are surely coming when God's Word will be written on our hearts.**

L: That the days are surely coming when the lion will lie down with the lamb.

P: **That the days are surely coming when God will make all things new.**

L: So let us pray: Lord Jesus Christ, we are a selfish people. Our peace depends on Your coming. We are a sinful people. Our pardon depends on Your coming. We are a broken people. Our lives depend on your grace. And so we pray those ancient words: "Maran atha" – "Lord, come soon."

P: **Maran atha. Lord, come soon.**

### ▲ GATHERING SONG

REJOICE, REJOICE, BELIEVERS

Lyrics by L. Laurenti / Music Swedish Folk Tune / ELW #244

**Rejoice, rejoice, believers,  
and let your lights appear;  
the evening is advancing,  
and darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising  
and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;  
at midnight comes the cry.**

**The watchers on the mountain  
proclaim the bridegroom near;  
go forth as he approaches  
with alleluias clear.  
the marriage feast is waiting;  
the gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory;  
The bridegroom is at hand.**

**Our hope and expectation,  
O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, O Sun so longed for,  
o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted,  
we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption  
that sets your people free!**

### ▲ THE CELEBRATION OF LIGHT

- L: *Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world.*
- P: **The light no darkness can overcome.**
- L: *Stay with us now, for it is evening.*
- P: **And the day is almost over.**
- L: *Let your light scatter the darkness.*
- P: **And shine within you people here.**

**▲ A HYMN OF PRAISE**

JOYOUS LIGHT

Lyrics and Music by Marty Haugen / ELW #561

*Joyous light of heavenly glory,  
loving glow of God's own face,  
you who sing creation's story,  
shine on every land and race.  
Now as evening falls around us,  
we shall raise our songs to you.  
God of daybreak, God of shadows,  
come and light our hearts anew.*

*In the stars that grace the darkness,  
in the blazing sun of dawn,  
in the light of peace and wisdom,  
we can hear your quiet song.  
Love that fills the night with wonder,  
love that warms the weary soul,  
love that bursts all chains asunder,  
set us free and make us whole.*

*You who made the heaven's splendor,  
every dancing star of night,  
make us shine with gentle justice,  
let us each reflect your light.  
Mighty God of all creation,  
gentle Christ who lights our way,  
loving Spirit of salvation,  
lead us on to endless day.*

**▲ PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: The Lord be with you!

P: **And also with you!**

L: Let us pray:

P: **Loving Lord, when we have strayed, you have called us to come home to you. "Return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing." With all our hearts we return to you, and gratefully accept your gentle love, for the sake of the one whose spirit lives in us, Jesus Christ our loving savior. Amen.**

**THE LESSON**

Joel 2:12-13, 28-29

Yet even now, says the Lord,  
return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Lord your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love,  
and relenting from punishment.

Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;  
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
your old men shall dream dreams,  
and your young men shall see visions.  
Even on the male and female slaves,  
in those days I will pour out my spirit.

**KIDTALK**

Pastor Pam Schaefer Dawson  
(includes the lighting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent Candle)

**THE SONG OF THE DAY**

LOST IN THE NIGHT

Lyrics by Olav Lee / Music Trad. Finnish / ELW #243

*Lost in the night do the people yet languish  
longing for morning the darkness to vanquish,  
plaintively sighing with hearts full of anguish  
Will not day come soon? Will not day come soon?*

*Must we be vainly awaiting the morrow?  
Shall those who have light no light let us borrow  
giving no heed to our burden of sorrow?  
Will you help us soon? Will you help us soon?*

*Sorrowing wand'ers, in darkness yet dwelling  
dawned has the day of a radiance excelling  
death's deepest shadows forever dispelling  
Christ is coming soon! Christ is coming soon!*

*Light o'er the land of the needy is beaming  
rivers of life through its deserts are streaming  
bringing all peoples a Savior redeeming  
Come and save us soon! Come and save us soon!*

**THE SERMON**

Pastor Pam Schaefer Dawson

**▲ WORDS TO LIVE BY**

based on Philippians 2

**As people of God, we find our hope and salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.**

**Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

**THE OFFERTORY**

CANDLES OF ADVENT

Lyrics and Music by Nancy Price and Don Besig

## ▲ THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*We gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation, utilizing the prayer refrain "God, in your mercy, hear our prayer."*

## ▲ THE COMMUNION LITANY

L: God spoke in the beginning; out of darkness came night and day, out of emptiness came creation, out of loneliness came humankind.

P: **And God said, "This is very good."**

L: God spoke when the world was troubled; giving voice to the prophets, moving through Mary as she gave birth to her child, crying as a baby lying in a manger.

P: **And still God said, "This is very good."**

L: God comes to us in bread and wine, for on the night when he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took the bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said, 'Take; eat; this is my body which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me.' In the same way he also took the cup after the supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, 'Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

P: **And still God says. "This is very good."**

L: And because of God's goodness we are bold 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

*We invite you to come to the Altar Rail and kneel or stand as you are able. During the serving of Holy Communion, you are invited to join in singing the following songs:*

### COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

Lyrics by C. Wesley / Music by W. Walker / ELW 254

***Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,***

***hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
joy of ev'ry longing heart.***

***Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child, and yet a King;  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.***

### SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME

Lyrics by Ambrose of Milan / Music by J. Walter / ELW #263

***Savior of the nations, come;  
virgin's son, make here your home.  
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth:  
God has chosen such a birth.***

***Not by human flesh and blood,  
but the mystic Breath of God,  
was the Word of God made flesh,  
fruit of woman, blossom fresh.***

***Wondrous birth — oh, wondrous child —  
from his throne, a virgin mild!  
Very God, and Mary's son,  
eager now his race to run!***

***From God's heart the Savior speeds,  
back to God his pathway leads;  
out to vanquish death's command,  
back to reign at God's right hand.***

***Now your manger, shining bright,  
hallows night with newborn light.  
Night cannot this light subdue;  
let our faith shine ever new.***

***Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,  
virgin's son, incarnate Word!  
To the holy Trinity  
praise we sing eternally!***

## THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: We give you thanks, most gracious God, that you have fed us with the bread of heaven and given us a foretaste of the feast to come. Enliven us to be your body in the world and to serve those who are in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: **Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ▲ THE BENEDICTION

L: May the wisemen's starlight guide your journey. May the angels' chorus ring in your ears. May the humble trust of Mary fill your heart. And may the promise that God is with us comfort you every step of the way.

P: **Amen!**

### ▲ SENDING SONG COMFORT, COMFORT NOW MY PEOPLE

Lyrics by C, Winkworth / Music Trad. Swiss / ELW #256

*Comfort, comfort now my people;  
tell of peace!" So says our God.  
Comfort those who sit in darkness  
mourning under sorrow's load.  
To God's people now proclaim  
that God's pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their war is over;  
God will reign in peace forever.*

*For the herald's voice is crying  
in the desert far and near,  
calling us to true repentance,  
since the reign of God is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way.  
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior;  
hills, bow down in humble favor.*

*Straight shall be what long was crooked,  
and the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
as befits God's holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
now on earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token  
that God's word is never broken.*

### ▲ 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** – Vocalist

**Sharon Tissue** – Vocalist

**Elizabeth Humphrey** – Vocalist

**Pastor Pam Schaefer Dawson** – Vocalist

**Vicar Meagan Kim** – Vocalist

**Pastor John Valentine** – Vocalist

**Julie Hamre** – Organist and Pianist

Tired of watching your team underperform on Sunday afternoons? Join our Sanctuary Decorating Team next Sunday (December 8<sup>th</sup>) at 3pm for our '**Hanging of the Greens**' event instead! You won't be disappointed!

### CHRISTMAS EVE 2024

In response to numerous requests for an earlier-in-the-day opportunity to celebrate **Christmas Eve**, our 2024 Christmas Eve Worship schedule includes worship opportunities at 12 noon and 5pm on December 24<sup>th</sup>. Plan to join us as you are able!

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