



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 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 and utilize Givelify, our online giving platform.

▲ indicates that you are invited to stand as you are able

GATHERING MUSIC

Julie Hamre

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

AWAY IN A MANGER

Alta Stenson (violinist) and Julie Hamre (accompanist)

▲ 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

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

Lyrics and Music Trad. French / ELW #257

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave..
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight..
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.**

▲ A WORD FOR THOSE WHO JOURNEY

L: As we journey to the Christmas manger, let us recognize why it is that we stand so in need of the great news of the Christ-Child's birth ... for Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

P: **But we've focused on the darkness that surrounds and overwhelms us, that frightens and numbs us.**

L: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

P: **But we've used artificial lights to try and eliminate the darkness in our lives.**

L: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

P: **But we've tried to deny the power of the darkness by pretending that it isn't there.**

L: Forgive us, O God, for these our actions of failure and

our failures to act.

P: Forgive us, O God, for putting our trust in ourselves rather than You.

L: People of God, hear the good news! God comes to us as a light in the darkness. In the light of Christ we find forgiveness for our past, strength for our present and hope for our future. In Him we are enabled to begin the journey anew. Thanks be to God! So let us pray ...

P: Spirit of the Lord God, You bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and release the prisoners. You comfort all who mourn, and shower your people with the oil of gladness instead of mourning; a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. May we forever rejoice in your presence, for the sake of the one who brought righteousness to life, Jesus Christ our salvation. Amen.

A SONG OF LIGHT THE PEOPLE WHO WALK IN DARKNESS
Lyrics and Music by Joseph M. Martin

THE LESSON Isaiah 61:1-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks;
foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines,
but you shall be called priests of the Lord;
you shall be named ministers of our God;
you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations,
and in their riches you shall glory.
Because their shame was double
and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot,
therefore in their land they shall possess a double
portion;
everlasting joy shall be theirs.

For I, the Lord, love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord;
my whole being shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

A SONG OF ANTICIPATION BETHLEHEM WIND
Lyrics and Music by Joseph M. Martin

KIDTALK Pastor John Valentine
(includes the lighting of the 3rd Advent Candle)

SONG OF THE DAY IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR
Lyrics by Edmund Sears / Music by Richard Willis / ELW #282

***It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.***

***And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow;
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!***

***For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.***

A SONG OF HOPE

SOMEBODY BUILD A MANGER
Lyrics and Music by Joel Raney

▲ 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

SOME CHILDREN SEE HIM

Lyrics by Wilha Hutson / Music by Alfred Burt
Elizabeth Humphrey, Tom Henry and Bethany Valentine

▲ 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:

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

Lyrics by C. Rosetti / Music by G. Holtz / ELW #294

***In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.***

***Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heav'n & earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.***

***What can I give him, poor as I am?
if I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man I would do my part;
yet what can I give him - give my heart.***

INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

Traditional Polish Carol / ELW #276

***Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!***

***Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!***

ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT

Lyrics by Luke Wadding / Music English Trad. / ELW #274

***On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring.
On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring:
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful king's birth.***

***Then why should we on earth be sad,
since our redeemer made us glad?
Then why should we on earth be sad,
since our redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?***

***All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night.
All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God in highest heav'n;
peace on earth, and goodwill. Amen."***

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A SONG OF WONDER WHO'S THE LITTLE BABY?
Lyrics and Music by Matt Limbaugh / arr. Mary McDonald

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A SONG OF JOY JESUS, OH WHAT A WONDERFUL CHILD
Lyrics and Music Trad. / arr. Lloyd Larson

▲ 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 HE CAME DOWN
Traditional Cameroonian Carol / ELW #253

***He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love,
Hallelujah forevermore.***

***He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace,
Hallelujah forevermore.***

***He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy,
Hallelujah forevermore.***

***He came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope,
Hallelujah forevermore.***

***He came down that we may have life;
He came down that we may have life;
He came down that we may have life,
Hallelujah forevermore.***

▲ THE CHARGE

L: Go in peace, to love God by serving your neighbor!
P: **Thanks be to God!**

SENDING MUSIC

HE CAME DOWN (Reprise)

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

Bethany Valentine – Vocalist and Creative Co-Director
Tom Henry – Vocalist and Creative Co-Director
Julie Hamre – Organist and Accompanist
Marc Levine – Pianist and Bassist

Vocalists

Gretchen Stenson	Pam Schaefer Dawson
Diana Riveness	Bob Schmalz
Sharon Tissue	Steve Swanback
Elizabeth Humphrey	Ed Szaky
Marci Bauer	John Valentine
Meagan Kim	

CHRISTMAS EVE 2024

Our 2024 Christmas Eve Worship schedule includes worship opportunities at **12 noon and 5pm** on December 24th. Plan to join us as you are able!

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