



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 JOYFUL CHRISTMAS TIDINGS
Shepherd's Bells

▲ **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, ALL YE FAITHFUL
Lyrics and Music by John Francis Wade / ELW #283

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

▲ **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 ... Life-Creating God, as we await the coming of your Son, create new life in us. Transform us so that we might reflect His light to all the world, as beacons of goodness, kindness, compassion, generosity, honesty, patience, and peace. For we ask this is trusting that He is the One who brings life to all the world, Jesus Christ, our infant king.

P: **Amen.**

THE LESSON

Luke 1:26-56

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then

Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

KIDTALK

Vicar Meagan Kim
(includes the lighting of the 4th Advent Candle)

THE SONG OF THE DAY

MY SOUL PROCLAIMS ...

Lyrics and Music by Marty Haugen / Holden Evening Prayer

***My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,
and my spirit rejoices in you,
You have looked with love on your servant here,
and blessed me all my life through.***

***Great and mighty are you, O Holy One,
strong is your kindness evermore.
How you favor the weak and lowly one,
humbling the proud of heart.***

***You have cast the mighty down from their thrones,
and uplifted the humble of heart,
you have filled the hungry with wondrous things,
and left the wealthy no part.***

***Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One,
strong is your justice, strong your love,
As you promised to Sarah and Abraham, kindness
forevermore.***

***My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,
and my spirit rejoices in you,
You have looked with love on your servant here,
and blessed me all my life through.***

THE SERMON

Vicar Meagan Kim

▲ 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

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Lyrics and Music by David Lantz III

▲ 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:

I AM SO GLAD AT CHRISTMASTIME

Lyrics by Marie Wexelsen / Music by P. Knudsen / ELW #271

***I am so glad at Christmastime, the night of Jesus' birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth,
And angels sang on earth.***

***The little Child in Bethlehem, He was a king indeed!
For He came down from Heaven above
To help a world in need.***

***He dwells again in Heaven's realm, the Son of God today;
And still He loves His little ones
And hears them when they pray.***

***I am so glad at Christmastime! His praises then I sing;
He opens then for every child
The palace of the King.***

AWAY IN A MANGER

Lyrics Trad. American / Music by J.R. Murray / ELW 277

***Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.***

***The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.***

***Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.***

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH
a traditional French Carol / ELW 289

***Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.***

***Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.***

***Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.***

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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** JOY TO THE WORLD
Lyrics by Isaac Watts / Music by Lowell Mason / ELW #267

***Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.***

***Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains***

***repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.***

***No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.***

***He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.***

▲ 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:

Gretchen Stenson	Pam Schaefer Dawson
Diana Riveness	Meagan Kim
Sharon Tissue	John Valentine
Elizabeth Humphrey	Bethany Valentine

Julie Hamre – Organist and Pianist

Thanks to Shepherd's Bells for offering our Call to Worship this morning, including:

Michael Stenson	Joan Birke
Donald Eismann	Diana Riveness
Bethany Valentine	Janet Zingale
Joan Kiekhaefer	Julie Hamre (Director)

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 24th. Plan to join us as you are able!

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