



The 7th Sunday after Epiphany

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church
Orinda, CA
February 23, 2025

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

▲ OUR WORDS OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- L: On the first day of creation, God said, "Let there be light." In the person of Jesus Christ, God said, "I am the Light of the world." By the power of the Spirit, God has ignited the light of life in us.
- P: **But we have 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 have used artificial lights to try and eliminate the darkness in our lives.**
- L: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
- P: **But we have 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, Lord God, for putting our trust in ourselves rather than You.**

L: Hear the good news! God has come 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 Christ, we are enabled to begin life anew. Thanks be to God!

▲ GATHERING SONG

ALL ARE WELCOME

Lyrics and Music by Marty Haugen / ELW #641 / Vss 1-3

**Let us build a house where love can dwell
And all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive
Built of hopes and dreams and visions
Rock of faith and vault of grace
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place**

**Let us build a house where prophets speak
And words are strong and true
Where all God's children dare to seek
To dream God's reign anew
Here the cross shall stand as witness
And a symbol of God's grace
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place**

**Let us build a house where love is found
In water, wine and wheat
A banquet hall on holy ground
Where peace and justice meet
Here the love of God, through Jesus
Is revealed in time and space
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place**

▲ THE GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

P: **And also with you.**

▲ THE KYRIE

ELW #157

L: *In peace, in peace, Let us pray to the Lord ...*

P: **Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord, have mercy.**

L: *For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord ...*

P: **Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord, have mercy.**

L: *For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word. Let us pray to the Lord ...*

P: **Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord, have mercy.**

L: *Help, save and defend us, O God.*

P: **Amen.**

▲ THE HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW #167

(Refrain) **Now the feast and celebration,
All of creation sings for joy
To the God of life and love and freedom:
Praise and glory forevermore!**

**Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
Whose blood has freed and united us
To be one great people of God.** (Refrain)

**Power and riches, wisdom and might
All honor and glory to Christ forever.** (Refrain)

**For God has come to dwell with us,
To make us people of God;
To make all things new.** (Refrain)

▲ PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you!

P: **And also with you!**

L: Let us pray:

P: **Forgiving God, too often we take your forgiveness for granted. Too often we cling to our sin, believing that it is our right to harbor resentments and hatred. Be merciful to us, and show us the depth of healing that is offered when you forgive, for the sake of the one who recognized total surrender to forgiveness and offered it willingly, Jesus Christ our healer. Amen.**

THE LESSON

Luke 7:36-50

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and when he went into the Pharisee's house he reclined to dine. And a woman in the city who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair, kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment.

Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." "A certain moneylender had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly."

Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little." Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace.

KIDTALK

Pastor John Valentine

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

This morning's baptismal rite includes the following congregational responses as found in the Apostles' Creed:

Do you believe in the God who is revealed in the wonder of creation? **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in the God who revealed the depth of God's love for the world in Jesus the Christ? **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the God who is the alive and at work among us even now? **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

THE HYMN OF THE DAY

BORNING CRY

Lyrics and Music by John Ylvisaker / ELW #732

*I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.*

*I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.*

*When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.*

*If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk 'till rising sun.*

*In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.*

*When the evening gently closes in,
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise."*

*"I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold."*

THE SERMON

Pastor John Valentine

OFFERTORY

BRING FORTH THE KINGDOM
Lyrics and Music by Marty Haugen

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

We pray for the Church and the world, utilizing the prayer
refrain: "Source of all goodness, let there be light."

▲ THE COMMUNION LITURGY

ELW #191

L: *The Lord be with you.*

P: **And also with you.**

L: *Lift up your hearts.*

P: **We lift them to the Lord.**

L: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

P: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

L: *It is our duty and delight we praise your name and
join their unending hymn:*

P: **Holy, holy, holy are you, God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes in your name
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

P: 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.' And that same Jesus who called
us to remember, and who is present with us now,
invites us all 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

As we share in the gift of Holy Communion, we invite you
to come down the center aisle and kneel/stand at the
altar rail to receive the bread and wine. After consuming
the elements, please deposit your empty cup in the
basket and return to your seat by the side aisle. During
the sharing of Holy Communion, you are invited to join
our Worship Team in the following songs:

LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER
African American Spiritual / ELW #471

**Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

**Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

*Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.*

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY JESUS IS CALLING
Lyrics and Music by Will Thompson / ELW #608

*Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.*

Refrain: *"Come home, come home!
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"*

*Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me?* [Refrain]

*Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me.* [Refrain]

THE COMMUNION BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BENEDICTION

L: May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine in you with grace and mercy. May God look upon you with favor and give you peace (+).

P: **Amen!**

▲ **SENDING SONG** GO, MY CHILDREN
Lyrics by Jaroslav Vajda / Music Trad. Welsh / ELW #543

*Go, my children, with my blessing,
Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you;
You are my own.
In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing -
You are my own.*

*Go, my children, sins forgiven,
At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you,*

*What I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
Here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven,
At peace and pure.*

*Go, my children, fed and nourished,
Closer to me;
Grow in love and love by serving,
Joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you;
Here his tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished,
Joyful and free.*

▲ 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, including:

Bethany Valentine — Creative Director
Julie Hamre — Organist and Pianist
Diana Riveness Young — Vocalist
Gretchen Stenson — Vocalist
Sharon Tissue — Vocalist
Vicar Meagan Kim – Vocalist
Steve Swanback — Vocalist
Pastor John Valentine — Vocalist

This morning, we welcome **Isaiah and Lillian Kim** into the family of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Rejoice with Isaiah and Lillian today, along with their parents **Dennis** and (Vicar) **Meagan Kim!**

Interested in reading ahead as we journey through the Gospel according to Luke this Epiphany season?
Next week's text is Luke 9:28-45.

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