

# The Season of Easter

May 3, 2026 | 10:00am



More Than Enough

*Paul's Athens Sermon About a God Who Made Everything.*



Welcome! We're glad you're here!



If you are a guest and are interested in knowing more about this community and the ministries that Holy Shepherd is engaged in, please add your information on the clipboard located at the **Information Center** kiosk. You may add as much information as you'd like to share. We look forward to getting to know you!

Trusting God + Loving the World

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

## Prelude

## Welcome & Announcements

## Call to Worship

No one has ever seen God.  
**But in Jesus, God is made known to us.**  
God has given us grace upon grace.  
**Praise God for God's grace and mercy.**

## Confession & Forgiveness

We confess our sins before God and one another.

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

Merciful God,

**Give us the willingness to be honest with ourselves, with one another, and with you about the ways in which we have caused harm in this world. Give us the openness to see where our actions or failures to act have led to pain in those closest to us and in those far away. Do not let us sink further into self-harm through self-blame and hatred, but give us the courage to set right our wrongs, and to return to you again and again for forgiveness.**

The risen God has raised you to newness of life in Jesus' name. You are in Christ a new creation, and God forgives you every wrong. Celebrate with all of creation a world redeemed, and lavish the love you have received on all that is. Amen.

# Hymn of Praise

*Refrain*



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God. *Refrain*



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. *Refrain*

## Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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

## Prayer of Day

God of all,

**You are present in all places and in all peoples, and the gospel story is spoken in every language. Open our hearts and minds to traditions different than our own, that we might learn from them, grow toward you, and become one unified Body of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

## Musical Offering

*Peace Like a River*

arr. Raney

*God speaks to us in scripture, preaching & song*

*Paul learned about the religions of those in Athens before he engaged in debates at the Areopagus. He brought their perspective to the conversation as he introduced them to Creator God.*

## Scripture Reading

Acts 17:16-31

<sup>16</sup>While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup>So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup>Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, "What does this babblers want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities." (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) <sup>19</sup>So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? <sup>20</sup>It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means." <sup>21</sup>Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

<sup>22</sup>Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

<sup>29</sup>Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!**

## Holy Gospel

John 1:16-18

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## + Children's Time +



### Children's Church

Children age 3yrs – 4<sup>th</sup> grade.  
After children's message, meet the  
leader in back of church.



## Message

*(a moment of silence follows the message)*

## Song

### *He Comes to Us as One Unknown*

ELW 737 vs. 1,2,4

He comes to us as one unknown,  
a breath unseen, unheard;  
as though within a heart of stone,  
or shriveled seed in darkness sown,  
a pulse of being stirred, a pulse of being stirred.

He comes when souls in silence lie  
and thoughts of day depart;  
half-seen upon the inward eye,  
a falling star across the sky  
of night within the heart, of night within the heart.

He comes in love as once he came  
by flesh and blood and birth;  
to bear within our mortal frame  
a life, a death, a saving name,  
for ev'ry child of earth, for ev'ry child of earth.

## Proclamation of Faith

*With the whole church, let us confess our faith.*

**God – who created the light and separated it from the darkness  
– I Believe**

**Jesus – who is the light and shines in the darkness yet is not overcome by it  
– I Believe**

**Spirit – who spreads the light into the darkness of our world  
– I Believe**

## Prayers of the People

With renewed confidence in your power and love, we pray for the church,  
the world, and all in need.

*Prayer response:*

God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Hear all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, and gather them into your loving arms,  
for the sake of our risen savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Sharing God's Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Holy

ELW 191

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power 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.**

## Eucharistic Prayer

Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ. We praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## Invitation

Jesus Christ, our savior and friend, invites us now to feast at the table where you are showered with grace upon grace. Come and meet him in this simple meal of bread and wine and be made whole. All is prepared.



+ All are welcome at the table +

### Options for receiving Holy Communion

Please come forward to the front where the pastors are standing. Come forward starting with the front pews, there will be no ushers. After you have received communion please exit by the side aisles and put your empty cup in the basket. There are kneelers on each side where you are free to kneel and pray before you return to your seat. Bread (gluten-free) and wine or grape juice (center of the tray) will be given to you with the words spoken:

***“The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.”***

If you would like communion served in the pew, please signal to a pastor or let the usher in the back know.

***You are invited...*** To bring **offering** forward during Holy Communion or before or after worship. The offering is gathered in front of the church in front of the communion table (altar) where we are reminded of God's gifts given to us in Christ and our response to these gifts.

## Communion Songs

- Haugen

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world  
have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you are the way of mercy and love.  
have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world  
Grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

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### As the Grains of Wheat

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*

## Prayer after Communion

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

**Amen.**

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*God blesses us and sends us out in mission to the world.*

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## Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

*Refrain*

***This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior, all the day long:  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.***

**Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain***

**Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *Refrain***

**Sending**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Postlude**



## Worship Leadership

Pastors ..... Julie Brooks, Kim Gonia  
Pianist/Organist ..... Chris Johnson  
Musical Offering ..... Chancel Choir  
Reader ..... Chrissie Johnson  
Communion Assistants ..... Joan & Lynden Meister-Bridges  
Greeters ..... Tom & Jeanette Teske  
Usher..... Bosak-Simmons Family  
Altar Guild ..... Donna Madsen  
Children's Church ..... Children's Church Team  
Worship Technology ..... Mike Madsen, Mark Lee

*Blessings*

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## WORSHIP SERVICE NOTES

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**THANK YOU** for being considerate of disabled worshippers and their families. Please leave the pew cuts and several adjoining seats available for those with walkers & wheelchairs.

**HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES** are located at the sound booth located in the back of the sanctuary on the east side. You can also download the app WaveCast Receiver which is designed for hearing aids with Bluetooth capability. See our sound engineer Mark, in the sound booth if you have any questions. (*Back of the sanctuary, SE corner*).

**CANDLE STATION** is available for candle-lighting. (*In the back of the sanctuary*).

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## RELATIONSHIP BUILDING (FELLOWSHIP)

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After worship, you are invited to get to know one another for the first – or 100<sup>th</sup> time, in the narthex (behind the sanctuary) or in the fellowship hall with coffee and snacks.

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## OFFERING

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Your financial gifts support Holy Shepherd and its vision to nurture trusting relationships with God and with one another, along with its vision to engage in generous activities that serve to love the world as Jesus has shown us. Cash, or checks made out to Holy Shepherd, can be placed in the front bowl by the front pews on your way to communion. (Envelopes are available in your pews if you'd like.) You can also scan the QR code to the left and give through Tithely. *Thank you for your generosity.*

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## KIDS

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**Kids Zone** (un-staffed) is available your family to use if you need a place to step out with kids during the service. It is located off the hallway west of the sanctuary and has a television available for watching the worship live-stream.

**Kid busy bags** are located in the narthex (outside the sanctuary) and contain kid friendly items for families to take into worship. Please return to the stand after worship.

**Children's Church** is offered after the kids, typically 3 years old to 4<sup>th</sup> grade, come up for *Children's Time* with the pastor. This optional activity is during the pastor's message and is led by an adult. It is located in the room just through the nursery off the west hallway of the sanctuary.

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## COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

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