

# Creation



It is Good: In the Wilderness

June 28, 2026 | 10:00am



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

We are part of God's creation.

**We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers.**

In the dry wilderness, despair feels close.

**Yet even here, God's hope persists.**

Hope that is seen is not hope,

**But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.**

## Confession & Forgiveness

We confess our sins before God and one another.

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

Creating God, **we confess that we do not trust your abundance. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

As tender as parent to child, so deep is God's compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God's love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through Jesus Christ. Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love. **Amen.**

## Opening Song

### Great is Thy Faithfulness

ELW 733

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;  
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

#### *Refrain*

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain***

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain***

## Greeting

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

Lord God our strength, **the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## Scripture Reading

Romans 8:18-25

<sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

## Holy Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11

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

<sup>4</sup>Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup>But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" <sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup>and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" <sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon*

## Song

### God Alone Be Praised

ACS 1023

Oceans rise, the coastland trembles;  
mountains melt and dry earth crumbles.

All the world with longing groans.  
Love abides, this gracious promise  
is our help, our hope and solace.  
God's strong word is solid ground.

Nations rage, the empire falters;  
seeking refuge, exiles wander.  
Walls and weapons rise from fear.  
Through this wilderness a river  
flows to heal and bless us ever.  
God the crucified dwells here.

Come and see; God's mercy gathers  
all that sin and grief have shattered.  
Life from fields of death is raised.  
Peace, be still; let prideful thunder  
yield to songs of joy and wonder.  
God and God alone be praised.

## Proclamation of Faith

We are not alone; we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:**

**to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation,  
to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,**

**God is with us.**

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God!**

## Prayers of the People

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made,  
let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*Prayer petitions response*

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken  
prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

## Sharing God's Peace

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

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*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

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## 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.**

## Eucharistic Prayer

O God triune, how majestic is your name in all the earth. Over the eons your merciful  
might evolved our home, a fragile tree of life. Here by your wisdom are both life and  
death, growth and decay, the nest and the hunt, sunshine and storm, darkness and  
light. Sustained by these wonders, we creatures of dust join in the ancient song:  
The earth is full of your glory. **The earth is full of your glory.**

O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer. In Christ you bring life from death; we remember his cross, we laud his resurrection. Broken like bread, he enlivens our body. Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness. Receiving this mystery, we mortals sing our song:

The earth is full of your glory. **The earth is full of your glory.**

We praise you for the heart of Jesus, so filled with your love for this earth.

On 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.

Gathered around this table, we your children unite in this song:  
The earth is full of your glory. **The earth is full of your glory.**

O God triune, you create the worlds, you uphold the living, you embrace the dead. Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. Strengthen us for our journey with this meal, the body and blood of Christ. Give us a future that trusts in you and cares for your earth. Empowered by your promises, we rise from our deaths to praise you again:

The earth is full of your glory. **The earth is full of your glory.**

Amen, and Amen. **Amen, and 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

All creation rejoices as God's Spirit brings it to life. Here at this table we rejoice in the gifts of creation - bread and wine, the very presence of Christ - given to restore us. Come now, for heaven has come near.



+ *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 Song

### Lamb of God

- Haugen



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the

*To Repeat*  
world, have mer - cy on us.

*Last time*  
world, grant us peace.

**For the bread which you have broken,  
for the wine which you have poured,  
for the words which you have spoken,  
now we give you thanks, O Lord.**

**By this promise that you love us,  
by your gift of peace restored,  
by your call to heav'n above us,  
hallow all our lives, O Lord.**

**With the saints who now adore you,  
seated at the heav'nly board,  
may the church still waiting for you  
keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.**

**In your service, Lord, defend us;  
in our hearts keep watch and ward;  
in the world to which you send us  
let your kingdom come, O Lord.**

## **Prayer after Communion**

O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with word of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Go out with joy and be led forth with peace,  
the mountains and the hills shall break forth singing.  
Go out with joy and be led forth with peace,  
the mountains and the hills shall break forth singing.**

**And all the trees of the fields shall clap their hands,  
the Lord Jehovah shall be praised.  
And all the trees of the fields shall clap their hands,  
The word of the Lord shall be forever. –Huerta**

## Blessing

Holy God, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, increase your hope, strengthen your faith, deepen your love, and grant you peace. **Amen.**

## Sending Song

*Let All Things Now Living*

ELW 881

**Let all things now living, a song of thanksgiving  
to God the creator triumphantly raise,  
who fashioned and made us,  
protected and stayed us,  
who still guides us on to the end of our days.  
God's banners are o'er us,  
God's light goes before us,  
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,  
till shadows have vanished  
and darkness is banished,  
as forward we travel from light into light.**

**God rules all the forces: the stars in their courses  
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
the hills and the mountains,  
the rivers and fountains,  
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.  
We too should be voicing  
our love and rejoicing;  
with glad adoration a song let us raise  
till all things now living  
unite in thanksgiving:  
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"**

## Sending

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude



## Worship Leadership

Pastors .....Julie Brooks, Kim Gonia  
 Pianist/Organist .....Chris Johnson  
 Reader .....Cloe Kella  
 Communion Assistants ..... Jon Johnson, Joan Meister-Bridges  
 Greeters ..... Mel & Bonnie Yockstick  
 Usher..... Jeff Watts  
 Altar Guild ..... Donna Madsen  
 Children's Church ..... Children's Church Team  
 Worship Technology ..... Mike Madsen, Mark Lee

*Photos in worship are used by permission from Winston Hebert,  
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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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