

Creation



It is Good: Small Things

July 26, 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

What is the kingdom of God like?

Like a mustard seed that grows into a tree, and yeast that makes bread rise.

Like a gardener who cares for the fig tree until it produces fruit.

Like offering food to the hungry and caring for the afflicted.

God's kingdom grows from small acts of love,

Until all the world is like a watered garden.

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

Let the Whole Creation Cry

ELW 876

Let the whole creation cry,
"Glory to the Lord on high!"
Heav'n and earth, awake and sing,
"Praise to our almighty king!"
Praise God, angel hosts above,
ever bright and fair in love;
sun and moon, lift up your voice;
night and stars, in God rejoice.

Servants striving for the Lord,
prophets burning with the word,
those to whom the arts belong
add their voices to the song.
Pow'rs of knowledge and of law,
to the glorious circle draw;
all who work and all who wait,
sing, "The Lord is good and great!"

Men and women, young and old,
raise the anthem loud and bold,
and let children's happy hearts
in this worship take their parts;
from the north to southern pole
let the mighty chorus roll:
"Holy, Holy, Holy One;
glory be to God alone!"

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

O God, **you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear the truth of your love to all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching & song

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 58:9b-12

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.
¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

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

Holy Gospel

Luke 13:6-9, 18-21

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

⁶ Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the man working the vineyard, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸ He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.' "

¹⁸ He said therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? ¹⁹ It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches."

²⁰ And again he said, "To what should I compare the kingdom of God? ²¹ It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

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

+ Children's Time +



Children's Church

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



Message

Silence for reflection follows the sermon

Song

God of the Fertile Fields

ACS 1063 vs. 1-3

God of the fertile fields,
shaper of earth that yields our daily bread:
forth from your bounteous hand
come gifts your love has planned,
that all in ev'ry land, be clothed and fed.

We would be stewards true,
holding in trust from you all that you give;
help us in love to share,
teach us like you to care
for people ev'rywhere, that all may live.

As grows the hidden seed
to fruit that serves our need, so your reign grows.
Let all our toil be used,
no gift of yours abused,
no humble task refused, your love bestows.

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.**

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

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.**

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.

Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be good soil. *(interlude, repeat)*

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*

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

Blessing

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



This is my Father's world,
and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world;
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world;
he shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me ev'rywhere.

This is my Father's world;
oh, let me not forget
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world;
why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king, let heaven ring;
God reigns, let earth be glad!

Sending

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

Postlude



Worship Leadership

PastorsJulie Brooks, Kim Gonia
Pianist/OrganistChris Johnson
Reader Jeanette Teske
Communion Assistants Becca & Pat Morhbacher
Greeters Shirley & Larry Bradsby
Ushers..... Bosak-Simmons Family
Altar Guild Judy Ekberg
Children's Church Children's Church Team
Worship Technology Judy Ekberg, Mark Lee
Fellowship (July 26th)..... Klinkerfues
Fellowship (August 2nd)..... Open

*Photos in worship are used by permission from Winston Hebert,
Amy Evancheck, Kevin Klinkerfues & Jim Gonia*

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WORSHIP SERVICE NOTES

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*).

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING (FELLOWSHIP)

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

OFFERING



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.*

KIDS

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 4th 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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