

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church

Preaching and presiding this day: Pastor Todd Bertani

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Mission Statement:

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church is a community of faith grounded in love for God and love for our neighbors.



March 30, 2025

4th Sunday of Lent

Julie Varilek, Accompanist

Prelude: "My Jesus, I Love Thee" and "There Is a Fountain"

arr by Mark Hayes

piano duet by Julie Varilek and Ann Knipping

Postlude: "To God Be the Glory" by Crosby/Doane

Welcome, Friends in Christ,

*To assist in worship, this bulletin includes all portions of our service; prayers, readings, hymns, congregational responses in **bold**, as well as upcoming events.*

We also provide activity bags for children. You may request these from an usher.

Please know that everyone is invited to receive communion, where we are all guests at God's table.

Meeting you during the Sharing of the Peace, or after the service, would be our joy. Many of us come from other places before calling Estes Park home, and you never know when you'll find common threads.

Whether you are first time visitors or long time friends returning to share in worship with us, we are grateful for your presence today.

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Welcome and Introduction: Pastor Todd Bertani

(Please, take the time to center heart and mind on God's presence in worship)

Call to Worship



(You are invited to stand, in body or spirit)

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the † cross, the sign marked at baptism, as we begin.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's
abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,

you call out to us, “come to me all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” Yet we tend to turn away from you, finding rest elsewhere. You invite us, “take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” Yet we forget this, and instead can be critical both of ourselves and others. In that still small voice, you whisper, “my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Yet, we become so weighed down by our own burdens that we are unable to care for others. Help us to hear and see your presence surrounding and filling us.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In † Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

Amen.

Opening Hymn: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" Hymn 807



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.

While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.

teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

Greeting

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

And also with you.

(Please be seated)

Kyrie

(Congregation sings the highlighted refrain)

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a Leader part and an Assembly part. The Assembly part is highlighted in yellow and includes the refrain: "Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy." The lyrics are: "In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord. For the reign of God, and for peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord. For your Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy."

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

Text: *Lutheran Book of Worship*, adapt. Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen
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Prayer of the Day

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

⁹The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

**²Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

**⁴For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” Then you forgave
me the guilt of my sin.

**⁶Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of
trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

**⁸“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near
you.”

**¹⁰Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

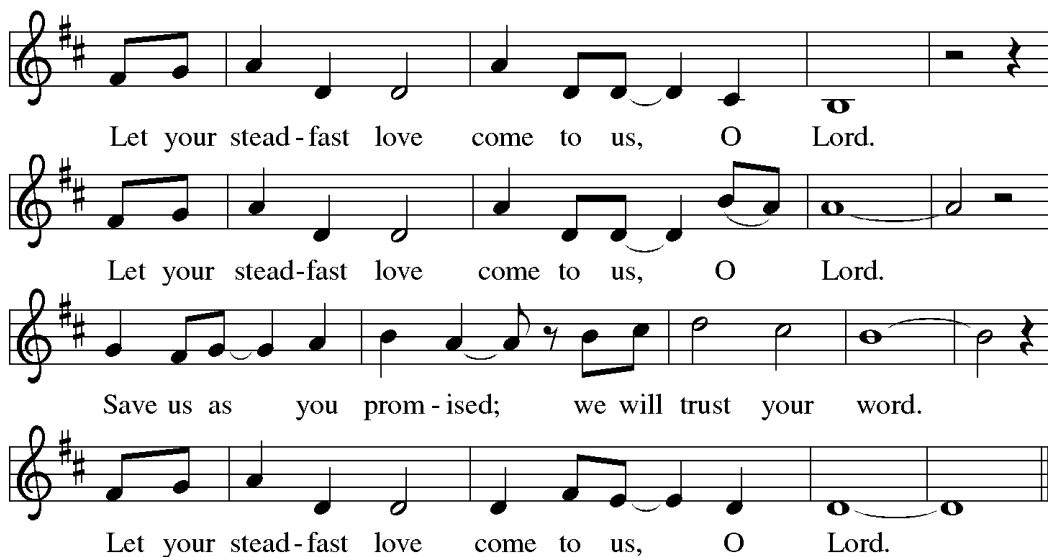
¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view;
even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know
him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new
creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become
new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ,
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was
reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against
them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are
ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we
entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he
made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the
righteousness of God.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

(You are invited to stand, in body or spirit)

Lenten Verse



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The holy gospel according to Luke Chapter 15. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” ³ So he told them this parable:

^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he

said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)



Sermon: "Embraced!"

Sermon Hymn: "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling" Hymn 608

1
3

Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain

watch - ing for you and for me.
par - don for you and for me. "Come home, come home!
Come home, come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**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.**

**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. Amen.**

Intercessory Prayer

Each petition ends: "God, in your mercy"

Response is "**receive our prayer.**"

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Offertory: "Were You There?" *arr. by Joel Raney*

Receiving of Gifts

(You are invited to stand, in body or spirit)

Offering Prayer

**Gracious Provider,
you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

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 our thanks and praise.


Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the
paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's pass over from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
 with the earth and all its creatures,
 with sun and moon and stars,
 we praise you, O God,
 blessed and holy Trinity,
 now and forever. **Amen.**

The 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 to Communion

*We commune by 'Intinction', by dipping the wafer in wine or grape juice.
 We are **all** guests at God's table. **Everyone** is invited to receive communion.*

(Please be seated)

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Communion Hymn: "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" Hymn 779

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5

Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

Post Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

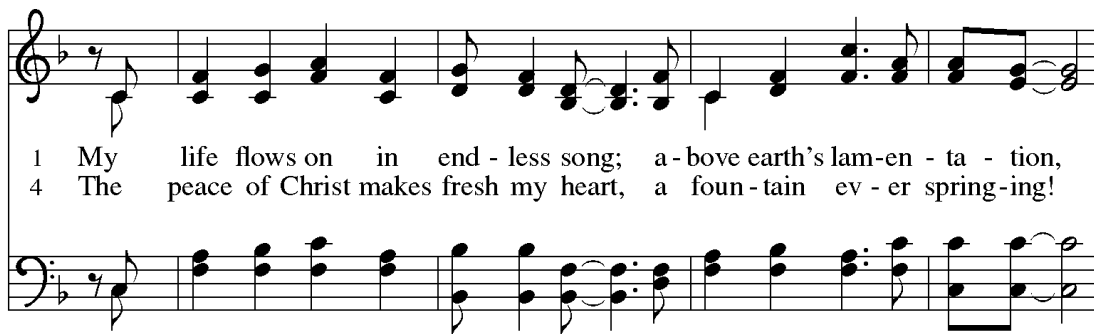
Ministry Highlights

(You are invited to stand, in body or spirit)

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and [†] give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: “My Life Flows on in Endless Song” Hymn 763



1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "How Can I Keep from Singing?". It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 7/4. The lyrics are: "I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion. All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?" The second system is labeled "Refrain" and has the lyrics: "No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing." The third system has the lyrics: "Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?"

I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.

Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899
Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

Dismissal

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;
be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor all people;
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Thank you for serving!

	March 30	April 02 Wednesday	April 06
Accompanist:	Julie Varilek	Ann Knipping	Ann Knipping
Choir Director:	Ann Knipping		Ann Knipping
Greeter:	Ed Acela		OPEN
Lector:	Paula Stensvaag	Linda Schlitt	Josh Young
Ushers:	Steve Thorn Mike Wold	OPEN OPEN	Josh Young Gary Wallace
Tellers:	OPEN Ralie Deffenbaugh	OPEN	Josh Young Ralie Deffenbaugh
Altar Care:	Tara McConnell		Kris O'Neil
Communion Asst:	Roxy Hause Paula Stensvaag OPEN		OPEN OPEN Roxy Hause
AV Engineer:	Steve Peter	Steve Peter	Robbi Telfer

Calendar

Tue—Fri (01-04)	Pastor Todd in Estes (office or out visiting)
Wednesday, Apr 02	8:00 a.m.—Sacred Space 3:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal 4:30 p.m.—Soup/Supper 5:30 p.m.—Lenten Service
Thursday, Apr 03	1:00 p.m.—Quilting (Fellowship Hall) 6:15 to 8:00 p.m.—Peak to Peak Rehearsals
Saturday, Apr 05	2:00 p.m.—Peak to Peak Concert