

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church

Preaching and presiding this day: Pastor Todd Bertani

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Pastoral Care: Pastor Todd Bertani, 707-688-6411

Mission Statement:

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



February 22, 2026

1st Sunday in Lent

Ann McAlpin, Accompanist

Prelude: "Before Thy Throne I Now Appear" by J.S. Bach

Welcome, Friends in Christ,

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

We also provide activity bags for children. You may request these from an usher to use during the service. Parents, please note, these contain a snack.

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

Meeting you during the Sharing of 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 may find common threads.

Whether first time visitors or returning friends, welcome!

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

Welcome and Introduction: Pastor Todd Bertani

Call to Worship: "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

(You may 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 confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water

Christ offers: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and

hope in the world: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to

come forth to life: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the

righteousness of Christ. In the name of †Jesus Christ, your sins are

forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours

God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

Amen.

Opening Hymn: "Christ, the Life of All the Living" Hymn 339

1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
 2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,

Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
 e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;

through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
 for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.

Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN, *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

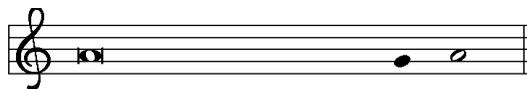
Greeting

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. *(You may be seated)*

Kyrie

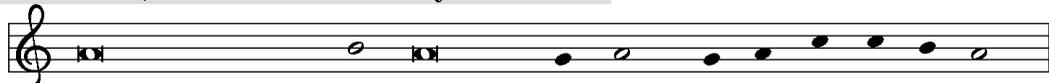
(Congregation sings the highlighted refrain)



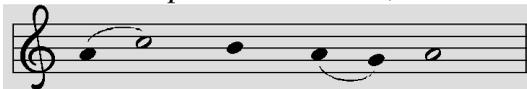
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



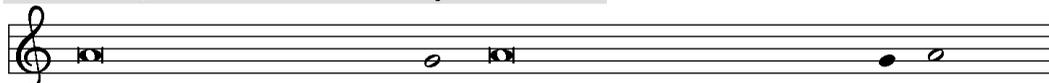
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



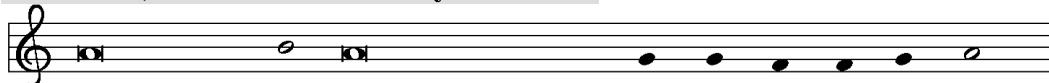
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. **A - men.**

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

God of new life,

**As Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, renew and restore us to new life,
leaving in the grave all that prevents us from loving you fully. Amen.**

Psalm 104:24-34

²⁴ O Lord, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

²⁵ There is the sea, great and wide;
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.

²⁶ There go the ships and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

²⁷ These all look to you to give them their food in due season;

²⁸ when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

²⁹ When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

³⁰ When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.

³¹ May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works—

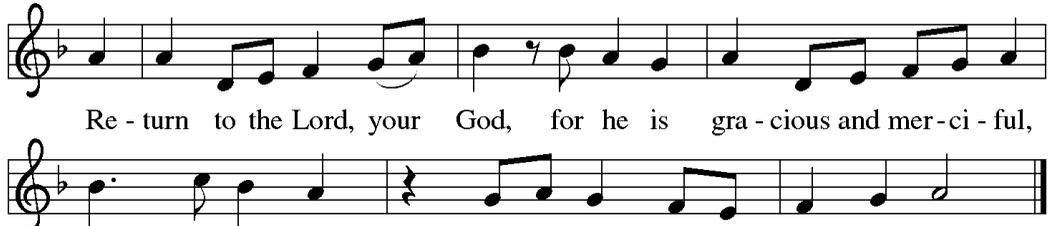
³² who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke.

³³ I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

³⁴ May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the Lord.

(You may stand, in body or spirit)

Lenten Verse



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Gospel: John 11:1-44

The holy gospel according to John Chapter 11.
Glory to you, O Lord.

(Please be seated)

¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he

will be all right.”¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away,¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.”²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him.³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.³⁴ He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”³⁵ Jesus began to weep.³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”³⁷ But some of them said,

“Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: Pastor Todd Bertani



Sermon Hymn: "Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow" *Hymn 327*

1 Through the night of doubt and sor - row, on - ward
2 One the light of God's own pres - ence on the

goes the pil - grim band, sing - ing songs of ex - pec -
ran - somed peo - ple shed, chas - ing far the gloom and

ta - tion, march - ing to the prom - ised land. Clear be -
ter - ror, bright - 'ning all the path we tread. One the

fore us through the dark - ness gleams and burns the
ob - ject of our jour - ney, one the faith which

guid - ing light; pil - grim clasps the hand of
nev - er tires, one the ear - nest look - ing

pil - grim step - ping fear - less through the night.
for - ward, one the hope our God in - spires.

Text: Bernhardt S. Ingemann, 1789–1862; tr. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt.
Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944

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: "Hear us, O God."
Response is "**Your mercy is great.**"

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering

*Online
Giving*



Offertory: "Just As I Am" by Charlotte Elliott

(You may stand, in body or spirit)

Receiving of Gifts

Offering Prayer

**O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with You.
And also with you.

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

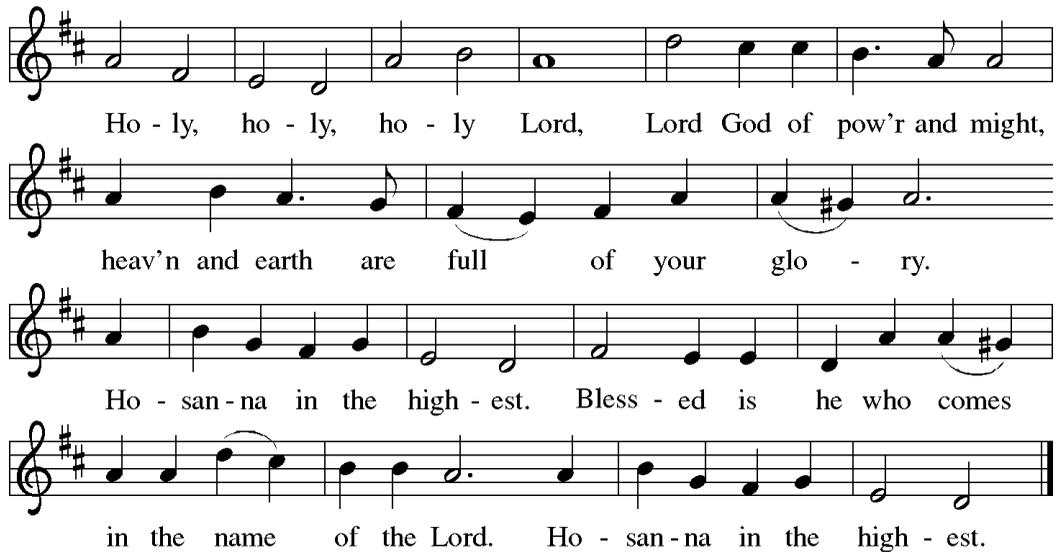
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy God,
our living Water and our merciful Guide,
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs
we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,
and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,
who joined us in our desert,
pouring out his life for the world.

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.

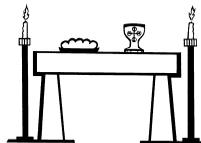
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:
wash away our sin,
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both 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

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

*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.*

(You may 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.

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

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 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? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain

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

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909
 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

Post Communion Blessing

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

Post Communion Prayer

God of our salvation,
**we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Ministry Calendar

THIS WEEK

Work continues on the front doors, intermittently. Other than church services, please plan on using the east or west door. If entrance in front is allowed during the week, an OPEN sign will be posted.

February 22—Sunday: (Bible passage to read: John 2:13 thru John 3:21)

10:30 a.m.: **Bible Study: "Defining Moments in the Gospel of John"**
Led by Robbi Telfer

February 24—Tuesday:

Pastor PTO

February 25—Wednesday:

3:00 p.m.: Choir

4:30 p.m.: Lenten Service

February 26—Thursday:

1:00 p.m.: Quilting

February 27—Friday:

11:00 a.m.: Non denominational service at Good Sam

March 01—Sunday: (Bible passage to read: John 3:22 thru John 4:54)

10:30 a.m.: **Bible Study: “Defining Moments in the Gospel of John”**

Led by Robbi Telfer

(You may stand, in body or spirit)

Blessing

Almighty God, Father, [†] Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” Hymn 588



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
3 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea - sures of our mind;



there's a kind-ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
and we mag - ni - fy its strict-ness with a zeal God will not own.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.
Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

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.

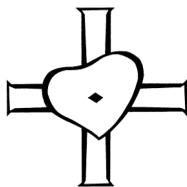
Thanks be to God.

Postlude: “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” *by J.S. Bach, arr. By E. Power Biggs*

Farewell to Ann McAlpin

This is Ann McAlpin’s last Sunday playing for us. Her house-sitting gig is over (but we hope she’ll be back this summer again). We have enjoyed hearing her inspired music on the organ the past four Sundays. Not only did she play for the services, but she also attended choir rehearsals on Wednesdays and accompanied the choir on Sundays. We feel blessed to have Ann join us when she is in town; she adds so much to our services (and those who come to the church during the week get to hear her practice!)

Please join us after the service for coffee, fruit and cake as we wish her safe travels back to Tex- as.



Thank you for serving!

	<i>February 22</i>	<i>March 01</i>
<i>Accompanist:</i>	Ann McAlpin	Celice Clark
<i>Choir Director:</i>	Ann Knipping	Ann Knipping
<i>Greeter:</i>	OPEN	OPEN
<i>Lector:</i>	Paula Stensvaag	Josh Young
<i>Ushers:</i>	Heidi Schweikart Susan Anderson	Josh Young Julie Wilson
<i>Tellers:</i>	Susan Anderson OPEN	Josh Young OPEN
<i>Altar Care:</i>	Kris O'Neil	OPEN
<i>Communion Asst:</i>	Paula Stensvaag Miriam Deffenbaugh OPEN	OPEN OPEN OPEN
<i>AV Engineer:</i>	Bruce Adams	Steve Peter
<i>Fellowship Host:</i>	Adams & Knipping	OPEN
<i>Flower Sponsor:</i>	Lent	Lent
<i>Flower Arranger:</i>	Lent	Lent

Calendar

<i>Wednesday, Feb 24</i>	Pastor PTO
<i>Wednesday, Feb 25</i>	8:00 am Sacred Space on Zoom 3:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 4:30 p.m. Lenten Service
<i>Thursday, Feb 26</i>	1:00 p.m. - Quilting
<i>Friday, Feb 27</i>	11:00 a.m. Good Sam Service