

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.



March 08, 2026

3rd Sunday in Lent

Julie Varilek, Accompanist

Prelude: "Gathering" by Jim Brickman

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

(For those joining online, you are invited to share communion by preparing a cracker or bread along with wine or juice, that will be blessed during communion.)

Call to Worship: "Great God, Your Love Has Called Us"

(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: "Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer" *Hymn 618*

1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing

bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me

with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'er, strong de - liv - 'er,

feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
 shield me with your might - y arm, might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.

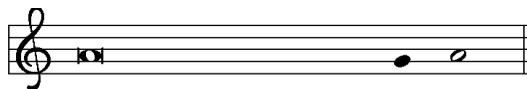
Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

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.

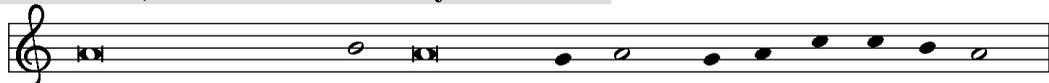
Kyrie *(Congregation sings the highlighted refrain)*



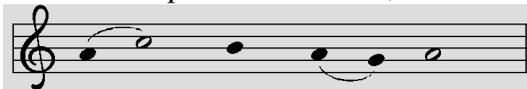
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



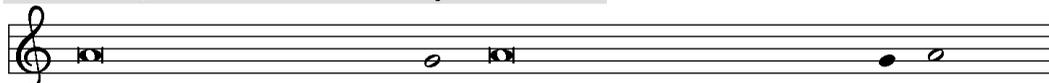
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



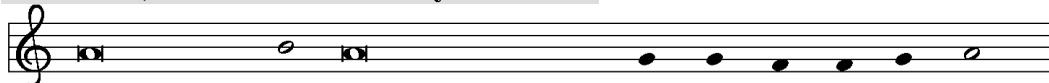
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

Holy God,

We, like Peter, often turn our backs on you. Forgive us and show us a new way to live, walking boldly and passionately toward you. Amen.

(You may be seated)

Psalm 17:1-7

¹ Hear a just cause, O Lord; attend to my cry;
give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit.

² From you let my vindication come;
let your eyes see the right.

³ If you try my heart, if you visit me by night,
if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me;
my mouth does not transgress.

⁴ As for what others do, by the word of your lips
I have avoided the ways of the violent.

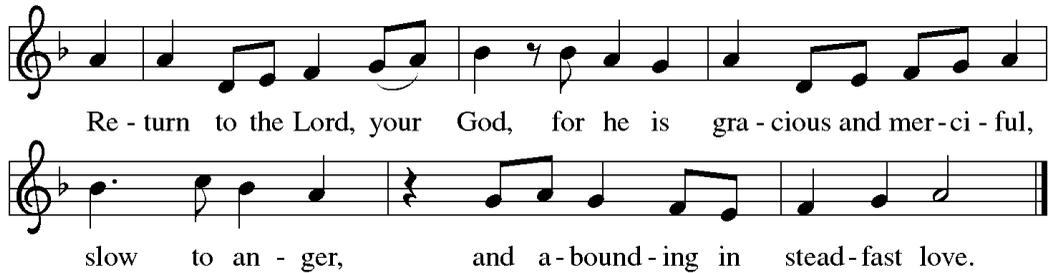
⁵ My steps have held fast to your paths;
my feet have not slipped.

⁶ I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;
incline your ear to me; hear my words.

⁷ Wondrously show your steadfast love,
O savior of those who seek refuge
from their adversaries at your right hand.

(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 18:12-27

The holy gospel according to John Chapter 18.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹² So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³ First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴ Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people. ¹⁵ Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, ¹⁶ but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷ The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." ¹⁸ Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself. ¹⁹ Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. ²⁰ Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹ Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." ²² When he had

said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" ²³ Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" ²⁴ Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵ Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." ²⁶ One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" ²⁷ Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(You may be seated)

Sermon: Pastor Todd Bertani



Sermon Hymn: "O Jesus, I Have Promised" *Hymn 810*

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.

re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;

nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt.

Music: MUNICH, *Neuermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

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: “O Sacred, Wondrous Love” *arr. by Heather Sorenson*

(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.

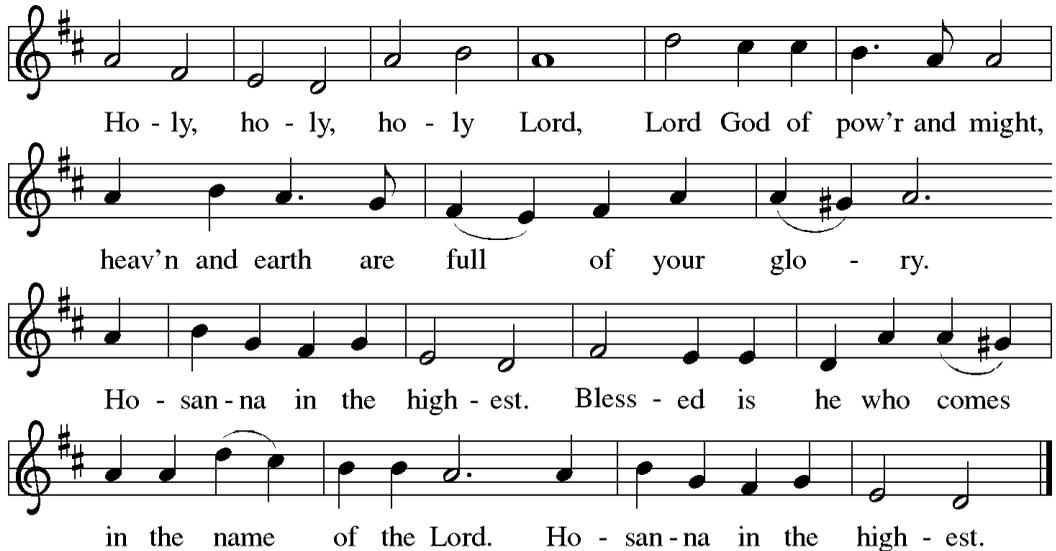
Preface

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.

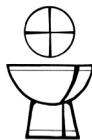
You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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

(Those online, are invited to lift their communion elements, with the Pastor.)

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 table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

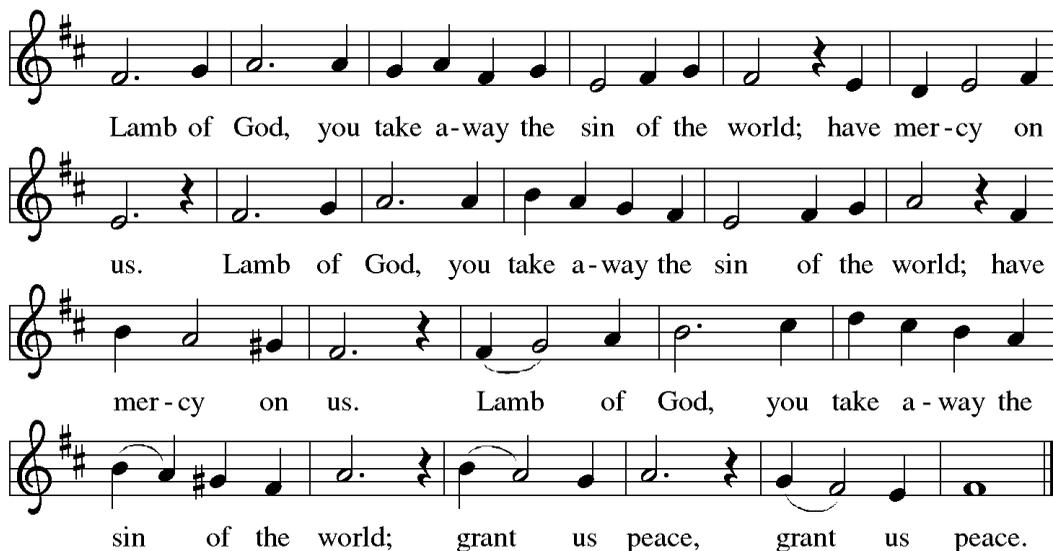
We commune by 'Intinction', by dipping the wafer in wine or grape juice.

*We are all guests at God's table. **Everyone** is invited to receive communion.*

(At this time, those online, may partake in communion.)

(The congregation 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: "What Wondrous Love is This" Hymn 666

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,

that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914–1997, alt.

Arr. © 1955 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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

ONGOING

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.

THIS WEEK

March 08—Sunday: (Bible passage to read: John 5:1-47)

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

March 09—Monday:

9:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m.: PEO Meeting, IU

March 11—Wednesday:

8:00 a.m.: Sacred Space (Zoom)
3:00 p.m.: Choir
4:30 p.m.: Lenten Service

March 12—Thursday:

1:00 p.m.: Quilting

March 13—Friday:

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

March 14—Saturday:

1:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m.: Girl’s Time Out

Meeting at the church to plan activities for the rest of the year. Bring ideas!

FOLLOWING WEEK

March 15—Sunday: (Bible passage to read: John 6:1-71)

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

Led by Robbi Telfer

March 18—Wednesday:

8:00 a.m.: Sacred Space (Zoom)

3:00 p.m.: Choir

4:30 p.m.: Lenten Service

March 19—Thursday:

11:00 a.m.: Council Meeting

1:00 p.m.: Quilting

March 23-26—Monday-Thursday:

Crossroads Easter Distribution

(You may stand, in body or spirit)

Blessing

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

Amen.

Sending Hymn: "Crown Him with Many Crowns" Hymn 855

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,

hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,

and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4
Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

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: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” *based on Psalm 46*

Sermon Notes:

Thank you for serving!

	<i>March 08</i>	<i>March 15</i>
<i>Accompanist:</i>	Julie Varilek	Ann Knipping
<i>Choir Director:</i>	Ann Knipping	Ann Knipping
<i>Greeter:</i>	OPEN	OPEN
<i>Lector:</i>	Mike Kellam	Miriam Deffenbaugh
<i>Ushers:</i>	Jan Kilgore Mike Wold	Randy Huber Mike Wold
<i>Tellers:</i>	OPEN OPEN	OPEN OPEN
<i>Altar Care:</i>	Mike Kellam	Tara McConnell
<i>Communion Asst:</i>	OPEN OPEN OPEN	OPEN OPEN OPEN
<i>AV Engineer:</i>	Bruce Adams	Bruce Adams
<i>Fellowship Host:</i>	OPEN	OPEN
<i>Flower Sponsor:</i>	Lent	Lent
<i>Flower Arranger:</i>	Lent	Lent

Calendar

<i>Monday, Mar 09</i>	9:00 a.m.— PEO IU
<i>Wednesday, Mar 11</i>	8:00 a.m.— Sacred Space on Zoom 3:00 p.m.— Choir Rehearsal 4:30 p.m.— Lenten Service
<i>Thursday, Mar 12</i>	1:00 p.m. — Quilting
<i>Friday, Mar 13</i>	11:00 a.m.— Good Sam Service
<i>Saturday, Mar 14</i>	1:30 p.m.— Girl's Time Out