

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.



April 19, 2026

3rd Sunday of Easter

Julie Varilek, Accompanist

Prelude: "Give Thanks" by Henry Smith

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.

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Welcome and Introduction: Pastor Todd Bertani

Call to Worship: “Praise Ye the Lord” by Gordon Young

(You may stand, in body or spirit)

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.
We thank you for the waters of creation:
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.
We thank you for the waters that nourish us.
Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our
journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.
We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.
Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.
Break down barriers that divide us.
Fill us with the breath of peace.
Blessed are you.


You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving
you honor and praise, now and forever.

Amen.



Opening Hymn: "All Are Welcome" Hymn 641



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
Refrain
Christ shall end di - vi - sions: All are wel - come,
end to fear and dan - ger:
all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen

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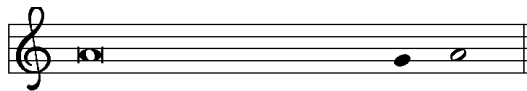
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Greeting

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.

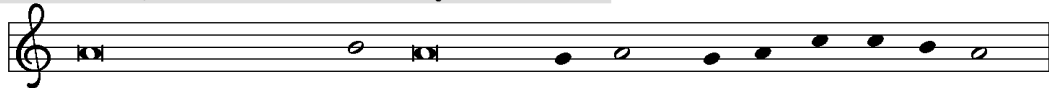
Kyrie (Congregation sings the highlighted refrain)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



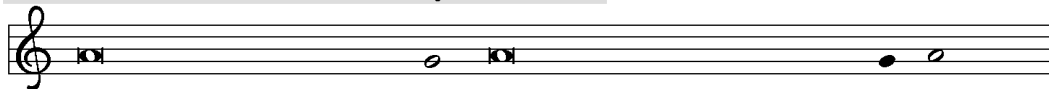
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



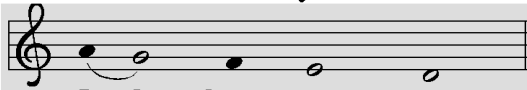
Lord, have mer - cy.



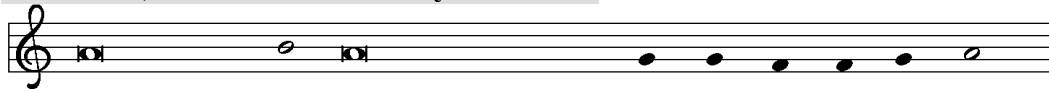
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

O God,

your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(You may be seated)

First Reading: Acts 9:1-19a

¹Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is

praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” ¹³ But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.” ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” ¹⁷ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus,

Grace Talks: Carole Rouse

(You may stand, in body or spirit)

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
 You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Matthew 6:22-24

The holy gospel according to Matthew Chapter 6.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²²“The eye is the lamp of the body. So if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, ²³ but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If, then, the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! ²⁴“No one can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(You may be seated)

Sermon: Pastor Todd Bertani



Sermon Notes:

Sermon Hymn: "We Are Called" Hymn 720

1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the
2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your . . mer - cy to all those in

Lord! We are called to be light for the king - dom, to
fear! We are called to be hope for the hope - less so

live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God.
ha - tred and blind - ness . . . will be . . . no more.

Refrain

We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to
love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -
oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

Text: David Haas, b. 1957
Music: David Haas
Text and music © 1988 GIA Publications, Inc.

WE ARE CALLED
Irregular

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Intercessory Prayer

Each petition ends: "Merciful God,"

Response is "receive our prayer."

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering

Online
Giving



Choir Anthem: “Crown Him Lord this Easter Day” by *Don & Nancy Besig*
Chuck Varilek accompanying on trumpet

(You may stand, in body or spirit)

Receiving of Gifts

Offering Prayer

Merciful God,
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set
a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and
thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that
goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love.
In the name of Jesus, Amen.



Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The second and fourth staves have a grey background for the lyrics.

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,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the
resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
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.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy". It consists of four staves of music in a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,". The second staff contains the second line: "heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.". The third staff contains the third line: "Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes". The fourth staff contains the fourth line: "in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.". The music is written in a simple, melodic style with various note values and rests.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy God,
you alone are holy,
you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars; beneath the sea;
within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water; by night and day;
across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life;

near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

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 his love for us
on the way, at the table, and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering; within this meal;
among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God,
through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

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.

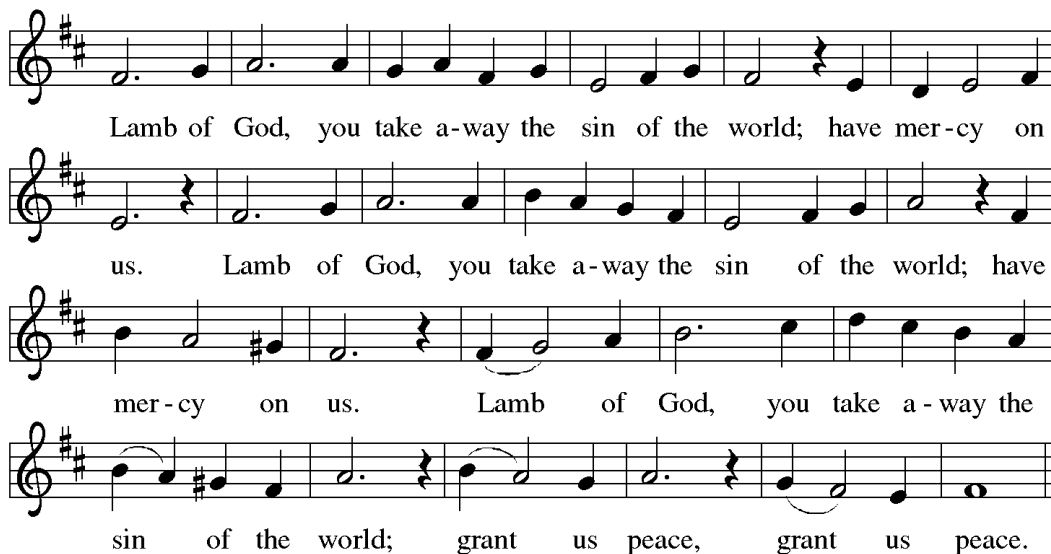
Invitation to Communion

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

*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: "Great is Thy Faithfulness" Hymn 733

1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear

shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright

pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by

morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy

hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

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Post Communion Blessing

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

Post Communion Prayer

Holy One,
through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations.
In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

Ministry Calendar

Pastor Todd and Richard & Robbi Telfer will be at Synod Assembly April 23-25. Kris will be on vacation April 24, 27 and 28.

Today, April 19—Sunday: (Bible passage to read: John Chapters 15—17)

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

April 21—Tuesday:

9:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m.: PEO Meeting, HF

April 22—Wednesday:

8:00 a.m.: Sacred Space (Zoom)
4:00 p.m.: **NO CHOIR REHEARSAL**

April 23—Thursday:

1:00 p.m.: Quilting

April 24—Friday:

11:00 a.m.: Good Sam Service (at Good Sam)

April 25—Saturday:

2:00 p.m.: Peak to Peak Concert. Emerald Lake Chamber Group

(You may stand, in body or spirit)

Blessing

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
† bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: “God, who Stretched the Spangled Heavens” 771



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,
3 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new:



flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space:
chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - 'ring you.



we, your chil - dren in your like-ness, share in-ven - tive pow'rs with you;
May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise; each en-deav-or well be - gun;



great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.
great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

Text: Catherine Cameron, b. 1927

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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Dismissal

Go into the world:

Dance, laugh, sing, and create.

We go with the assurance of God's blessing.

Go into the world:

Risk, explore, discover, and love.

We go with the assurance of God's grace.

Go into the world:

Believe, hope, struggle, and remember.

We go with the assurance of God's love.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

Postlude: "Lord, I Lift Your Name On High" *by Rick Founds*

