

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.



May 17, 2026

7th Sunday of Easter

Julie Varilek, Accompanist

Prelude: "Take My Life And Let It Be" - Havergal & Malan

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: "Rise Up, O Saints of God!" *Hymn 669*

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system contains the first three lines of lyrics, and the second system contains the remaining two lines. The lyrics are: 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn; 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace; 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod; Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn. re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place. and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

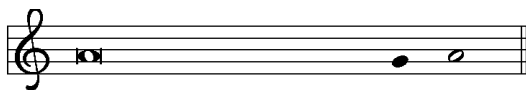
Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893
Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Greeting

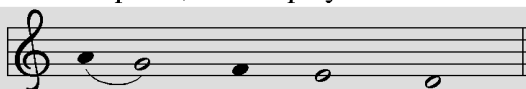
The grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

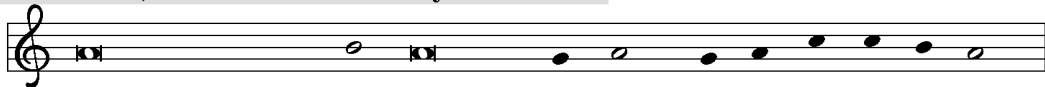
Kyrie *(Congregation sings the highlighted refrain)*



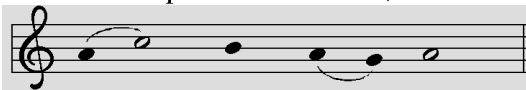
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



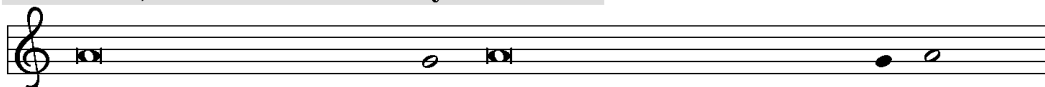
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



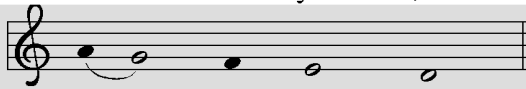
Lord, have mer - cy.



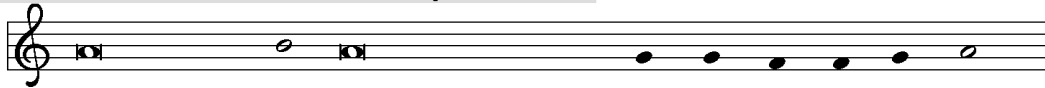
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



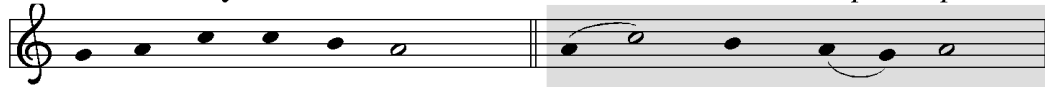
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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.

Canticle of Praise: (Congregation sings the highlighted section)

Refrain
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor- thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

God of Love,

**With praise we celebrate Jesus, who humbled himself so that every knee should bend and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.
Amen.**

(You may be seated)

First Reading: Psalm 119:1-16

¹Happy are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord.

²**Happy are those who keep his decrees,
who seek him with their whole heart,**

³who also do no wrong
but walk in his ways.

⁴**You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.**

⁵O that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!

⁶**Then I shall not be put to shame,
having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.**

⁷I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your righteous ordinances.

⁸**I will observe your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me.**

⁹How can young people keep their way pure?
By guarding it according to your word.

¹⁰**With my whole heart I seek you;
do not let me stray from your commandments.**

¹¹I treasure your word in my heart,
so that I may not sin against you.

¹²**Blessed are you, O Lord;
teach me your statutes.**

¹³With my lips I declare
all the ordinances of your mouth.

¹⁴**I delight in the way of your decrees
as much as in all riches.**

¹⁵I will meditate on your precepts
and fix my eyes on your ways.

¹⁶**I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.**

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-24

¹If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to

be grasped,⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human,⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name,¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling,¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

¹⁴Do all things without murmuring and arguing,¹⁵ so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world,¹⁶ holding forth the word of life so that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.¹⁷ But even if I am being poured out as a libation over the sacrifice and the service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice together with all of you;¹⁸ in the same way also you should rejoice and rejoice together with me.

¹⁹I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I, too, may be consoled by news of you.²⁰ I have no one so like myself who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare.²¹ All of them are seeking their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.²² But Timothy's worth you know, how like a son with a father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.

²³I hope therefore to send him as soon as I see how things go with me,²⁴ and I trust in the Lord that I will also come soon.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Grace Talk: Sallie Brackman

(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: John 14:25-31

The holy gospel according to John Chapter 14.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur you may believe. ³⁰I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me, ³¹but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us be on our way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(You may be seated)

Sermon: Pastor Todd Bertani

Sermon Notes:

Sermon Hymn: "Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading" Hymn 401

1 Gra - cious Spir - it, heed our plead - ing, fash - ion us all a - new.
2 Come to teach us, come to nour - ish those who be - lieve in Christ.
3 Guide our think - ing and our speak - ing done in your ho - ly name.

It's your lead - ing that we're need - ing, help us to fol - low you.
Bless the faith - ful, may they flour - ish, strength - ened by grace un - priced.
Mo - ti - vate all in their seek - ing, free - ing from guilt and shame.

Refrain

Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Text: Wilson Niwagila; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922
Music: NJOO KWĒTU, ROHO MWEMA, Wilson Niwagila; arr. Egil Hovland, b. 1924
English and Swahili text and tune © Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Arr. © Egil Hovland. Used by permission.

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



Offertory: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!" *arr. by W.D. Spurlock*

(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 image shows a musical score for a hymn titled 'Great Thanksgiving'. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first two staves have a shaded background for the second half of each line. The third staff has a shaded background for the entire line. The fourth staff has a shaded background for the entire line.

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 G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn. The second staff contains the second line. The third staff contains the third line. The fourth staff contains the fourth line. The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for a church service.

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.

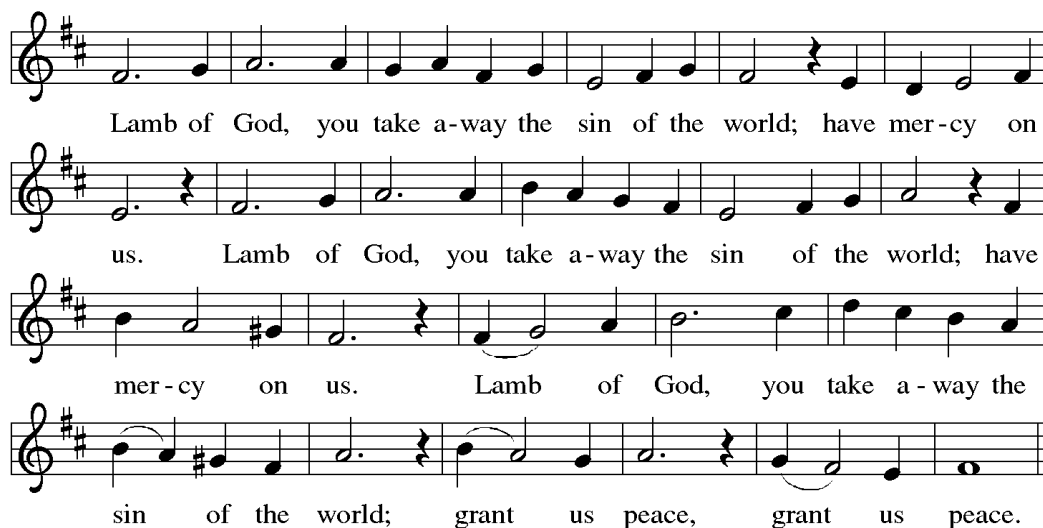
Invitation to Communion

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.

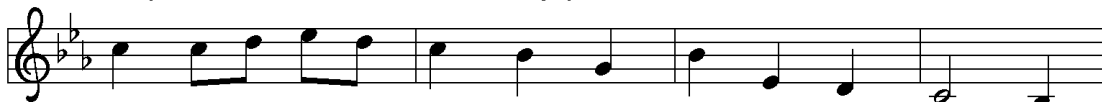
Communion Hymn: "Be Thou My Vision" *Hymn 793*



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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

(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: “Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing” Hymn 544



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -
3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!
lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -
Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l'wers be.

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902–1983, alt.
Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.
Text © Oxford University Press.

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: "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" - arr. P. Cardall



Thank you for serving!

	<i>May 17</i>	<i>May 24</i>
<i>Accompanist:</i>	Julie Varilek	Celice Clark
<i>Choir Director:</i>	Ann Knipping	Ann Knipping
<i>Greeter:</i>	OPEN	OPEN
<i>Lector:</i>	Mike Kellam	Josh Young
<i>Ushers:</i>	Jan Kilgore Larry Kilgore	Heidi Schweikart Susan Anderson
<i>Tellers:</i>	OPEN OPEN	Josh Young Heidi Schweikart
<i>Altar Care:</i>	Marilyn Kienker	OPEN
<i>Communion Asst:</i>	OPEN OPEN OPEN	OPEN OPEN OPEN
<i>AV Engineer:</i>	Robbi Telfer	Robbi Telfer
<i>Fellowship Host:</i>	OPEN	OPEN
<i>Flower Sponsor:</i>	Paula Stensvaag <i>IMO Tom & Mable Stensvaag</i>	Pentecost Flowers & Plants
<i>Flower Arranger:</i>	Brackman	Brackman

Think of us in this way,
as servants of Christ
and stewards of
God's mysteries.

