

Worship
Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 30, 2025
8:30am



Good Shepherd
LUTHERAN CHURCH
651-451-6225
www.goodshepherdigh.com

Welcome to Worship

Whether one's feet are big or small, fresh or worn, running or crawling
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is:
Together on the Journey, Sharing God's Love

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

- L. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C. **Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

- L. Come, let us gather in the presence of the Holy One,
a presence that meets us in grace and transforms us.
- C. **We come with open hearts, seeking to encounter the sacred,
to be shaped by God's love and mercy.**
- L. Here, we practice the rhythms of worship,
drawing near to the One who draws near to us.
- C. **We come to listen, to learn, to be renewed,
so that we might go into the world with a heart of service.**
- L. Let our worship be not just words we say,
but lives we live in service and grace.

SONG *"Come, Join the Dance of Trinity"*

Come, join the dance of Trinity, before all worlds begun – the interweaving of the Three, the Father, Spirit, Son. The universe of space and time did not arise by chance, but as the Three, in love and hope, made room within their dance.

Come, speak aloud of Trinity, as wind and tongues of flame set people free at Pentecost to tell the Savior's name. We know the yoke of sin and death, our necks have worn it smooth; go tell the world of weight and woe that we are free to move!

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

- L. As we come into the presence of a holy God, let us confess our sins,
knowing that in Christ we find mercy and grace.

Silence for Reflection

- C. **Gracious God,
We confess that we have often come to worship,
but failed to encounter Your presence with open hearts.
We have practiced rituals, but forgotten the depth of Your love.
We have been quick to receive Your grace,
but slow to extend it to others.
Forgive us, Lord,
and help us to live as transformed people,
sent out to serve with love and humility.
Through Christ, we pray. Amen.**

- L. Hear the good news:
God's grace is abundant, God's mercy unending.
In Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and sent to live as God's people.
Not just in worship, but in the world.
Go, live in peace, knowing that you are loved, forgiven, and called.
- C. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE

**Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man! Truly I'd love thee,
truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- L. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.
- C. And also with you.**
- L. Let us pray together,
- C. Eternal God, we thank you that you are the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.
When we are unmoored by the ups and downs of life, help us to remain anchored
in you so that we might be a hopeful and peaceful presence in an anxious world.
Amen.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Word of God, come down on earth, living rain from heav'n descending; touch our
hearts and bring to birth faith and hope and love unending. Word almighty, we
revere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.**

BIBLE READING Matthew 14:22-33

Right then, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead to the other side of the lake while he dismissed the crowds. When he sent them away, he went up onto a mountain by himself to pray. Evening came and he was alone. Meanwhile, the boat, fighting a strong headwind, was being battered by the waves and was already far away from land. Very early in the morning he came to his disciples, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified and said, "It's a ghost!" They were so frightened they screamed.

Just then Jesus spoke to them, "Be encouraged! It's me. Don't be afraid." Peter replied, "Lord, if it's you, order me to come to you on the water." And Jesus said, "Come."

Then Peter got out of the boat and was walking on the water toward Jesus. But when Peter saw the strong wind, he became frightened. As he began to sink, he shouted, "Lord, rescue me!" Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him, saying, "You man of weak faith! Why did you begin to have doubts?" When they got into the boat, the wind settled down.

Then those in the boat worshipped Jesus and said, "You must be God's Son!"

The Word of the Lord

C. Thanks be to God

MESSAGE

Pastor Courtney Steitz

SONG *"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"*

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; no merit of my own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain: **On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.**

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace; in ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

His oath, his covenant, his blood sustain me in the raging flood; when all supports are washed away, he then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in him be found, clothed in his righteousness alone, redeemed to stand before the throne! *Refrain*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in God, who draws near to us in grace,
who encounters us in worship and transforms our hearts.
We believe in Jesus Christ, who forgives our sins,
restores us to relationship with God,
and calls us to love and serve,
living out His presence in the world through acts of mercy and justice.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to go,
equipping us to be witnesses of grace,
sent to bring light, hope, and healing to the world.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The following is spoken after each prayer petition

L. Lord in your mercy,

C. Hear our prayer.

OFFERING RECEIVED

(Those who are able, please stand)

OFFERTORY SONG

**He's got the whole world in his hands, he's got the whole world in his hands,
he's got the whole world in his hands, he's got the whole world in his hands.**

HOLY COMMUNION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

SONG *"Great is Thy Faithfulness"*

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: **Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.**

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

SONG *"A Mighty Fortress is our God"*

A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious; he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious. The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight. On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected. But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected. You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored. He holds the field victorious.

COMMUNION BLESSING

BLESSING

L. Go from this place, grounded in God's presence,
and empowered by grace to serve the world with love.

**C. We go, with hearts open to encounter,
and hands ready to serve.**

L. May the peace of Christ guide you,
and the Holy Spirit strengthen you,
to live as witnesses of grace in the world.

C. Amen.

SONG *"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty"*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee. Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

DISMISSAL

L. Marked with the cross of Christ,
go forth to love and serve the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

This Week Please Pray For:

Members:

Josh Karels, cancer

Millie Mlinarevich, on-going treatment

Dale Scott, recovery, transitional care

Carol Derby, recovering from surgery

Chris Kelly, upcoming surgery

Michael Crace, transitional care

Neighbors in Need

Neighbors Inc: staff, volunteers, clients

Unrest: Ukraine-Russia, Palestine-Israel, Syria