



Ash Wednesday

Jesus Turns to Jerusalem

March 5, 2025

10:30am & 6:30pm

When Jesus calls us to follow him, he is not calling us away from those we love but to a life of loving our enemies no less than those dearest to us.

Trusting God + Loving the World

Worshiping and Growing Together in Christ | Serving and Reaching Out Joyfully to All!

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Gather in Silence

Welcome

Call to Worship

God's love for us is abundant and steadfast.

We enter God's house with awe.

God will lead us in righteousness,

And make God's ways straight before us.

Prayer of the Day

Holy God,

You come to us in love, then call us to follow you, no matter our individual circumstances. Help us to prioritize our relationship with you, and center your call in our lives, knowing that whatever we give, we also shall receive. In Jesus holy name we pray. Amen.

Song

Abide With Me

ELW 629 v. 1, 3, 4

**Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.**

**I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me.**

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me!

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

Jesus draws attention to the way the call to discipleship reorients some of our deepest priorities. His words offer solace to us where we have been isolated on account of following him, and challenge us where would seek to subordinate the life of faith to other priorities.

Scripture Reading

Psalm 5:7-8

⁷But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house,
I will bow down toward your holy temple in awe of you.
⁸Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies;
make your way straight before me.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Refrain

Re - turn to God with all your heart, the
Source of grace and mer - cy; come seek the ten - der
faith - ful - ness of God.

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁵¹When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶Then they went on to another village. ⁵⁷As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶²Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Message

Hymn of the Day

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

ELW 326

**Bless now, O God, the journey, that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence, the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert, and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.**

**Bless sojourners and pilgrims, who share this winding way;
your hope burns through the terrors, your love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom, while often we are bound;
together we are seeking, the road where faith is found.**

**Divine eternal lover, you meet us on the road.
We wait for land of promise, where milk and honey flow,
but waiting not for places, you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written, on roads, as faith is found.**



+ Invitation to Lent +

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Litany

Jesus calls, "Follow me." And we say:

We will follow you wherever you go. But...

But our work schedule is so hectic.

But our kids have so many sports tournaments.

But our home remodeling is weeks behind schedule.

But it's really inconvenient.

And actually a little scary.

What if we get in trouble for following you?

For doing for our neighbors what needs to be done?

Maybe we can catch up with you later?

Jesus calls, "Follow me."

Who can answer such a call?

Confession

We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

God of the journey,

We do not want to follow where you lead. Instead, we turn inward, focusing on satisfying our own wants, even at the expense of our neighbors. We do not see their suffering; we do not act for their justice. We are motivated by the fear of not getting what we want, or of losing what we have. We ignore the example of your sacrificial love, which has the power to heal and make whole. Forgive us for refusing to heed your call. Change our hearts, our minds, and our actions, so that we might return to following you, no matter where your journey leads.

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ



+ Imposition of Ashes +

Please come forward to the communion rails and stand or kneel to receive ashes. Ashes in the shape of a cross will be traced on your forehead with these words:
"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Song

Where Charity and Love Prevail

ELW 359

**Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love,
by love we thus are bound.**

**With grateful joy and holy fear, God's charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and soul
now love God in return.**

**Let us recall that in our midst, dwells Christ, God's holy Son;
as members of each body joined,
in him we are made one.**

**Let strife among us be unknown; let all contentions cease.
Be God's the glory that we seek;
be his our only peace.**

**Let us forgive each other's faults, as we our own confess,
that we may love each other well
in Christian gentleness.**

Forgiveness

Beloved ones, our God is a God of abundant grace and mercy, and never lets us go. For the sake of Jesus, God With Us, who gave all for the redemption of creation, your sins are forgiven. Follow in Christ's loving footsteps. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

With trust and hope, we pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

There are so many distractions and temptations pulling us away from what matters most in our world. Help us to stay focused on you and fully trust in your guidance for our lives. Merciful God, **Hear our prayer.**

Decades of habitat destruction and environmental misuse have caused harm to the world you have created. Empower us to change our daily practices to have less negative impact, and to care faithfully for all living things.

Merciful God, **Hear our prayer.**

Students navigate so many challenges in their daily lives, both academically and socially. Guide them to seek your wisdom in their journeys, our teacher and friend. Merciful God, **Hear our prayer.**

Draw near to all who are in need of your care due to health challenges, financial insecurity, family issues, or suffering of any kind (*especially...*) Give courage and healing to all who call upon you for help. Merciful God, **Hear our prayer.**

As we enter the season of Lent, draw our attention inward in honest self-examination and a commitment to grow spiritually in you. Help us to take up our crosses and follow you. Merciful God, **Hear our prayer.**

The saints persevered through innumerable difficulties in their lives. Help us to remember and honor their faithfulness by following their example. Merciful God, **Hear our prayer.**

We entrust all these prayers and those of our hearts to you, O God. In Jesus name we pray. **Amen.**

The 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 God thanks and praise.**

Eucharistic Prayer

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

The one who set his feet toward Jerusalem for the redemption of the world now invites you to join him at this holy table. Come and be nourished on his body and blood and be filled with new life. All is prepared.

+ *All are Welcome* +

Options on how to receive Holy Communion

You may come forward to the rails, kneel or stand, starting at the center and filling in along the rail. After you have received communion please exit by the side aisles and put your empty cup in the basket. Those waiting will then fill in the empty space at the rail. Bread (gluten-free) and wine or grape juice (center of the tray) will be given to you at the rails with the words spoken:

“The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.”

If you would like communion served in the pew, please signal to a pastor.

You are invited..

To bring an **offering** forward before or after worship or during Holy Communion. The offering is gathered in front of the communion table where we are reminded of God’s gifts given to us in Christ and our response to these gifts.

Communion

We Come to the Hungry Feast

ELW 479

**We come to the hungry feast
hungry for a word of peace.
To hungry hearts unsatisfied
the love of God is not denied.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.**

**We come to the hungry feast
hungry for a world released
from hungry folk of ev'ry kind,
the poor in body, poor in mind.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.**

**We come to the hungry feast
hungry that the hunger cease,
and knowing, though we eat our fill,
the hunger will stay with us still
we come, we come to the hungry feast.**

Follow Me (6:30pm only)

Prayer After Communion

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God blesses us and sends us out in mission to the world.

Blessing

God our tender parent, God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit, ✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Song

Send Me, Lord

ELW 809

**Send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus,
send me, Jesus, send me, Lord.**

**Lead me, Jesus, lead me, Jesus,
lead me, Jesus, lead me, Lord.**

**Fill me, Jesus, fill me, Jesus,
fill me, Jesus, fill me, Lord.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. **Thanks be to God.**

+ Please leave in silence +

+ WORSHIP SERVICE NOTES +

- **THANK YOU** for being considerate of disabled worshippers and their families. Please leave the pew cuts and several adjoining seats available for those with walkers, wheelchairs, or electric carts and their families.
- **HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES** are located at the sound booth located in the back of the sanctuary on the east side. You can also download the app WaveCast Receiver which is designed for hearing aids with Bluetooth capability. See Diane Klinkerfues or our sound engineer Mark, in our sound booth. (Back of the sanctuary, SE corner).
- **PRAYER WALL/CANDLE STATION** is available during worship for candle-lighting and writing prayers and placing them in the prayer wall. Blue paper for writing prayers is available at the prayer wall or in the pews where the offering envelopes are located.
- **FELLOWSHIP:** Once worship has finished, please feel free to stay and greet each other and go into the fellowship hall for coffee and snacks.

OFFERING

If you would like to make a donation to the mission of Holy Shepherd, which will be used to serve the community, neighborhood and the world, there is an offering plate located at the front of the sanctuary. Please make checks payable to:
Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church or use the **PayPal** link. *Thank you.*

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are many ways to engage in worship volunteer opportunities, and we'd love to have you! If you are interested in any of the volunteer opportunities below or just want to hear more about them please contact Diane Klinkerfues at dklinkerfues@holyshepherd.com

- Reader, communion assistant, altar guild (preparing the wine and bread), screen operator, usher, or greeter.

KIDS AREA

The **Kids Area** (un-staffed) will be available to use for your family, if you need to leave the service. It is located off the hallway west of the sanctuary. The library and Fellowship Hall are also available.



Worship Leadership

Pastors

Julie Brooks, Kim Gonia

Pianist

Diane Klinkerfues

Communion Assistants

10:00am – Betty Moody, Barb Jacobson

6:30pm – Don Threlkeld, Pat Szkrumelak

Readers

10:00am – Jan Eckersley

6:30pm – Ried Clark

Ushers

10:00am – Open

6:30pm – Don Threlkeld

Altar Guild

Donna Madsen

Technology

Mike Madsen, Mark Lee

Narrative Lectionary Worship

Resources

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