

Sunday, April 6, 2025 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

Welcome to worship at Shepherd of the Bay. If you are visiting today, Hello! We are so glad you are here. Whether you are here for a week, a month, or the whole summer season, we hope that you will find this community to be a warm and welcoming spiritual home while you're in Door County. If you have questions, please ask. If you are interested in a more formal affiliation with Shepherd of the Bay, contact Pastor Honig.

Enter to worship. As the prelude begins, worshippers are encouraged to conclude conversation and quietly prepare to enter into the experience of worship.

PRELUDE *Voluntary in F* Elizabeth Stirling

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

everything [in] between righteousness & mercy

The assembly stands

(Congregation recites **bold** print responses.)

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to worship because we long for mercy.

We long for community.

We long for God.

We come to worship because we need a good word.

We need connection.

We need moral reminders.

We come to worship because we are in between:

hope and grief, faith and doubt, joy and longing, curiosity and conviction.

So we come to worship and God meets us here.

Surely, we are not alone. Thanks be to God for meeting us in the middle! Amen.

Here is Bread for the Hungry Soul

Here is bread for the hungry soul.

Here is wine for the thirsty heart.

Here is forgiveness full and free,

here at the table of the Lord.

Text: Mary Kay Beall c. Hope Publishing Co.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Friends, our faith calls us to live with both mercy and righteousness.

Somewhere along the way, however, we have forgotten that truth.

Somewhere along the way, we began arguing about who deserves mercy and whether or not they had acted with enough righteousness to receive it.

Fortunately, God does not act that way.

No matter what mistakes we have made or wrong turns we've taken, God consistently meets us with mercy and invites us to try again. So let us lean into that good news, and go to God in prayer:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,

When we fail to be righteous, show us mercy.

When we fail to be merciful, show us what is right.

Again and again, bring us closer to you.

Again and again, show us the way. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, hear and believe this good news: When we fail to be righteous,

God is merciful.

When we fail to be merciful,

God invites us to try again.

Again and again,

God moves closer to us.

Again and again,

God shows us the way.

Thanks be to God for this unending love.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

HYMN 324 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

GREETING

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

And also with you.

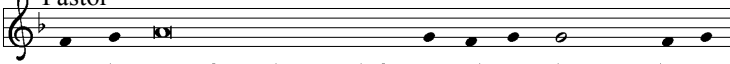
KYRIE

Pastor ALL



In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer-cy.

Pastor



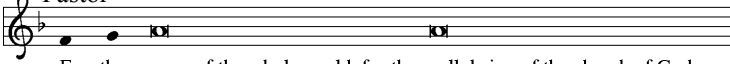
For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us

ALL

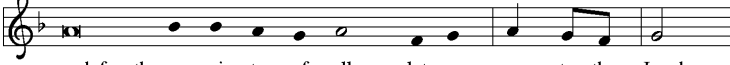


pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Pastor



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



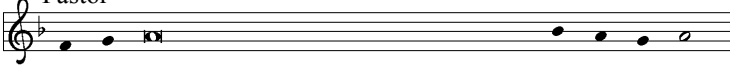
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

ALL



Lord, have mer - cy.

Pastor



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

ALL



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Pastor



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

ALL



A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: Creator God,

you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated

CHOIR Offertory - Micah 6:6-8 John Ness Beck (1987 Beckenhurst Press)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Loving God,

**Week after week we return to this space, because we long to see you.
Like Zacchaeus who climbed a tree to get a peek at you as you walked by,
we come to this sanctuary hoping to get a peek
of your goodness,
of your joy,
of your light.
So speak to us through these ancient words.
Let us get a peek of the love that lingers here.
Gratefully we pray, amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 1:10-18

...

P: The Word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God**

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

GOSPEL : Luke 19:1-10

C: Glory to you, O Lord

...

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY

HYMN 597 My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**In a world that loves to cast blame and point fingers,
Jesus loved by different rules.
He offered mercy.
He invited people to dinner.
He told stories of love.
He chose to see the best in others.
We believe that small acts of mercy and compassion have ripple effects in our lives.
We believe that small acts of righteousness and justice are integral to a life of faith.
So like Christ, we believe in
offering mercy,
inviting people to dinner,
telling stories of love,
and choosing to see the best in others.
With God's help, may it be so. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Congregational response to

P. God, in your mercy,

C. receive our prayer.

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah's imagination, Paul's transformed identity, and Mary's faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet's future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need. We remember especially those whom we name aloud... **Marie** Becker, **Carole** Bergner, **Dave** Boock, **Wally** Brandt, **Bob** Bridges, **John** Carlson, **Sharon** Cobb, **Connie** Kretzmann, **Maia** Michalsen, **Carenna** Reisen, **Braden** Sitte, **Sandy** Weckler, and all whom we remember in our hearts and lift before you... (*silence for reflection*) ... May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel (especially Albrecht Dürer, Matthias Grünewald, and Lucas Cranach). Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim the new thing you are doing. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

The communion of saints declares your praise, O God. Giving thanks for those who have died, we trust in the one who has made them his own: Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Christ, Who Makes Us Blessed* Johann Sebastian Bach

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious Provider,
you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world.
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

***About Communion:** This is Christ's table and meal of grace! All are welcome! Ushers will guide you forward. Receive the bread (gluten free available); wine or white grape juice is received from a cup from the gold tray. If you have difficulty coming forward for the distribution, please let one of the ushers know and they will ask the pastor to bring you communion in the pew. Children may come forward for a blessing.*

COMMUNION DIALOG

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

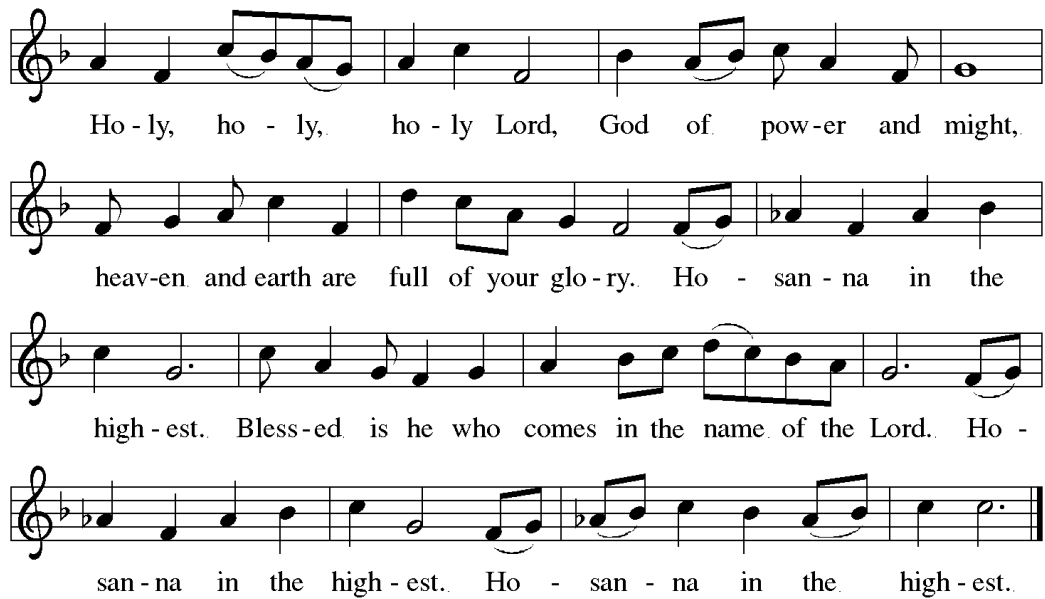
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heav - en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

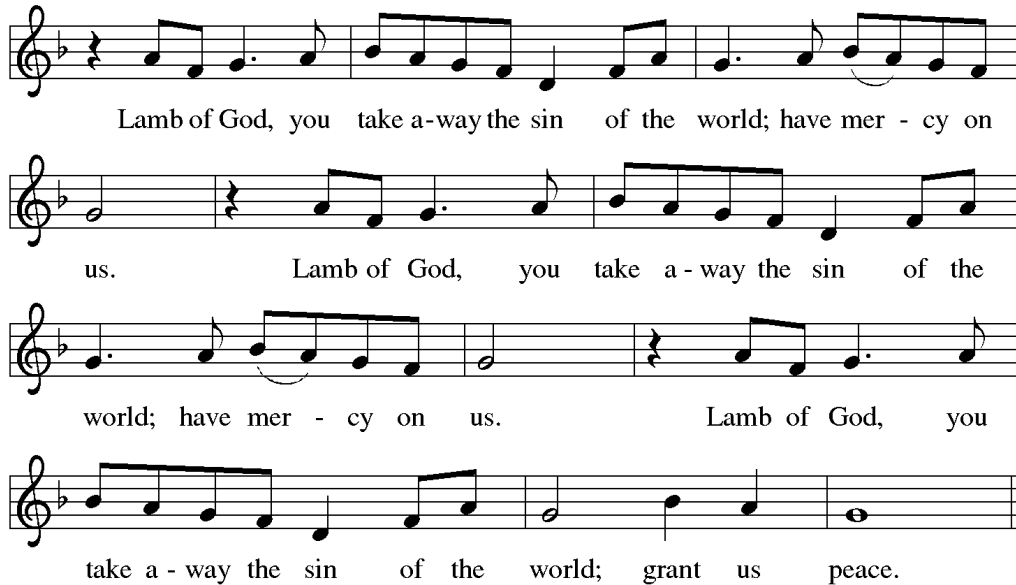
THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

***About Communion:** This is Christ's table and meal of grace! All are welcome! Ushers will guide you forward. Receive the bread (gluten free available); wine or white grape juice is received from a cup from the gold tray. If you have difficulty coming forward for the distribution, please let one of the ushers know and they will ask the pastor to bring you communion in the pew. Children may come forward for a blessing*

The assembly is 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.

COMMUNION HYMN

HYMN 583 Take My Life, That I May Be

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Amen.

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.

BLESSING

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

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

HYMN 833 Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices

DISMISSAL

As you leave this place,
may you find God in every messy middle.
May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.
May you trust that you are made in the image of God, and therefore, you contain multitudes.
So may you move through this world with an open heart,
with a curious mind,
and with the confidence that you do not go alone.
God is with you in the mountains,
in the valleys,
and everywhere in between.
Believe that good news, and go in peace.

Thanks be to God.

DEPART TO SERVE

POSTLUDE *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word* Charles W. Ore
(Concordia Publishing House, 1971)

**Join us on Wednesday, April 9nd, at 5:30 PM for the Midweek Lenten Service and Meal. This week's meal will be Pulled Pork Sandwiches and Mac-n-Cheese. A freewill offering will support the Youth Mission Trip to North Carolina. Come enjoy great food, fellowship, and meaningful worship while making a difference!
Invite your friends! All are Welcome!**

**Maundy Thursday Dinner and Worship
April 17 at 5:30pm**

We will gather for our Maundy Thursday service in Fellowship Hall, where we will enjoy dinner together along with devotional reflections on the significance of the day as we enter the Great Three Days.

We will need many volunteers to make this service work, so please check the signup sheets in the Narthex to see how you can help.

To assist us with planning, please register on our website or use the signup sheet in the Narthex if you plan to attend.

Feel free to invite your friends and neighbors—everyone is welcome!

Liturgy adapted from a prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

From Sundays and Seasons.com Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26574.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

www.shepherdofthebay.org