

Sunday, February 22, 2026 - First 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 you will find this community a warm and welcoming spiritual home while you're in Door County. If you have questions, please ask. If you are interested in a 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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The assembly stands

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you,

pours God's love into your hearts,

and gives you life and peace.

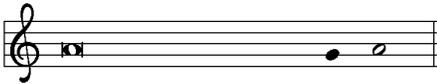
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN
HYMN 504 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

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



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.



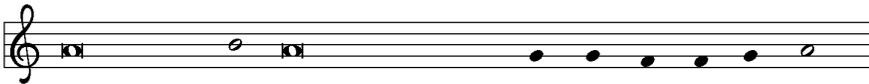
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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

Let us pray: Lord God, our strength,

the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us 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.

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

...

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

The assembly is seated

CHOIR *In Love, Christ Came Among Us* Bill F. Leach, Joseph M. Martin

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

...

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

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL : Matthew 4:1-11

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 319 O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days

BLESSING OF THE GUATEMALA MISSION TEAM

Les & Julia Keepper, Jill Lhost, Carol & Jed Omernick, Lynda Pietruszka, Laney Zacek, Nora Zacek

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Congregational response to

P. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated. We remember especially those whom we name aloud... **Carole** Bergner, **Rita** Brandt, **Joan** Carlson, **Ken** Deutschmann, **Hanna** Michalsen, **Carenna** Reisen, **Braden** Sitte, **Barbara** Zilavy, and all whom we remember in our hearts and lift before you...

(silence for reflection) ... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you (especially). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

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.

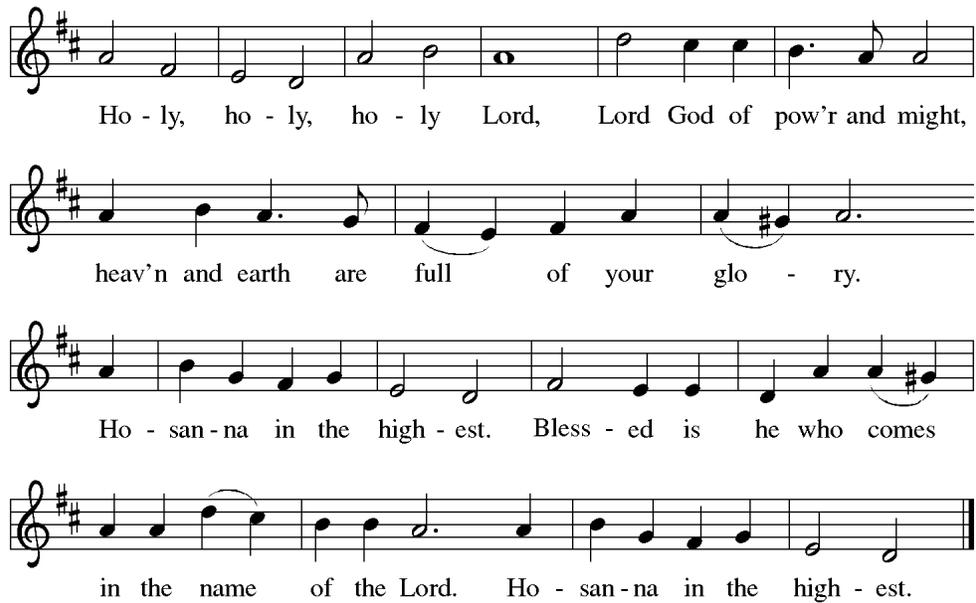
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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, 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.

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

HYMN 613 Thy Holy Wings

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of our salvation,

we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.

Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
‡ bless you now and always.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

HYMN 793 Be Thou My Vision

PRAYER AND BLESSING FOR THE BEGINNING OF A SABBATICAL

Leader: Beloved in Christ, today we gather to mark a sacred threshold. Pastor Jim is entering a season of sabbatical — a time for rest, renewal, and deep listening to God’s Spirit.

People: We give thanks for the ministry we share and for the gift of this time apart.

Leader: A reading from Exodus: “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” A sabbatical is not an absence, but a different kind of presence — a time for our pastor to step back from daily duties, so that both pastor and congregation may be renewed in God’s grace.

Leader: Pastor Jim, will you receive this sabbatical as a gift from God and from this congregation, using it for rest, prayer, study, and refreshment of spirit?

Pastor: I will, with God’s help.

Leader: People of Shepherd of the Bay Church, will you honor this time by supporting one another, praying for your pastor, and embracing the opportunities for growth in this season?

People: We will, with God’s help.

Leader: Gracious God, you call us to seasons of work and seasons of rest. Bless our pastor with renewal of body, mind, and spirit. Bless this congregation with faithfulness, joy, and unity. May we all return to one another refreshed for the work of your kingdom.

People: Amen.

(The pastor place a stole on the altar as a sign of laying down daily duties.)

Leader: Go in peace, to rest in God’s presence and to walk in God’s light.

People: We go in the name of Christ. Amen.

DEPART TO SERVE

POSTLUDE