

Sunday, March 15, 2026 - Fourth 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 714 O God of Mercy, God of Light

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.

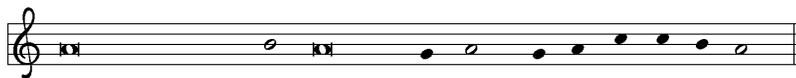
KYRIE



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.



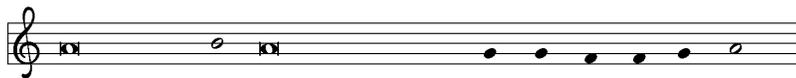
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us,

By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

...

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

The assembly is seated

CHOIR *This Little Light of Mine* African American Spiritual, arr. John Helgen
(2018 Augsburg Fortress)

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

...

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 : John 9:1-41

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 793 Be Thou My Vision

The assembly stands.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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, our shepherd, we pray that you guide the church. Lead Christians in our community (here local congregations may be named) and across the globe (here international companion churches and synods may be named) in right paths for your name's sake. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Rescue endangered animals and plants, preserve threatened ecosystems, and save creatures from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. Bring an end to war and violence, and raise up leaders in governments, courts, businesses, schools, and community organizations who seek goodness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God our healer, we call to you in our need. Uplift all who are made to feel unimportant, and transform the hearts of all infected by bigotry and prejudice. Care for all in special need this day. We remember especially those whom we name aloud... **Marie** Becker, **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 our friend, we praise you for the diversity of people among us. Awaken us to share and receive the gifts we each possess, and stir up a spirit of understanding, celebration, and welcome for all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God our home, we thank you for all who have died and completed their baptismal journeys. Grant us faith to live until we too dwell in your house forever. 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

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.

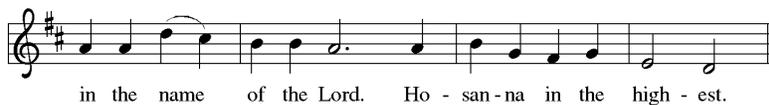
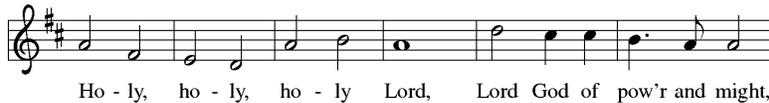
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:



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

Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

And everybody, everybody, everybody is welcome here.

***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 780 Shepherd Me, O God

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 324 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.
Thanks be to God.

DEPART TO SERVE

POSTLUDE

Midweek Lenten Meals & Devotions

Join us for our Wednesday Lenten services at 5:30 p.m. for a warm meal and a simple devotion beginning at 6:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity for conversation, so feel free to invite friends and neighbors!

Each week, a freewill offering will support a different church mission. This Wednesday, March 18, Klaud's Food Pantry will provide the meal, with all proceeds going to the Pantry.

SOTB's Men's Group

The Men's Group meets next on Tuesday, March 17, 7:00 p.m. at the church. We are reading and discussing *Sacred Self-Care: Daily Practices for Nurturing Our Whole Selves (2023)*, available in the church office. Our conversations include a wide range of subjects, and are fun and encouraging. Check