

**Sunday, March 8, 2026 - Third 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.

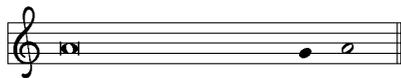
**Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN  
HYMN 455 Crashing Waters at Creation

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.



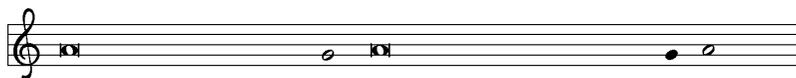
Lord, have mer - cy.



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: Merciful God, the fountain of living water,

**you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7

...

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

*The assembly is seated*

CHOIR      *Come to the Water* (Isaiah 55:1-2, Matthew 11:28-30) John Foley, SJ (1993 New Dawn Music)  
Erik Torkelson, soprano saxophone

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11

...

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 4:5-42

**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 777    Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty**

*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.*

O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought (especially), and bring relief to places damaged by floods (especially). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need. We remember especially those whom we name aloud... **Carole Bergner, Rita Brandt, Joan Carlson, Ken Deutschmann, Hanna Michalsen, Carena 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.**

When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles (especially). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. 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.

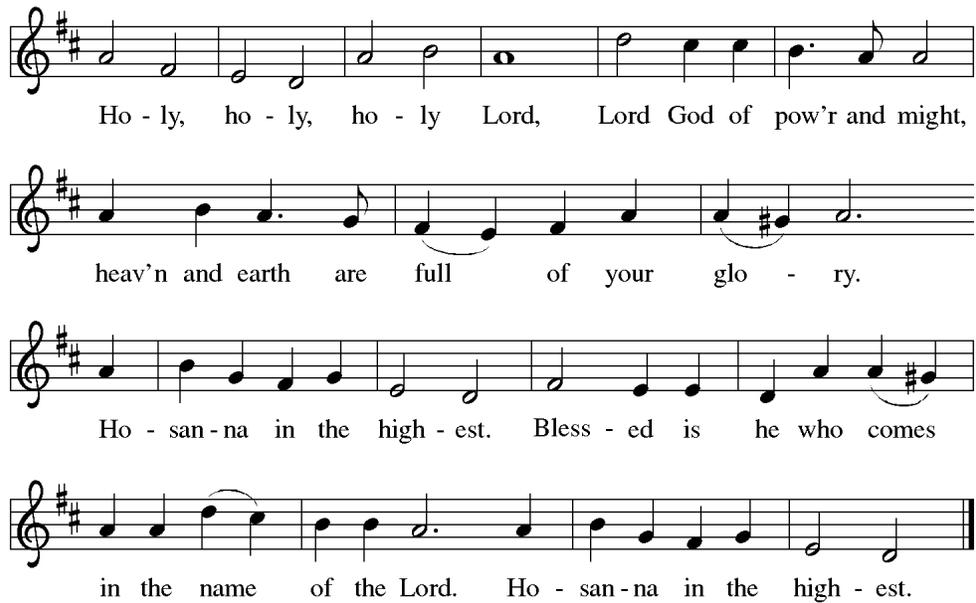
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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

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 623 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me**

## 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.**

## SENDING OF LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

*I would like to invite forward, those who will be sharing this meal with our homebound members.*

Let us pray: Gracious God,

You took the form of a servant offering yourself as food, comfort, and strength to a sick and hurting world.  
Anoint with a servant heart these, your people, who now take your word and sacrament to our sisters and  
brothers in their homes.

Grant grace, mercy, healing and hope to those who feast on your body and blood and receive your words of  
new life.

May we all recognize that we have a home and a place in the body of our Lord Jesus Christ. 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 HYMN

**HYMN 618 Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer**

## DISMISSAL

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

## DEPART TO SERVE

## POSTLUDE

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