



April 28, 2024 ~ 9:30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday of Easter



Welcome to everyone worshipping with us today!

All are welcome at Shepherd of the Hills. We are a place where all people can receive wholeness and share God's blessings, so we echo Jesus' welcome to all persons – **every one** –

to the devout, the seeker and the skeptic;
to single, married, widowed and divorced;
to young and old, child and parent;
to persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities;
to people of all lands, cultures and colors;
to people with disabilities, those ill and well;
to poor, middling and wealthy;
to all who seek hope, peace, comfort, strength, love, forgiveness and grace.

We invite everyone to worship, learn, serve and care with us

Our Mission:

To love God and love neighbor in the spirit of Jesus.

Who we are becoming:

A connected family of faith inspired by God to positively impact our community and our world.



GATHERING

PRELUDE “Festive Prelude”

R. A. Williamson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

ELW page 94

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Pastor: Most merciful God,

People: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”**

ELW 392 (v. 1, 4 & 5)

- 1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation has redeemed us by his blood."
- 4 Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! born of Mary, earth your footstool, heav'n your throne.
As within the veil you entered, robed in flesh, our great high priest,
here on earth both priest and victim in the eucharistic feast.
- 5 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation has redeemed us by his blood."

***GREETING**

ELW page 184

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

People: And also with you.

***KYRIE**

ELW page 184

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,

Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;

for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,

Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;

for life and for love, for our work and our play,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,

Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;

that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

***CANCTICLE OF PRAISE**

ELW page 187

**This is the feast of vict'ry for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.
This is the feast of vict'ry for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.
Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of vict'ry for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

ELW page 188

Pastor: Let us pray.

**People: . O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish
our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

TIME FOR CHILDREN

FIRST READING Psalm 22:25-31

Lector: From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

**People: The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

Lector: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

**People: For dominion belongs to the Lord,
who rules over the nations.**

Lector: Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord.

**People: Their descendants shall serve the Lord,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

Lector: They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

★**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** "Alleluia"

ELW page 188

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.**

★**GOSPEL** John 15:1-8

Pastor: The holy gospel according to John.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Yolanda Denson-Byers

***HYMN OF THE DAY** “We Raise Our Hands to You, O Lord”

ELW 690 (v. 1, 2, 3 & 5)

- 1 We raise our hands to you, O Lord, like empty vessels.
Oh, come to us and give us life from springs where living waters flow.
- 2 What good and blessing you bestow are freely given.
Your pow'r will make the weakest strong and barren branches start to bud.
- 3 Oh, make our barren trees to grow, our hands to blossom,
and let our lives bring forth such fruit that heals our neighbor's grief and pain.
- 5 Through grace your new creation lies in hands held open.
O Giver of all goodness, come, dwell with us in our earthly home.

***THE NICENE CREED**

ELW page 189

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

★PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church,
the world, and all those in need of good news. *(A brief silence)*

(After each petition, the following is said.)

Pastor: God of grace, **People: hear our prayer.**

★PEACE

ELW page 189

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

MEAL

MISSION MOMENT

OFFERING & SPECIAL MUSIC "10,000 Reasons" (Bless the Lord)

J. Myrin & M. Redman
One Voice Choir

★OFFERING PRAYER

ELW page 190

Pastor: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower
us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts,
ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW page 190

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Communion Music: "Lamb of God"

ELW page 191

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

"Come to the Table"

ELW 481

Come to the table of mercy, prepared with the wine and the bread.

All who are hungry and thirsty, come, and your souls will be fed.

Come at the Lord's invitation; receive from his nail-scarred hand.

Eat of the bread of salvation; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

***Prayer after communion:**

ELW page 191

Pastor: Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

People: Amen.

SENDING

***BLESSING**

Pastor: Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, as God works among us that which is pleasing in God's sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever.

People: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN "Let All Things Now Living"**

ELW 881

- 1 Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

- 2 God rules all the forces: the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

***DISMISSAL**

ELW page 192

Pastor: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "Prelude in F Major"

Bach

SHEPHERD HAPPENINGS

For more information on all these events, go to our website sothchurch.com

HOLY COMMUNION Like a family gathering for Sunday dinner, all are welcome at this table where God is our holy parent and host. Taking simple bread and simple wine we remember that all of life comes as a gift from God, and we remember that just as we are nourished by food, we are also nourished by God's love. (Grape juice is available in the center of the serving tray and a rice alternative is available for those with wheat allergies.)

ARE YOU NEW HERE? To our first-time visitors welcome! Please join us immediately after church for coffee hour in the fellowship lounge. Your children and their noise are always welcome. There are two gender neutral and single stall restrooms across from - and just beyond - the church nursery, as well as two more upstairs as well! If you have questions, please ask any of our members. We are here to help.

Name Tags Help Build Community: All who regularly participate at Shepherd are encouraged to wear a name tag as we strive to be a welcoming community of disciples!

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME in worship every Sunday but, should you need it, the nursery is located on the north side of the building. Ask an usher if you need help finding it.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING THIS MORNING: Sunday, April 28 at 10:30 am

We hope you can stay for our Annual Meeting this morning. We will reflect on 2023, hear exciting updates on various ministries, elect new leaders for our congregational council, and recognize outgoing leaders. It is an important date on our shared calendar together, and we hope to see you there.

If you are interested in serving in a leadership role on our congregational council, it's not too late! We are looking for a Communications liaison and positions are open on the SOTH Foundation. Nominations can be accepted from the floor.

ALLELUIA SINGERS Calling all singers in grades 3-8 to join us to sing for Mothers' Day, May 12. It's a special Sunday as we will be celebrating Mothers, Quilters and High School Graduates. The Alleluia Singers will be rehearsing at 10:40 am on Sunday Mornings, April 21, 28 and May 5. Grab a treat and join us to get ready to sign for Mothers' Day!

WORD ON WEDNESDAY – Spring 2024 "Creation Care in the Bible"

To wrap up WoW for Spring 2024 our plan will be to read and study some of the ways Scripture speaks to us about creation and its care. Genesis tells us that we humans are to "have dominion" – what should we understand "dominion" to mean? When God speaks to Job about the "foundations of the earth" how does that inform how we related to creation? What do the Psalms say about how the earth is to be cared for? What connections might there be between our faithfulness to God and how creation will be affected by our actions? Is the earth resilient? Resilient enough to withstand human actions? Resilient enough to wait on the Lord? Join us at 6:30 pm Wednesdays from April 10 to May 15 and let's see what we can learn together!

THIS WEEK: May 1 "Humans and the Water" (Psalm 65)

SHEPHERD / CALVARY NEW MINISTRIES: The Shepherd – Calvary Team has continued to meet and discuss the ideas put forward by all the contributors in response to our requests and outreach back in March. We have

narrowed the focus to three (3) principal areas: 1) Building a Collaborative, Engaging Youth Ministry; 2) Exploring a Family & Community Centered Alternative Faith Building Gathering (something like the “Dinner Church” gatherings held during Lent) and 3) Updating our Communications and Technology tools for a better, more flexible and impactful Sunday (and other) experience in and from our sanctuary. We’d love to hear more from you and will continue to listen for what God may be calling us to in these three areas. Please reach out (phone, in person, email or whatever) to Pastors Yolanda, Sherri or Wade, or any of the committee members (Becky Rorke, Bruce Nelson, Cindy Morris, Julia Buteyn, Steve Manacek, Adam Driscoll and Alyson Purdy) or leave a note in the basket on the Welcome Desk. Thank you and please keep this work in your prayers!

SOTH BOOK CLUB: will meet on Sunday, May 19 at 11:00 am.

Book: “Lady Tan's Circle of Women” by Lisa See

VBS 2024 CAMP FIRELIGHT JUNE 10—13 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

A Summer Camp Adventure with God!

Join first-time camp counselor Sam and Lu (short for Lumen), the lightning bug, and learn to face your fears while trusting in God. Kids will learn ways they can connect with and put their trust in God whenever they are afraid, challenged, or called to do God’s work in the world and share the Good News of God’s love through Jesus Christ. Registrations available online (www.sothchurch.com/)

PROPS NEEDED: Our VBS theme this year is Camp Firelight and we are excited about decorating our church for this important event. We are looking for "props" that we can use during the dates of June 10-13.

Items would include:

Backpacks, small camping chairs (kid size), sleeping bags, coolers, kids tents, lanterns and water bottles.

Please bring them to Pr. Sherri's office by June 3 and contact her with any questions. Thank you!!

SERVE TEAM: Spring Cleaning - Donate Now!

Do you have some gently worn shoes that you no longer wear? Participate in our shoe drive and help us donate to Soles4Souls! Until the end of May, we will be collecting all styles of gently worn shoes that can be put to good use. You can even donate single shoes!

Soles4Souls has 3 basic programs. “4Relief” helps get shoes to people in disaster relief areas. “4Opportunity” works with developing countries to help people start and grow business that sell donated shoes. “4EveryKid” partners with schools across the U.S. to get new athletic shoes to children who are experiencing homelessness. Repurposed shoes extend their life and keep them out of landfills. 98% of shoes are reused and if shoes are determined to be beyond use, Soles4Souls works with third-party partners to turn this waste into energy. Please place your shoes in the donation center and enjoy a cleaner closet this summer.

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES: Twin Cities Benefit for Youth at Quincy Hall

Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 5:30 P.M.

Hosted each spring by Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS), the Benefit for Youth event series supports the work of LSS Youth & Family Services. Together, we will ensure children and families have safe, stable homes and the opportunity to thrive in community. As a trusted statewide leader, LSS is continually reaching out to understand the unique needs of our young neighbors; reaching beyond the status quo to offer innovative services; and reaching across communities to help more Minnesotans thrive. For more information or to register, go to <https://events.lssmn.org/page/63541/data/1>

MENTAL HEALTH CONNECT: Celebrating 10 years!

You're invited to the 5th Annual Stories of Hope Breakfast! Come to the breakfast. Feel the support in the room. Listen to impactful stories. Meet someone new. Learn about the Collaborative work. Support the mission. Speak to a Navigator. Gain knowledge, resources and support.

When: Thursday, May 9, 2024

8-9 am, breakfast / 7:30 am, doors open

Where: Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church, 5025 Knox Ave S, Minneapolis, MN

Go to mhconnect.org to register and for more information!



GIVING: Thank you for your generosity to SOTH! There are many ways to give:

TEXT "GIVE" to 844-503-1571

MAIL: 500 Blake Road South, Edina, MN 55343

Place your gift in the offering plate at church.

SCAN the QR Code

Sunday, April 28

9:30 am Worship
 Shepherds of Light (Sun School)
 10:40 am Annual Congregational Meeting
 10:40 am Alleluia Singers
 2:00 pm Eagle Court of Honor
 6:30 pm Apollo Chorus rehearsal

Monday, April 29

6:30 pm Learn Team
 6:30 pm SMART Recovery
 7:00 pm Troop Meetings
 8:00 pm Calvary-SOTH Team

Tuesday, April 30

 Edina Election here
 8:30 am Men's Coffee
 9:00 am Quilting
 1:00 pm Staff Meeting

Wednesday, May 1

10:00 am WoW
 5:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
 6:30 pm Confirmation
 6:30 pm WoW
 7:30 pm Sr. High meets

Thursday, May 2

4:30 pm Personnel Committee
 5:00 pm TOPS Meeting
 5:00 pm Synod Assembly begins
 6:30 pm SMART Recovery

Friday, May 3

8:00 am-7:00 pm Synod Assembly
 12:00 noon Church Office closed

Saturday, May 4

8:30 am Synod Assembly

Sunday, May 5

9:30 am Worship
 Shepherds of Light (Sun School)
 10:40 am Alleluia Singers
 10:45 am Care Team
 6:30 pm Apollo Chorus Rehearsal

Monday, May 6

6:30 pm SMART Recovery
 7:00 pm Troop Meetings

Tuesday, May 7

8:30 am Men's Coffee
 9:00 am Quilting
 11:00 am Staff Meeting
 2:00 pm Walker Care Suites Service

Wednesday, May 8

10:00 am WoW
 5:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
 6:30 pm WoW
 Confirmation
 7:30 pm Sr. High meets

Thursday, May 9

4:30 pm Personnel Committee
 5:00 pm TOPS Mtg.
 6:30 pm SMART Recovery

Friday, May 10

12:00 noon Church office closes at noon

Our sanctuary is equipped with a hearing assistance system. Ask an usher for assistance. Large print bulletins are also available. You can request one from an usher.

Persons unfamiliar with our Service may find the following explanation of abbreviations helpful.

✳ indicates "Stand as able."

ELW refers to the **EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP** with the **cranberry cover**.

Hymn selections are listed as "**ELW ###.**"

Liturgy selections are listed as **ELW page ###.**

GATHER refers to the **GATHER** hymnbook with the **teal blue cover**.

Hymn selections are listed as "**Gather ###.**"

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
500 Blake Road South • Edina, MN 55343
Phone: (952) 935-3457
Web Site: www.sothchurch.com

SENIOR PASTOR: Rev. Dr. Yolanda Denson-Byers

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Rev. Sherri Otto

CALVARY PASTOR: Rev. Wade Wacholz

MINISTERS: The Congregation

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Patti Arntz

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Shawn Wacholz

CUSTODIAN: Blair Prax

LECTOR: Kristin Hanneman

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Norm & Rose Marie Anderson

MISSION PARTNERSHIP: Tapestry Ministries, Minneapolis, MN 55423

Rev. Melissa Melnick Gonzalez

OFFICE HOURS: Office hours are Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Fridays 9:00-12:00 pm

Pastor Yolanda: Monday 9:30-5:30 (home office); Tuesday-Thursday, 9:30-5:30 (SOTH);

Friday in Sabbath.

Pastor Sherri: Monday-Thursday 9:00 am -5:00 pm (SOTH); Friday in Sabbath

Pastor Wade: Tuesdays 12:00 pm– 5:00 pm; Wednesdays 12:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006
Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress License #3513-L
Words to songs used by permission of CCLI License No. 811865