

# Shepherd of the Hills

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION  
MARCH 22, 2026  
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT - JESUS CONDEMNED



### WELCOME & GREETING

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Come and worship the God who made heaven and earth.  
**We sing praises to one who brings justice to the oppressed.**  
Praise God who upholds the orphan and widow.  
**We praise our God, who reigns forever!**

#### CONFESSION

We confess our sins before God and one another. *(Pause for silence and reflection).*  
Most holy God, **we come to you in need of grace. Time and again we have forgotten your simple and loving call – to love you, our neighbors, and ourselves. We have forgotten your promise to care for us, and in our fear, we have made choices that hurt us, those around us, and even those we don't know. Remind us who we are and whose we are, and show us the way to amend our wrongs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our savior and friend.**

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Have no fear, little flock, for God loves you exactly as you are, and desires nothing more than to restore you to wholeness. Know that you are freed from sin and death now and forever. **Amen.**

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of love, **in this season of Lent, we remember how you walked willingly into the arms of death on a cross. Help us to put our entire lives into your hands in complete surrender, trusting that you will carry us through whatever trials we face. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**FIRST READING: PSALM 146**

*(PLEASE READ RESPONSIVELY)*

<sup>1</sup>Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup>**I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

<sup>3</sup>Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup>**When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.**

<sup>5</sup>Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God,

<sup>6</sup>who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

<sup>7</sup>who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free;

<sup>8</sup>**the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

<sup>10</sup>**The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!**

**HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 19:1-16a**

**Lector:** Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him."

**Pastor:** So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him."

**Lector:** The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God." Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?"

**Pastor:** Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

**Lector:** From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor."

**Pastor:** When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

PASTOR JANET KETTERING

**HYMN OF THE DAY | GIVE US CLEAN HANDS**

<https://youtu.be/J8TCEQLABU4?si=XMA4TTPTP23XfPEM>

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

Eternal God, you call us to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with courage, not knowing where we go but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us. Amen.

**CONGREGATIONAL SHARING**

**LENTEN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

I believe in the power of love to overcome the darkness  
and that Sin is that which stands in opposition to our love of God,  
our love of others, and our love of self.

I believe that love overcomes the power of Sin;  
that treating others as they wish to be treated, loving my enemy,  
praying for those who persecute others,  
and non-violent resistance are the Way toward the Kingdom of God.

I believe that Sin crucified Christ for loving those who were unloved,  
for feeding those who were unfed, and healing those who were in dis-ease.

I believe that the Cross was the greatest display of the power of Sin,  
but was overcome by Christ's power of love.

I believe that, by the grace of God, I can turn away from the Sin of the world  
and toward the love of Christ, and that I can embrace the Cross and not fear it.

I believe the grace of Christ empowers us all to eternal life. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With hope in your promised redemption, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *(A brief silence).*

God, we would sooner argue to justify ourselves than surrender and discover what treasures there may be in yielding to your will. Make Jesus our model of unwavering faithfulness in the face of threats to our status and safety. Challenge us to look beyond our narrow assumptions into a wider vision of how the world could be. Forgive us for engaging in the atrocities of war which always results in the suffering of the innocents. God of grace and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our natural world is in crisis, ravaged by the inevitable outcome of our thoughtless exploitation of what you have made. Give us the hope and motivation to take action to change our society's ways that we might create a brighter future for our children's children. God of grace and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Inspire all who lead to work tirelessly for just laws that ensure that all people enjoy basic human rights. Sustain the work of those who labor to change oppressive systems here and around the world. We pray especially for the United States, Israel, Iran, Ukraine, Russia, Gaza, Israel, and all others known to you. God of grace and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all with no voice, make us advocates, O God. For those who are lonely or feel abandoned, make us companions. And for all who suffer any illness or trial, make us bringers of a healing word and a steadying hand. We pray especially Pastor Phil, Matt, Brett, Rick and Kelly, Terry, Jim and Sally, Dave, Dorothy, Clover, and all those named on our Prayer Chain. God of grace and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for strength for all those who provide care for their loved ones, especially James and Chris Elkins, and Kirk, Clare, and Gwen Fallon; and for those whose loved ones have finished their earthly journeys, especially Elizabeth Herman and the family and friends of Ken Herman. God of grace and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of wholeness, we pray for the work of the Joshua School. May our relationship with them reflect your love and care for those with special needs. We pray that all those on the Autism Spectrum, especially those in our faith family, might find fulfillment, joy, and love. God of grace and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

For all those who stood trials on behalf of your Gospel, and all who gave their lives in service to a larger truth, we give thanks. Join us to saints of old and those among us still, and number us among your redeemed. God of grace and mercy, **hear our prayer.** Into your hands we place our prayers, spoken and unspoken, and entrust all things to your eternal care. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

*(Please share a sign of God's love and peace with each other.)*

## OFFERING/OFFERING PRAYER

**You are a generous, faithful, and just God, even when we fall short of those expectations of us. Accept these gifts we offer to you today as expressions of our willingness to grow beyond our perceived limits and soar, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## CELEBRATING COMMUNITY: SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### THE THANKSGIVING

**God is with you! And God is with us all.**

**Open wide your hearts. We open them completely to the Spirit of God.**

This is a season of wilderness; a season to try to understand the Divine just a little more deeply. This is the time for us to reach inwards to find the self that God sees. This is the chance for us to gaze outwards, caring for the Christ in our midst.

**As we enter this Lenten journey, let us pray: Holy One, help us to notice your gifts when the Lenten Road feels long. Help us to be warmed by the winds of the Spirit when the Lenten path feels chilly. In seeking You, help us to find Jesus, recalling his time in the wilderness: His struggles. His hunger. His peace. Help us to see Christ as our companion on our own desert roads. Amen.**

Through his-story, we remember the night before his arrest: A night of serenity, solemnity, and love. Taking bread from the table, Jesus blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper, as the night grew long, Jesus took a cup, filled it with the fruit of the vine, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples, saying "Drink of this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

Jesus gave us himself, and he gave us a prayer. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we remember Jesus and his great love for us, praying the prayer that he gave us:

**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.**

Even as the events of Good Friday approach, we are reminded in this moment that Jesus lives forever and invites you now to feast in his name. Come to where he meets us in bread and wine, and be nourished on the promise of eternal life. This promise is for you.

### **SHARING THE MEAL**

This is the body of Christ, broken in love for you.

This is the blood of Christ, poured out in forgiveness of you.

### **COMMUNION HYMN | TASTE AND SEE**

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/B4ESAIBMP9C?SI=PMaw01WAGQJMSLAV](https://youtu.be/B4ESAIBMP9C?si=PMaw01WAGQJMSLAV)

### **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy, gracious God, here at this table your promise of life is made tangible. We have rested in the depth of your love and tasted your nourishing presence. At this table, you have offered us life. Together, by your grace, we accept that life and give you thanks. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that all may know life and love in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **LENTEN BLESSING & BENEDICTION**

May the Spirit who traveled with Christ in the wilderness fill us with the hope of God. May the Spirit speak to us in this season of wilderness, become our strength on this journey and fill our lives with love. Amen.

### **SENDING HYMN | BLESSED ASSURANCE**

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/H1VMHEMOMZY?SI=\\_NX80YSMNUCTATIF](https://youtu.be/H1VMHEMOMZY?si=_NX80YSMNUCTATIF)

### **SENDING**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.**

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person—questions, complexities and all.

Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

**CLICK LINK TO ACCESS READINGS, SERMONS & SPECIAL EVENTS FROM PAST SUNDAYS:**

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@SHEPHERDOFTHEHILLSLUTHERAN6221/VIDEOS](https://www.youtube.com/@shepherdofthehillslutheran6221/videos)

**WORSHIP RESOURCES:**

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**SCRIPTURE READINGS** – NEW REVISED STANDARD BIBLE, UPDATED EDITION  
**RESPONSE TO THE WORD** – ERIC MILNER WHITE  
**LENTEN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** – FATPASTOR.ME  
**LENTEN WORDS OF INSTITUTION** – MICHELLETORIGIAN.COM, AS ADAPTED.  
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**LENTEN BLESSING & BENEDICTION** – MICHELLETORIGIAN.COM, AS ADAPTED.

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:** CAROLINE MICHALAK  
**ALTAR GUILD:** GERRY & KEN MOORHEAD, LYNN TRUMBLE & KAY WERPY  
**ASSISTING MINISTER:** REV. PHIL KETTERING  
**AUDIO TECHNICIAN:** MARK "FUZZ" NEWKIRK  
**LECTOR:** MICHELLE KIRCHOFF  
**PASTOR:** REV. JANET KETTERIN

<p><b><u>MARCH</u></b> <b><u>BIRTHDAYS</u></b> MICHELLE K. 3/5 TERRY SCH. 3/6 PASTOR JANET K. 3/21 LYNN T. 3/25 DICK W. 3/27 NINA S. 3/30</p>
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**SHEPHERD HAPPENINGS: MARCH 22 – MARCH 29, 2026**

**Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> Fifth Sunday in Lent: Jesus Condemned**

9:30 a.m. – Hybrid In Person/Zoom Worship with Holy Communion  
Coffee & Conversation immediately following Worship

**Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>**

11:00 a.m. - Amazing Grace Bible Study  
5:00 p.m. – Pardes/Shepherd Final Zoom Study of “The Ten Utterances”

**Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 a.m. – Men’s Zoom Breakfast Bible Study  
5:00 p.m. – Friday Night Perspectives Zoom Gathering

**Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>-Palm Sunday: The Crucified Messiah**

9:30 a.m. – Hybrid In Person/Zoom Worship with Holy Communion  
Coffee & Conversation immediately following Worship



## DAILY NARRATIVE LECTIONARY READINGS: WEEK OF MARCH 22, 2025

### **Monday, March 23, 2026**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/psalm-146-praise-for-gods-help2026>

Psalm 146                  Praise for God's Help

### **Tuesday, March 24, 2026**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/isaiah-61-5-holy-lord2026>

Isaiah 6:1-5                  Holy Lord

### **Wednesday, March 25, 2026**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/isaiah-28-5-6-spirit-of-justice2026>

Isaiah 28:5-6                  Spirit of Justice

### **Thursday, March 26, 2026**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/isaiah-32-1-6-king-of-righteousness2026>

Isaiah 32:1-6                  King of Righteousness

### **Friday, March 27, 2026**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/isaiah-42-1-4-suffering-servant2026>

Isaiah 42:1-4                  Suffering Servant

### **Saturday, March 28, 2026**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/jeremiah-23-5-6-branch-of-david2026>

Jeremiah 23:5-6                  Branch of David

### **Sunday, March 29, 2026**

Jesus's Triumphal Entry Into Jerusalem John 12:12-18 and

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/john-19-16b-22-the-crucified-messiah2026>

John 19:16b-22                  The Crucified Messiah

**WELCOME!** *Thank you for worshiping with us today!*

## **GUESTS**

Please sign our Guestbook and/or fill out the brightly-colored Info Slip and place it in the offering plate. This helps us get to know you better so that we can serve you more effectively.

## **DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEED PRAYERS?**

**Prayer Changes Things.** The Shepherd Prayer Chain members stand by ready to help. You'll find our Prayer Box on the table to your left as you enter the building, as well as paper and pencils. Please write your prayer request and place it in the box. *You are not required to sign your request or give the name of the person for whom we will pray, unless you wish.* If you desire a private conversation with Pastor Janet, please contact the Church Office or call her on her cell phone at 507-360-1625. **All prayer requests will remain confidential.**

## **CHILDREN ARE CHERISHED AT SHEPHERD!**

In our Sanctuary, you'll see a coloring table and soft toys. Children's bulletins are available on the table just outside the Sanctuary. If at any time you wish to take your child out for some quiet time, our Nursery/Library is stocked with supplies for playing, coloring, studying the Children's Bulletin, or reading.

## **REMEMBRANCE**

On the north wall of the Sanctuary a table is set with candles. You are invited to light a candle in memory of a loved one at any time before, during, or after our worship service.

## **COMMUNION**

At Shepherd of the Hills, we recognize that the Table of Communion is not our table. It is not a Lutheran table. It is our Lord's Table – a meal prepared for all – prepared in love. *Please come.* All who long for the Good News in Jesus Christ are truly welcome at this table. As Jesus called children to be close to him, we, likewise, extend this invitation to all children. Should you not feel comfortable receiving the Sacrament, please come forward indicating that you wish to receive a blessing by folding your arms over your chest.

## **COMMUNION OUTSIDE OF WORSHIP**

Arrangements can be made to bring communion to you at a time convenient for you. If, for any reason, you are unable to attend normal services, such as a hospital stay or for personal reasons, and wish to have communion brought to you, please contact the Church Office, Pastor Janet at 507-360-1625.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

At Shepherd, we worship as one Faith Family. If you wish to extend your worship to include membership, please see Pastor Janet.

# Shepherd of the Hills

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

THE MINISTERS: ALL THE PEOPLE

PASTOR: REV. JANET COLBY KETTERING

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: CAROLINE MICHALAK

ALTAR GUILD: KEN & GERRY MOORHEAD, LYNN TRUMBLE & KAY WERPY

ASSISTING MINISTERS: TIM KIRCHOFF & DICK WERPY

PIANIST: MARGARET SCHARFF

PRAYER CHAIN ADMINISTRATOR: KATHY WOOTTON

SHEPHERD COUNCIL:

MICHELLE KIRCHOFF, PRESIDENT

JANICE IRISH, VICE-PRESIDENT

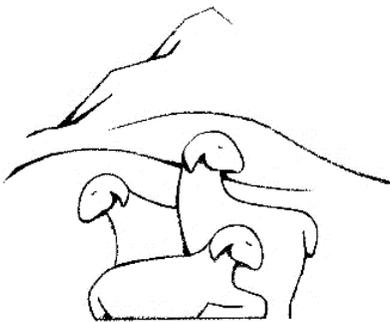
KELLY MAUER, SECRETARY

REV. PHIL KETTERING, TREASURER

JIM TIMMERMANN, BUILDING & MAINTENANCE

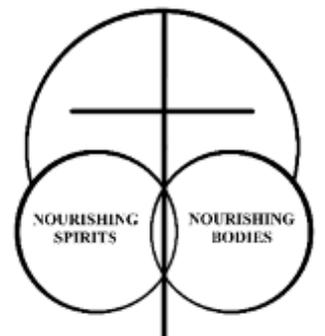
CINDIE SCOPY & PASTOR JANET KETTERING

AUDIO TECHNICIAN: FUZZ (MARK) NEWKIRK



### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Marked by the Cross of Christ Forever, v  
+ Gather in Love  
+ Grow in Faith  
+ Share God's Love & Grace  
+ We are Empowered to **BOLDLY**  
Proclaim & Witness God's Word



7077 Harvest Road, Boulder, CO 80301 Office: 303-530-4422  
Email: [shepherdboulder@gmail.com](mailto:shepherdboulder@gmail.com) Website: [www.shepherdboulder.org](http://www.shepherdboulder.org)