



# *The Tree of Life*



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS  
[www.dulutheran.org](http://www.dulutheran.org)

## Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

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### WELCOME

We are glad that you have chosen to spend time with us in worship. In our worship, we gather, before Jesus, our Good Shepherd, to offer him our love and praise. Our Lord builds us up in faith through his Word and equips us for living now and in eternity. Our prayer is that the good news of Christ's love touches your heart and transforms your life. Whether you're worshipping with us here today or watching online, we are happy you have joined us.

### WORSHIP SERVICE

The goal of our worship is to praise God and enrich your faith through his Word. To make your experience today easier, the worship folder you're holding has the entire order of service. The pieces marked [P] are spoken by the pastor, and the parts marked [C] are to be spoken or sung by the congregation.

### FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Our congregation enjoys the "worshiping family." Each service includes a children's message which teaches God's truth to your kids. Parents with small children are an essential part of God's kingdom. That's why children are never considered an inconvenience to our worship. We also want your family to be comfortable. There is a cry room outside the main doors to the right if you need a moment.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*For more announcements and event information visit the church website at [www.dulutheran.org/events](http://www.dulutheran.org/events) or sign up for our weekly email at [www.dulutheran.org/subscribe](http://www.dulutheran.org/subscribe). You can also view the church calendar at [www.dulutheran.org/church-calendar](http://www.dulutheran.org/church-calendar).*

**Envelopes:** Offering envelopes for 2025 are available by the mailboxes. Please take the envelopes that match your mailbox number.

**Food Drive and Silent Auction Update:** Thank you to all who supported the Second Harvest Northland food bank by donating to our food drive or attending our Silent Auction. We were able to drop off 102 lbs of food and a check for \$1,893. This is enough to help them feed about 5,764 meals to our neighbors in need. We greatly appreciate your help to make this an impactful event!

**Christmas Dates:** Please save these dates & plan to join us:

Christmas Eve Worship: Tuesday, December 24th at 6PM

Christmas Day Worship: Wednesday, December 25th at 9AM

## OPENING RESPONSE

- P: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,  
C: **the light no darkness can overcome.**  
P: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,  
C: **and the day is almost over.**  
P: Be our light and scatter the darkness,  
C: **and hear our evening prayer and praise.**

## OPENING HYMN

### “Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding” CW 15



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing; “Christ is  
2 Lo, the Lamb, so long - ex - pect - ed, Comes with  
3 That, when next he comes with glo - ry And the  
4 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the

near,” we hear it say. “Cast a - way the  
par - don down from heav’n. Let us haste, with  
world is wrapped in fear, He may shield us  
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -

works of dark - ness; You are chil - dren of the day.”  
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv’n,  
with his mer - cy And with words of love draw near.  
last - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

- P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ. May his Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation. We, your creatures, glorify you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- C: **Amen.**

Please sing at after a brief introduction...

C: Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift - ing  
up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I  
call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I  
cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,  
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

P: Let the incense of our prayers rise before you, O Lord, and let your mercy descend on us, that we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and forever in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

✠ READINGS FROM GOD'S WORD ✠

FIRST READING

Genesis 3:16-24

<sup>16</sup>To the woman he said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”

<sup>17</sup>To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. <sup>18</sup>It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

<sup>20</sup>Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. <sup>21</sup>The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. <sup>22</sup>And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” <sup>23</sup>So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. <sup>24</sup>After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

## SECOND READING

John 20:30-31

<sup>30</sup> Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

P: Lord God, grant us your Holy Spirit that we may hear and believe your Word. Cleanse our minds and renew our hearts that we may live for you here and hereafter; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

## HYMN

“When All the World Was Cursed”

CW 20

1 When all the world was cursed By Mo - ses' con - dem - na - tion,  
2 Be - fore Saint John was born, He leaped in joy - ful meet - ing,  
3 Be - hold the Lamb of God, Who bears the world's trans - gres - sion,  
4 Oh, grant, dear Lord of love, That we re - ceive, re - joic - ing,

Saint John the Bap - tist came With words of con - so - la - tion.  
Con - fess - ing him as Lord Whose moth - er he was greet - ing.  
Whose sac - ri - fice re - moves The dev - il's dread op - pres - sion.  
The word pro - claimed by John, Our true re - pent - ance voic - ing,

With true fore - run - ner's zeal The great - er one he named,  
By Jor - dan's roll - ing stream, A new E - li - jah bold,  
Be - hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a - way our sin,  
That glad - ly we may walk Up - on our Sav - ior's way

And him, as yet un - known, As Sav - ior he pro - claimed.  
He tes - ti - fied of him Whom proph - ets had fore - told.  
Who for our peace and joy Will full a - tone - ment win.  
Un - til we live with him In his e - ter - nal day.

✘ THE MESSAGE ✘

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The Tree of Life  
*John 20:30-31*

SERMON RESPONSE

**“Song of Mary”**  
pg. 57 in front of Hymnal  
*Printed on the insert.*

WORSHIPING THE LORD WITH OUR OFFERINGS

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*Members of Shepherd of the Hills respond to their Savior’s love with offerings that are given joyfully and freely according to how the Lord has blessed them. If you are a guest today, please know that there are no expectations for you to make a donation. If you wish to support us by making an online offering, scan the QR code here or visit our website: [www.duluthlutheran.org](http://www.duluthlutheran.org) and click on the “GIVE” tab.*

✘ PRAYERS ✘

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LORD, HAVE MERCY

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: 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:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the leaders of our synod and district, for all pastors in Christ, for all who are servants of the Church, and for all the people of God, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For all who govern our nation and for all public servants, that they may be upheld and strengthened for every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our Lord:

**C: to you, O Lord.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies, that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **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.**

## **CLOSING PRAYER & BLESSING**

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P: Let us praise the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

## “Once in Royal David’s City”

CW 50

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a low - ly  
2 He came down - to earth from heav - en Who is God and  
3 But our eyes at last shall see him Through his own re-  
4 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the ox - en

cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her ba - by In a  
Lord of all, And his shel - ter was a sta - ble, And his  
deem - ing love, For that child, so dear and gen - tle, Is our  
stand - ing by Shall we see him, but in heav - en, Set at

man - ger for his bed; Mar - y was that moth - er  
cra - dle was a stall; With the poor and mean and  
Lord in heav'n a - bove, And he leads his chil - dren  
God's right hand on high. Then like stars his chil - dren

mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
on To the place where he is gone.  
crowned, All in white, his praise will sound.