



RESURRECTION  
REALITY

May 12, 2024 | May 15, 2024

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## SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Tim Denney | Office Phone (218) 722-4364 | Cell (517) 392-8494 | [www.duluthlutheran.org](http://www.duluthlutheran.org)

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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

**Altar Flowers:** Kim Kirkland gave this morning's flowers to the glory of God in honor of the mothers in her family.

**May Communion Schedule:** This month, our usual communion schedule will change. We will have communion on **Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>**, instead of **Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**. Communion will also be offered for service on **Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>**.

**Free Huskies game signup deadline today!** On **Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup>**, at **3:05 p.m.**, the Duluth Huskies play the Eau Claire Express at Wade Stadium in Duluth. Sign up on the bulletin board outside of Pastor's office by **Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**, and be sure to mark the number of tickets you will need. Please contact Kiersten Nash if you have questions or need to sign up via email at [eckar011@gmail.com](mailto:eckar011@gmail.com).


**Polling Location:** On **Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**, our church will be used as a polling site for the special city referendum taking place. Voting will start on Tuesday morning at 7:00 a.m. and finish at 8:00 p.m.

**Seniors/Retirees Get-Together:** Please join us for lunch at Pike Lake Beach and Golf Club on **May 14<sup>th</sup>**, at **11:30 a.m.** We will enjoy fellowship, lunch, and a boat ride (weather permitting). Contact Kathy Hedin at 651-332-1374 or email [kathyhedin@aol.com](mailto:kathyhedin@aol.com) to RSVP or if you have any questions.

**Young Professionals Event:** Peter Moeri is hosting a game of Firefly the Board Game on **May 14<sup>th</sup>** at **6 p.m.** in the conference room. Come and have some fun and fellowship. Feel free to reach out to Peter if you have any questions. [peterlmoeri@gmail.com](mailto:peterlmoeri@gmail.com).

On **Wednesday** evenings, we have Midweek Bible Study starting at **6:30 p.m.** Following the study, we have Midweek Worship at **7:30 p.m.** This is a repeat of the service from Sunday morning. If you are working or out of town on the weekend, these are great opportunities to stay connected to the Word and our church.

**VBS Meeting:** On **Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>**, we will have a VBS Meeting at **6 p.m.** If you are interested in volunteering for VBS, please join us to find out more about our program this summer!

**Special Song Service Next Sunday:** The Youth Music Ministry will enhance our worship service on **May 19<sup>th</sup>**. The youth will be singing songs and playing tone chimes throughout the service. Invite all your loved ones to see and sing with the outstanding youth God has given to SOTH! A picnic lunch for the congregation and visitors will be held after Sunday School and Bible Study. We hope you can join us! Contact Laura Metcalf or Miriam Hokanson if you have any questions. If you'd like to help with the picnic lunch, you can view the needs and sign up by scanning the QR code. 

**SOTH Lawns and Landscaping:** Throughout the warmer months, we get together on **Thursday mornings, from about 9:00 a.m. to noon**, to care for the Church's lawns and garden areas. If you like to plant, weed, trim, mow, etc., please consider joining us! If you have any questions or can't make it on Thursdays and would like to help, please contact David Hedin.

**Women's Bible Study:** Please join us as we continue our study on the book of Ephesians! This month, we will be meeting on **Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>** at **6 p.m.** at Lorene Fleming's home: 3004 N 52nd St. East in Duluth. If you have any questions or would like to arrange a rideshare, please contact Kiersten Nash or Kely Dunsmoor.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Christ is arisen! He is risen indeed! God has ascended amid shouts of joy.

C: **Let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.**

P: Why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

C: **We believe and are sure that he is the Christ, the Son of the living God.**

P: God raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

C: **And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the Church.**

## OPENING HYMN

“Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise”

CW 175



1 Hail the day that sees him rise To his throne a - bove the skies!  
2 There the glo - rious tri - umph waits: Lift your heads, e - ter - nal gates.  
3 See, the heav'n its Lord re - ceives, Yet he loves the earth he leaves;  
4 See, he lifts his hands a - bove; See, he shows the prints of love.



Christ, the Lamb for sin - ners giv'n, Re - as - cends his na - tive heav'n.  
He has con - quered death and sin; Take the King of glo - ry in!  
Though re - turn - ing to his throne, Still he calls man - kind his own.  
Hark! His gra - cious lips be - stow Bless - ings on his Church be - low.



5 Still for us he intercedes;  
His prevailing death he pleads.  
He, the first of all our race,  
Near himself prepares a place.

6 There we shall with you remain  
Partners in your endless reign,  
There your face unclouded view,  
Find our heav'n of heav'ns in you.

## CONFESSION OF SIN & GOD'S PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

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**P:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. Almighty Father, your Son died and was raised up in power. Now enable us to die to our sin in repentance, so we may rise to new life in him. We confess to you:

**C:** **Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. In what I have done and left undone, I have not loved my neighbor as myself. I have fallen short of your holy standard. When I think of this past week, I am deeply sorry for my sins and sincerely repent of them.**

**P:** Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

**C:** **Cleanse me from my sins. Release me from my guilt. Send your Holy Spirit to strengthen my faith and my love for you.**

**P:** God our Heavenly Father, saw you when you were born sinful and loved you so much that he sent his one and only Son, Jesus to remove sin's hold on your life. Jesus' death has paid for your sins past, present, and future. Through faith in him, you have freedom from the guilt that sin brings. God's Word promises to you: all your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

## RESPONSE OF FORGIVENESS

**"Oh, Taste and See"**  
p. 39 in front of Hymnal

*Sing after a brief introduction...*

**Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.  
Bless-ed are they who take ref-uge in him.  
Your Word, O Lord, is e-ter-nal;  
It stands firm in the heav-ens.  
Your faith-ful-ness con-tin-ues for-ev-er.  
Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.  
Bless-ed are they who take ref-uge in him.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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**P:** Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day you ascended far above the heavens and at God's right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that at your command and by your power we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

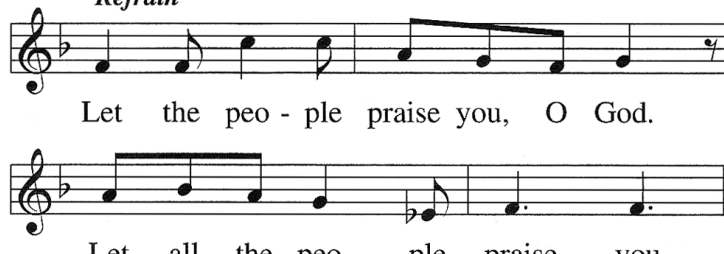
In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." <sup>6</sup> So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. <sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

PSALM OF THE DAY


Psalm 47

pg. 85 in front of the Hymnal

*Refrain*



*Psalm tone*



Clap your hands, all you nátions;\*  
shout to God with cíes of joy.

How awesome is the LÓRD Most High,\*  
the great King over áll the earth!

God reigns over the nátions;\*  
God is seated on his hóly throne.

*Refrain*

God has ascended amid shóuts of joy,\*  
the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

Sing praises to God, sing práises;\*  
sing praises to our King, sing práises.

For God is the King of áll the earth;\*  
sing to him a psalm of praise.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Refrain*

## VERSE OF THE DAY

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**P:** Alleluia. "Surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age." Alleluia. (Matthew 28:20)

**C:** **Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia.**

## GOSPEL READING

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Luke 24:44-53

<sup>44</sup> He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." <sup>50</sup> When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. <sup>53</sup> And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

**P:** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C:** **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

## CONFESSION OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

(THE APOSTLES' CREED)

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ,  
his 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 into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the  
right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and  
the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the  
resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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*Children in attendance today may come up to the altar steps and sit for a special devotion with Pastor Denney. This service segment is intended to be more interactive and engage the children to help them understand today's message. They will return to their seats afterward.*

1 Crown him with man - y crowns,      The Lamb up - on his  
 2 Crown him the Lord of love —      Be - hold his hands and  
 3 Crown him the Lord of life,      Who tri - umphed o'er the  
 4 Crown him the Lord of heav'n,      En - throned in worlds a -

throne;      Hark how the heav'n - ly an - them drowns All  
 side,      Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In  
 grave      And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For  
 bove;      Crown him the King to whom is giv'n The

mu - sic but its own.      A - wake, my soul, and  
 beau - ty glo - ri - fied.      No an - gel in the  
 those he came to save.      His glo - ries now we  
 won - drous name of Love.      Crown him with man - y

sing      Of him who died for thee,      And hail him  
 sky      Can ful - ly bear that sight,      But down - ward  
 sing      Who died and rose on high,      Who died e -  
 crowns      As thrones be - fore him fall;      Crown him, ye

as thy match - less King Through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 bends his won - d'ring eye At mys - ter - ies so bright.  
 ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.  
 kings, with man - y crowns For he is King of all.

**RESURRECTION REALITY**  
**“Christ Provides for His Church”**

Ephesians 4:7-16

<sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. <sup>8</sup> This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men.” <sup>9</sup> (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) <sup>11</sup> It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup> Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup> From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

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**MESSAGE NOTES**

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**#1 Ascended in heaven, Jesus continues to \_\_\_\_\_ you and his \_\_\_\_\_.**

- ⇒ Ephesians 4:7-10; Ephesians 1:22; Ephesians 1:7
- ⇒ Jesus’ ascension reiterates his complete victory over sin, death, and hell.
- ⇒ In glory, Jesus is ruling for his people and continues to give his gifts of grace.

**#2 Jesus uses his \_\_\_\_\_ to prepare believers for work in his \_\_\_\_\_.**

- ⇒ Ephesians 4:11-13; Acts 1:4,8; Matthew 28:19-20; Ephesians 2:10
- ⇒ Christ equipped his disciples to start his church and instruct new believers.
- ⇒ Jesus calls believers to train and equip us to serve his church and one another.

**#3 Christ builds us up as we stay \_\_\_\_\_ to him and reflect his \_\_\_\_\_.**

- ⇒ Ephesians 4:13-16; John 15:4; Psalm 119:105; Colossians 4:6
- ⇒ We are secure when we stay tethered to Jesus and his promises.
- ⇒ As we imitate Christ’s love, we grow closer to him and encourage others.



## 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, visit our website: [www.duluth Lutheran.org](http://www.duluth Lutheran.org) and click on the "Give" tab.*

### ✠ PRAYERS ✠

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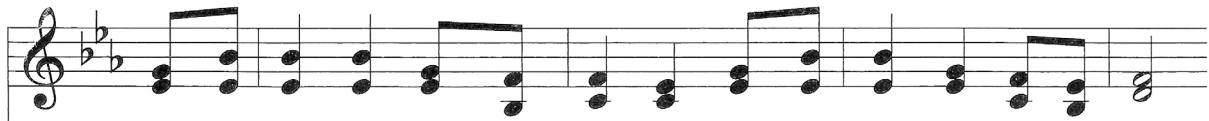
#### RESPONSIVE PRAYERS

- P:** Blessed Jesus, you ascended to the right hand of your Father's majesty, power, and glory and now reign as the eternal King of kings and Lord of lords.
- C:** **We praise you for your victory over sin, death, Satan, and hell.**
- P:** O ascended Prophet, equip your Church to proclaim the precious gospel message of God's love for all the world.
- C:** **Give courage to our hearts, power to our words, and success to our efforts.**
- P:** O ascended High Priest, represent us before the Father as his own dear children and heirs. Defend us against Satan's every accusation. Ask for the Father's rich blessings in our everyday lives.
- C:** **Plead for his mercy and grace on our behalf.**
- P:** O ascended King, direct the affairs of governments and nations that they may serve the best interest of your Church. Keep our minds on things above, where our life is hidden with you, so that when you appear, we too will appear with you in glory.
- C:** **You are our Lord and King.**
- P:** Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.
- Silent prayer.*
- P:** As the disciples lifted their eyes to watch your ascension, so lift our eyes daily to look for your coming again in glory.
- C:** **Come, Lord Jesus. May your grace with us. 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.**

Choir will sing verses 1-2, congregation sings verses 3-4



1 Come, be-hold the won-drous mys-t'ry, in the dawn-ing of the King,  
 2 Come, be-hold the won-drous mys-t'ry, he the per-fect Son of Man;  
 3 Come, be-hold the won-drous mys-t'ry, Christ the Lord up-on the tree;  
 4 Come, be-hold the won-drous mys-t'ry, slain by death the God of life;



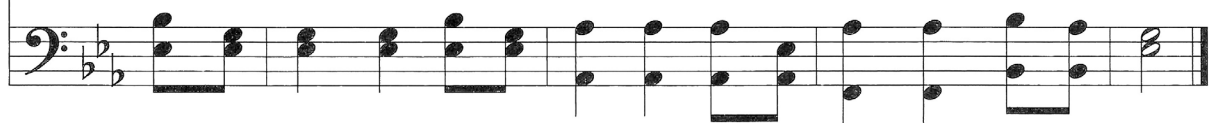
he the theme of heav-en's prais-es, robed in frail hu-man-i-ty.  
 in his liv-ing, in his suf-f'ring nev-er trace nor stain of sin.  
 in the stead of ru-ined sin-ners hangs the Lamb in vic-to-ry.  
 but no grave could e'er re-strain him; praise the Lord; he is a-live!



In our long-ing, in our dark-ness, now the light of life has come.  
 See the true and bet-ter Ad-am, come to save the hell-bound man.  
 See the price of our re-demp-tion, see the Fa-ther's plan un-fold,  
 What a fore-taste of de-liv-'rance; how un-wa-ver-ing our hope.



Look to Christ, who con-de-scend-ed, took on flesh to ran-som us.  
 Christ the great and sure ful-fill-ment of the law; in him we stand.  
 bring-ing man-y sons to glo-ry, grace un-meas-ured, love un-told.  
 Christ in pow-er res-ur-rect-ed as will we be when he comes.



## CLOSING PRAYER

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**P:** Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

## BLESSING

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**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

**C:** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

**“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”**  
CW 169  
Printed on the next page.

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the scep - ter, his the throne;  
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, Here on earth our food, our stay;  
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we left in sor - row now;

Al - le - lu - ia! His the tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Here the sin - ful Flee to you from day to day.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! He is near us; Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.

Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der like a might - y flood:  
 In - ter - ces - sor, Friend of sin - ners, Earth's Re - deem - er, hear our plea  
 Though the cloud from sight re - ceived him When the for - ty days were o'er,

“Je - sus out of ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by his blood.”  
 Where the songs of all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.  
 Shall our hearts for - get his prom - ise: “I am with you ev - er - more”?”