



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS

www.dulutheran.org

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

Office Phone (218) 722-4364 | Email contact@dulutheran.org | www.dulutheran.org

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 or sign up for our weekly email at www.dulutheran.org/subscribe. You can also view the church calendar at www.dulutheran.org/church-calendar.

Office Hours: Pastor Warskow will not be in the church office on Monday or Thursday this week. He will resume his regular schedule the following week. If you need anything during that time, please contact the church leaders or email contact@dulutheran.org.

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

Giving Tree for the Women's Care Center: Thank you to everyone who donated to the Giving Tree! We collected approximately 140 items, from books to toys to gift cards! The items were "shopped" by families who utilize the programs at the Care Center, and wrapped up for their families to enjoy on Christmas. The staff was overwhelmed by your generosity!

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 plan to join us for the following Christmas services:

Christmas Eve Worship: Tuesday, December 24th at 6PM (led by Elder Ryan Bogart)

Christmas Day Worship: Wednesday, December 25th at 9AM (led by Pastor Warskow)



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

INVOCATION

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

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SIN

P: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

P: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: **Christ, have mercy.**

P: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C: **Amen.**

P: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

RESPONSE OF FORGIVENESS

“O Lord, Our Lord”
pg. 28 in front of Hymnal

Please sing at the beginning of the music...

O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.
Almight-y God, mer-ci-ful Fa-ther, you crown our life with your love.
You take a-way our sin; you com-fort our spir-it;
You make us pure and ho-ly in your sight.
You did not spare your on-ly Son, but gave him up for us all.
O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.
O Son of God, e-ter-nal Word of the Fa-ther,
You came to live with us; you made your Fa-ther known;
You washed us from our sins in your own blood.
You are the King of glo-ry; you are the Lord!
O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. [*minister says the Prayer of the Day*]

C: **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

- ² “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”
- ³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.
- ⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.
- ⁵ And he will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our land and march through our fortresses.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

- ⁵ Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; ⁶ with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. ⁷ Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll— I have come to do your will, my God.’” ⁸ First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”—though they were offered in accordance with the law. ⁹ Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

VERSE OF THE DAY

pg. 30 in front of Hymnal

Sing after a brief introduction...

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
These words are writ-ten that we may be-lieve
that Je-sus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:39-55

- ³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

- ⁴⁶ And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name. ⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered

those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.”

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children in attendance today may come up to the altar steps and sit for a special devotion with Pastor Warskow. 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.

HYMN

“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”

CW 23



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
 2 Oh, come, O Root of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa - tan's
 3 Oh, come, O Day-spring from on high, And cheer us by your
 4 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save,
 draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 heav'n - ly home. Make safe the way that leads on high,

Refrain



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 And bring them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 And close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Look to Little Bethlehem!

Micah 5:2-5a

CONFESSION OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

(THE NICENE CREED)

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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is
worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy
Christian 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.

WORSHIPING THE LORD WITH OUR OFFERINGS



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.duluthern.org and click on the "GIVE" tab.

✘ PRAYERS ✘

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Prayer and petitions offered on behalf of the Church

P: Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

C: Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.

P: Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils

of each day and with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

C: Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.

P: Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

C: Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

P: Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

✠ SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER ✠

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Please sing at the beginning of the music...



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.
You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.
I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -
va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: “Take and eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying: “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

RESPONSE

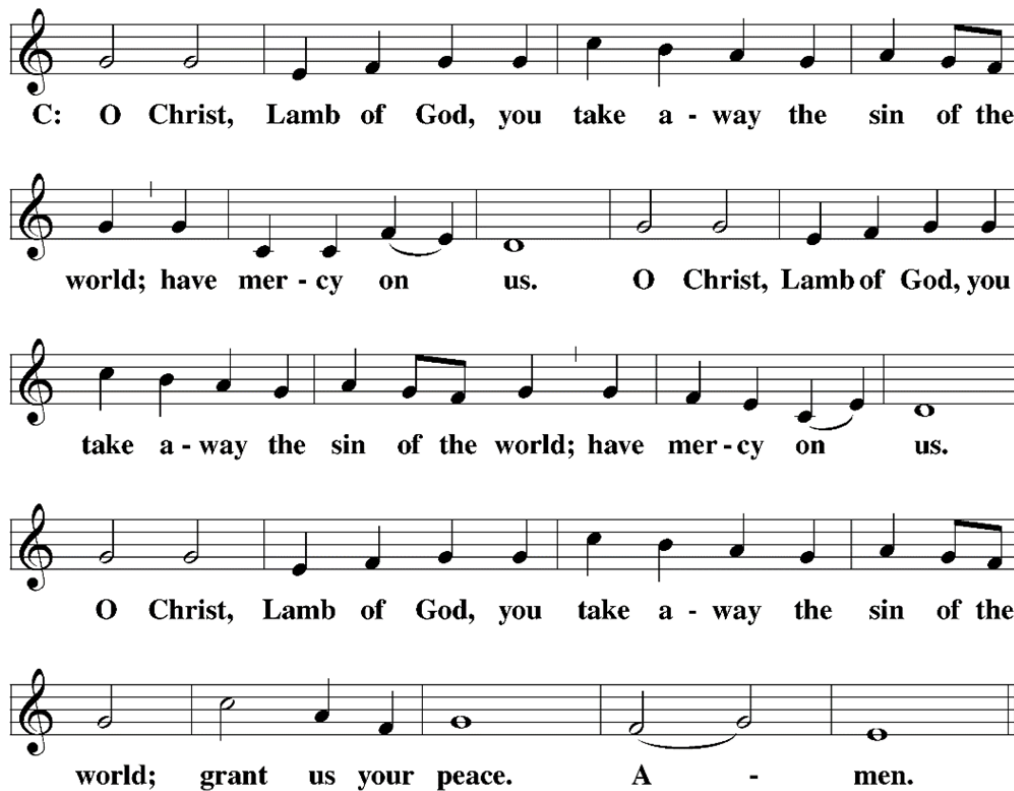
“O Christ, Lamb of God”
pg. 23 in front of Hymnal
Printed on the next page.

RESPONSE

“O Christ, Lamb of God”

pg. 23 in front of Hymnal

Please sing at the beginning of the music...



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION

The Lord's Supper is a wonderful gift in which we receive Christ's true body and blood for our forgiveness and the strengthening of our faith. It is our practice that only those who are members of Shepherd of the Hills or members of another WELS congregation come forward to receive Holy Communion. If you are a visitor from another Christian church, we kindly ask that you refrain from participating in the Lord's Supper this morning. If you are interested in learning more about becoming part of our fellowship, please speak to Pastor Warskow after the service.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior”

CW 313

Printed on the next page.

1 Je - sus Christ, our bless - ed Sav - ior, Turned a - way
 2 As his pledge of love un - dy - ing, He, this pre -
 3 Je - sus here him - self is shar - ing; Take heed how
 4 Use - less would be Je - sus' pas - sion If sal - va -

God's wrath for - ev - er; By his bit - ter grief and woe
 cious food sup - ply - ing, Gives his bod - y with the bread
 you are pre - par - ing, For if you do not be - lieve,
 tion you could fash - ion. Do not come if you sup - pose

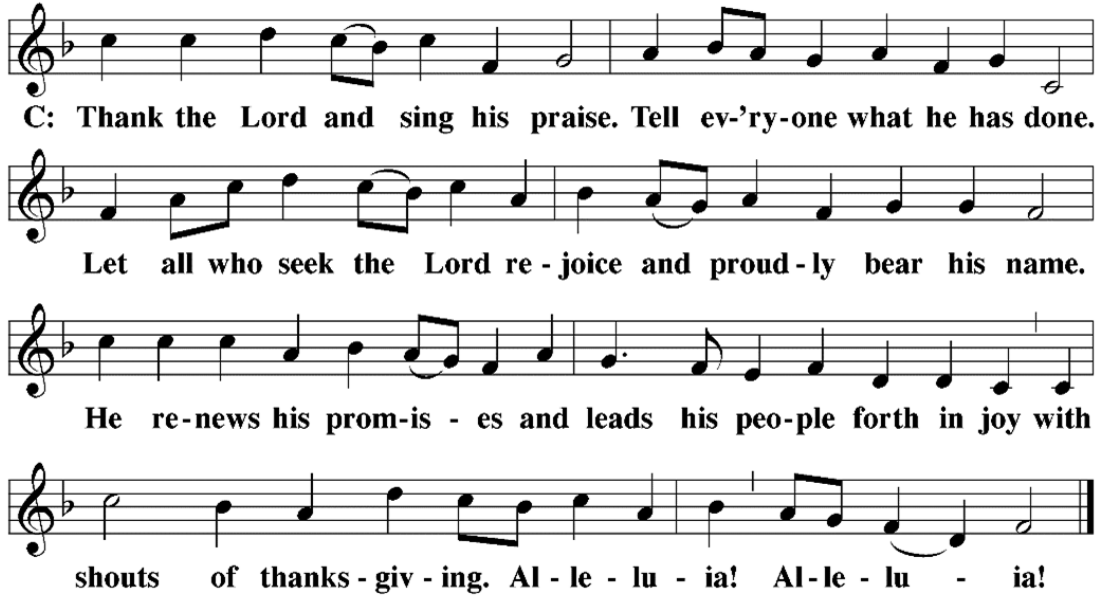
He saved us from the e - vil foe.
 And with the wine the blood he shed.
 Judg - ment in - stead you shall re - ceive.
 You need not him who died and rose.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>5 Christ says, “Come, all you that labor,
 And receive my grace and favor;
 Those who feel no pain or ill
 Need no physician’s help or skill.”</p> | <p>7 Praise the Father, who from heaven
 Unto us such food has given
 And, to mend what we have done,
 Gave into death his only Son.</p> |
| <p>6 Then hold fast with faith unshaken
 That this food is to be taken
 By the souls who are distressed,
 By hearts that long for peace and rest.</p> | <p>8 If your heart this truth professes
 And your mouth your sin confesses,
 Surely you will be his guest
 And at his banquet ever blest.</p> |

THANKSGIVING

“Thank the Lord”
pg. 36 in front of Hymnal

Sing after a brief introduction...



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.
Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.
He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

CLOSING PRAYER & BLESSING

P: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.
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

“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”
CW 28

Printed on the insert.