



The Tree of Rebellion



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS
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 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.

Thank You: A big thanks to everyone who helped to decorate our space for the Christmas season!

Christmas For Kids: Birthday Breakfast for Jesus: Our children's Christmas event will be taking place this Saturday from 8:30-11:00AM. We're still looking for a few volunteers; information is posted on the bulletin board closest to the fellowship hall. The registration information is also there, or you can scan the QR code here:



Giving Tree for Women's Care Center: We're collecting items for the Women's Care Center again this year. All are welcome to visit the Giving Tree and select an item to donate. We ask that all items be brought to church by **December 15th**. Please speak with Kim Kirkland if you have any questions.

Preschool Christmas Program: We are looking for volunteers to help support our Little Lambs by assisting with their upcoming Christmas Program on **Wednesday, December 18th at 6 p.m.** We are in need of food items, help with set-up, or assistance with clean-up after the event. Please scan the QR code to sign-up.



New Hymnal Fund Update: Through a combination of many generous contributions, and one large gift to the New Hymnal Fund, we have met and exceeded our fundraising goal! We will be purchasing the new hymnal soon and will begin to phase them in. Questions? Speak with Brandon Benzer

Lunches for Called Workers/Preschool Staff: Our Care Committee has been providing a monthly lunch to the pre-school called workers and staff. They would like to invite the congregation to help with this by taking turns providing a 2nd monthly lunch! You can sign up for which month you'd like to provide lunch via the QR code or this link: <https://bit.ly/4eGYxYL>. Questions? Speak with Diane Schlossin or any member of the Care Committee.



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1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
 2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,
 3 O Zi - on's Daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,
 4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain

And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
 Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set his ser - vants free.
 Nor let a faith - less heart de - spise The peace he comes to bring.
 And his true mem - bers all u - nite With him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning Day
 Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
 The sinful self be put away,
 The new self now put on.

6 All glory to the Son,
 Who comes to set us free,
 With Father, Spirit, ever one
 Through all eternity.

OPENING RESPONSE

P: O Lord, open my lips.

C: **And my mouth shall declare your praise.**

P: Hasten to save me, O God.

C: **O Lord, come quickly to help me.**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

P: Lord God, you have brought us safely to this hour of evening prayer. We thank you for providing all that we need for body and life. Bless us who have gathered in your name. Forgive our sins. Speak to our hearts. Dispel our sorrows with the comfort of your Word, and receive our hymns of thanks and praise, through Jesus Christ, our living Savior, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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.

“Let My Prayer Rise Before You”

pg. 55 in front of Hymnal

Please sing at after a brief introduction...

**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 our prayers be acceptable in your sight. Come and help us in time of need that we may sing your praise in holy joy now and forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

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.

✠ READINGS FROM GOD’S WORD ✠

FIRST READING

Genesis 3:1-15

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” ⁴“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also

desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." ¹¹ And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" ¹² The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." ¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴ So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

SECOND READING

Matthew 3:4-10

⁴ John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶ Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

SEASONAL RESPONSE

C: The Lord will come again in glory. The Spirit and the Church cry out: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

HYMN

"Come, O Precious Ransom, Come"

CW 8

Printed on the insert.

✠ THE MESSAGE ✠

The Tree of Rebellion

Genesis 3:1-15

Please sing after a brief introduction...

**My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord;
my spir-it re-joic-es in God my Sav-ior;
for he has looked with fa-vor on his low-ly ser-vant.
From this day all gen-er-a-tions will call me bless-ed.
The Al-might-y has done great things for me,
and ho-ly is his name.
He has mer-cy on those who fear him in ev-'ry gen-er-a-tion.
He has shown the strength of his arm;
he has scat-tered the proud in their con-ceit.
He has cast down the might-y from their thrones
and has lift-ed up the low-ly.
He has filled the hun-gry with good things,
and the rich he has sent a-way emp-ty.
He has come to the help of his ser-vant Is-ra-el,
For he has re-mem-bered his prom-ise of mer-cy,
the prom-ise made to our fa-thers,
to A-bra-ham, and to chil-dren for-ev-er. A-men.**

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.duluth Lutheran.org and click on the "GIVE" tab.

✠ PRAYERS ✠

LORD, HAVE MERCY

P: In the closing hours of this day, hear us as we pray, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the well-being of people everywhere, for the growth of your church in all the world, and for the strengthening of all who serve and worship here, we pray, O Lord:

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: For one another, young and old for your blessings that come with every stage of life, and for joy in doing your will, we pray, O Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For our public servants who work day and night to bring protection, justice, learning, and health to this and every place, we pray to you, O Lord:

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: For favorable weather and bountiful harvests, for clothing and food, for health of body, mind, and spirit, and for deliverance from all sin and every form of evil, we pray to you, O Lord:

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: For the faithful who have gone before us, who have shared with us your good news, whose souls are now at rest in your heavenly kingdom, we give you thanks, O Lord:

C: Thanks be to God.

P: In thanksgiving for your many and varied gifts to us, we now commend ourselves to your care. Be our shield and strength, O Lord.

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.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

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.

“Song of Simeon”
pg. 61 in front of Hymnal

Please sing after a brief introduction...

**In peace, Lord, you let your ser-vant now de-part
ac-cord-ing to your word.
For my eyes have seen your sal-va-tion,
which you have pre-pared for ev-'ry peo-ple,
a light to light-en the Gen-tiles
and the glo-ry of your peo-ple Is-ra-el.**

CLOSING PRAYER & BLESSING

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

“O Trinity, Most Blessed Light”

CW 591

1 O Trin - i - ty, most bless - ed light, O U - ni -
2 To you our morn - ing song of praise, To you our
3 All praise to God the Fa - ther be And to the

ty of sov - 'reign might, As now the fi - ery
eve - ning prayer we raise; May we your glo - ry
Son e - ter - nal - ly, Whom with the Spir - it

sun de - parts, Oh, shine your light in - to our hearts.
ev - er - more In low - ly rev - er - ence a - dore.
we a - dore For - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.