



The Tree of Promise



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS

www.duluth.lutheran.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.

Call Meeting: We will be having our second call meeting on **today, December 12th**, following the advent service. All are welcome to attend; childcare will be available in the Fellowship Hall.

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.



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

Sunday School Christmas Service: Sunday, December 15th during the 2PM service

Preschool Christmas Program: Wednesday, December 18th at 6PM

Advent Service: Thursday, December 19th at 7PM

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

“Hosanna to the Coming Lord”
CW 21

1 Ho - san - na to the com - ing Lord! Ho - san - na
2 O Sav - ior, with pro - tect - ing care A - bide in
3 O Ad - vent King, our sins for - give; Come in our
4 Then in the last and dread - ful day, When earth and

to the in - car - nate Word! To Christ, Cre - a - tor, Sav -
this your house of prayer, Where we your part - ing prom -
lives and hearts to live, And let our hum - ble souls
heav'n shall melt a - way, Your flock, re - deemed from sin -

ior, King Let earth, let heav'n ho - san - na sing.
ise claim, As - sem - bled in your sa - cred name.
be - come A tem - ple wor - thy of your name.
ful stain, Shall swell the sound of praise a - gain.

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.

✠ READINGS FROM GOD'S WORD ✠

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

¹A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. ²The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord— ³and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; ⁴but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

⁵Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

⁶The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. ⁷The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. ⁹They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Matthew 1:1-17

¹This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

²Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife, ⁷Solomon the father of Rehoboam,

Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa,⁸ Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah,⁹ Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,¹⁰ Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah,¹¹ and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.

¹² After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,
¹³ Zerubbabel the father of Abihud, Abihud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor,¹⁴ Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Elihud,¹⁵ Elihud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob,¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

¹⁷ Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

“Behold, a Branch Is Growing”

CW 47 vs 1-3



1 Be - hold, a Branch is grow - ing Of love - liest form and
 2 I - sa - iah had fore - told it In words of prom - ise
 3 The shep - herds heard the sto - ry Pro - claimed by an - gels

grace, As proph - ets sang, fore - know - ing; It springs from Jes - se's
 sure, And Mar - y's arms en - fold it, A vir - gin meek and
 bright, How Christ, the Lord of glo - ry, Was born on earth this

race And bears one lit - tle flow'r In midst of
 pure. Through God's e - ter - nal will This child to
 night. To Beth - le - hem they sped And in the

cold - est win - ter, At deep - est mid - night hour.
 her is giv - en At mid - night calm and still.
 man - ger found him, As an - gel her - alds said.

✘ THE MESSAGE ✘

The Tree of Promise
Isaiah 11:1-10

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

✘ PRAYERS ✘

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

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

“Now the Light Has Gone Away”

CW 593 vs. 1, 4

1 Now the light has gone a - way; Fa - ther, lis - ten while I pray,
 2 Je - sus, Sav - ior, wash a - way All that I've done wrong to - day.
 3 Let my near and dear ones be Safe with you e - ter - nal - ly.
 4 Now my eve - ning praise I give; You once died that I might live.

Ask - ing you to watch and keep And to send me qui - et sleep.
 Make me ev - er more like you, Good and gen - tle, kind and true.
 Oh, bring me and all I love To your hap - py home a - bove.
 All your pre - cious gifts are free — Oh, how good you are to me!