

*The Greatest Christmas Gift:
God With Us*



Christmas Day Worship



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS
www.duluthernan.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.

Office Hours: Pastor Warskow will not be in the church office on 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!

P: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light:
 C: **On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.**
 P: Jesus has come! The promises of the prophets are true. Jesus, the Light of the World, has come to earth!
 C: **For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulders,**
 P: And his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 C: **Jesus, the Light of World, has come to earth!**
 P: The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.
 C: **The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.**

CHRISTMAS RESPONSORY

P: Arise, shine, for your Light has come!
 C: **Oh, come, let us adore Him!**
 P: And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you!
 C: **Oh, come, let us adore Him!**
 P: And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising!

HYMN RESPONSE

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”
 CW 55 vs. 1



1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, Oh,
 come ye, oh, come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Come and be - hold him, Born the King of an - gels.

Refrain
 Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Oh, come, let us a - dore him,
 Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

P: Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.

C: **Oh, come, let us adore Him!**

P: And the government shall be upon his shoulders.

C: **Oh, come, let us adore Him!**

P: And his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

HYMN RESPONSE

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

CW 55 vs. 2

2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,
Born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes,
On - ly be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther.

Refrain
Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Oh, come, let us a - dore him,
Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

P: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people.

C: **Oh, come, let us adore Him!**

P: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord!

C: **Oh, come, let us adore Him!**

P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth!

HYMN RESPONSE

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

CW 55 vs. 4

Printed on the next page.

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;

Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n,

Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing.

Refrain

Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Oh, come, let us a - dore him,

Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

P: Let us pray:

Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

✠ LESSONS AND CAROLS ✠

FIRST READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

⁸Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the Lord returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes.

⁹Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The Lord will lay bare his holy arm the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

Refrain



Go, tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills, and ev - 'ry - where;



Go, tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born.

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night, Be -
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo, a - bove the earth Rang
 3 Down in a low - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born; And



hold, through - out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.
 out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Refrain



SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-9

¹ In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? ⁶ And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." ⁷ In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire."

⁸ But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,

With th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

THIRD LESSON

Luke 2: 1-20

¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room for them in the inn.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

HYMN

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

CW 56



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
 2 An - gels sang a - bout his birth; Wise men sought and found him.
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;

There he lay, the un - de - filed, To the world a stran - ger.
 Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth, Glo - ry all a - round them.
 He is still the un - de - filed, But no more a stran - ger.

Such a babe in such a place — Can he be the Sav - ior?
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing.
 Son of God, of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;

Ask the saved of all the race Who have found his fa - vor.
 All the plains were lit that night; All the hills were ring - ing.
 Praise his name in all the earth, Hail the King of glo - ry!

FORTH LESSON

Titus 3:4-7

⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

HYMN

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

CW 52



1 On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing To hear the news the
2 When sin de - parts be - fore your grace, Then life and health come
3 From out of dark - ness we have light Which made the an - gels
an - gels bring; On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing To
in its place. When sin de - parts be - fore your grace, Then
sing this night. From out of dark - ness we have light Which
hear the news the an - gels bring, News of great joy, news
life and health come in its place. An - gels and saints with
made the an - gels sing this night: “Glo - ry to God and
of great mirth, News of our mer - ci - ful King’s birth.
joy may sing All for to see the new - born King.
peace to men Now and for - ev - er - more. A - men.”

✘ SERMONETTE ✘

The Greatest Christmas Gift: God With Us

Romans 8:31-32

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things?

If God is for us, who can be against us?³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

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 ✠

- P: Christ the Lord to us is born
C: **Hallelujah!**
- P: On this joyous Christmas morn;
C: **Hallelujah!**
- P: Of a virgin lowly; He, the King most holy,
C: **Born this day to save us!**
- P: Prophesied in days of old;
C: **Hallelujah!**
- P: God has sent Him as foretold;
C: **Hallelujah!**
- P: Of a virgin lowly; He, the King most holy,
C: **Born this day to save us!**
- P: Our poor human form he took;
C: **Hallelujah!**
- P: Realms of glory he forsook;
C: **Hallelujah!**
- P: Of a virgin lowly; He, the King most holy,
C: **Born this day to save us!**
- P: Vanquished lies the Evil One;
C: **Hallelujah!**
- P: God has saved us through his Son;
C: **Hallelujah!**
- P: Of a virgin lowly; He, the King most holy,
C: **Born this day to save us!**
- P: Grace divine, be with us still;
C: **Hallelujah!**

P: Keep us safe from harm and ill;

C: **Hallelujah!**

P: For the sake of Jesus

C: **Who from sin now saves us.**

P: Grant to us your mercy.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN

“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

CW 34



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to thee.
3 Now through his Son doth shine The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death o'er us had reign - ed Through sin and van - i - ty;
Where the an - gels sing - ing With all his saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
Through thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
He for us ob - tain - ed E - ter - nal joy on high.
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
Draw me un - to thee! Draw me un - to thee!
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

CONFESSION FROM JOHN 1

P: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

C: **He was with God in the beginning.**

P: Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

C: **In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P: There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.

C: **He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.**

P: He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

C: **He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.**

P: Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

C: **The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

BLESSING

P: May the grace of our new-born Savior, Jesus Christ; the love of God the Father who kept his promise; and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit who calls us and keeps us in our faith, be with you always.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Joy to the World”

CW 62



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the



ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; He comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove The glo - ries of his right - eous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.