

A

Savior

IS BORN



December 31, 2023

---

## SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Tim Denney | Office Phone (218) 722-4364 | Cell (517) 392-8494 | [www.dulutheran.org](http://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 this morning or watching online, we are happy you have joined us today.

### WORSHIP SERVICE

The goal of our worship is to praise God and enrich your faith through his Word. To make your experience this morning 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

**After Service Ministries:** All of our after service ministries will resume on **Sunday, January 7th**. We will be taking a break from Adult Bible Study, Sunday School, Youth Group, and Youth Confirmation Class for the weekend of New Year's Eve.

**No Midweek Service:** Midweek worship will resume on **Wednesday, January 10th at 7:30 PM**. During the weeks between Christmas and New Year there will not be a Midweek Service (December 27th, January 3rd).

**Offering Envelopes:** The 2024 offering envelopes are available for you to pick up by the coffee bar area to the right of the entryway.

**Women's Book Group:** Women of all ages are invited to join us as we read "Measured by Grace: How God Defines Success" by Sharla Fritz starting on **January 15th**. For 8 weeks, we will go through the stories of 8 people in the bible who either experienced failure or didn't look successful in the eyes of the world. You'll learn about their lives and time in history and how God transformed them with his grace. We'll also learn how He works in our life the same way. We will have one book group meeting at the end on **Thursday, March 14th at 6 PM**. Please contact Kely Dunsmoor with any questions.

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!

NEW YEAR'S EVE RESPONSE

P: O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise.

C: Hasten to save me, O God; O Lord, come quickly to help me.

*Continued on the next page...*

*Continued from the previous page.*

**P:** Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

**C:** **Teach us to number our days aright that we may gain a heart of wisdom.**

**P:** Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,

**C:** **That we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.**

**P:** We confess our sins together:

**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 merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever, all your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

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

## HYMN

**“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”**  
CW 38 vs. 12-15

12 And so it pleases you to see  
This simple truth revealed to me:  
That all the world’s wealth, honor, might  
Are weak and worthless in your sight.

13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled  
Within my heart, made clean and new,  
A quiet chamber kept for you.

14 My heart for very joy must leap;  
My lips no more can silence keep.  
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue  
That sweetest ancient cradle song:

15 Glory to God in highest heaven,  
Who unto us his Son has given!  
While angels sing with pious mirth  
A glad new year to all the earth.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

---

**P:** Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon our human nature. By his gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

FIRST READING

Isaiah 51:1-6

“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the LORD:  
 Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn;  
 2 look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth.  
 When I called him he was but one, and I blessed him and made him many.  
 3 The LORD will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins;  
 he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the LORD.  
 Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing.  
 4 “Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation:  
 The law will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations.  
 5 My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way,  
 and my arm will bring justice to the nations.  
 The islands will look to me and wait in hope for my arm.  
 6 Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath;  
 the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants  
 die like flies.  
 But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail.

HYMN

“Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love”

CW 76 vs.1-4

1 Je - sus! Name of won-drous love, Name all oth - er names a - bove,  
 2 Je - sus! Name de - creed of old, To the maid - en moth - er told —  
 3 Je - sus! Name of price - less worth To the fall - en here on earth  
 4 Je - sus! On - ly name that's giv'n Un - der all the might - y heav'n

Un - to which must ev - 'ry knee Bow in deep hu - mil - i - ty.  
 Kneel - ing in her low - ly cell — By the an - gel Ga - bri - el.  
 For the prom - ise that it gave, “Je - sus shall his peo - ple save.”  
 Where-by all, to sin en - slaved, Burst their fet - ters and are saved.



## VERSE OF THE DAY

---

**P:** Alleluia. "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." Alleluia. (Colossians 3:15)

**C:** **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.**

## SECOND READING

---

1 Peter 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup> For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. <sup>20</sup> He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

<sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. <sup>23</sup> For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. <sup>24</sup> For,

"All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;  
the grass withers and the flowers fall, <sup>25</sup> but the word of the Lord stands forever."

And this is the word that was preached to you.

**P:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

## 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.**

# CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## HYMN

### "Help Us, O Lord, for Now We Enter"

CW 70

1 Help us, O Lord, for now we en - ter Up - on an -  
 2 May ev - 'ry plan and un - der - tak - ing Be - gin this  
 3 And may this year to me be ho - ly; Your grace so  
 4 Je - sus, be with me and di - rect me; Je - sus, my  
 5 And grant, Lord, when the year is o - ver, That it for

oth - er year to - day. In you our hopes and thoughts now  
 year, O Lord, with you; When I am sleep - ing or am  
fill my ev - 'ry thought That all my life be pure and  
 plans and hopes in - spire; Je - sus, from tempt - ing thoughts pro -  
 me in peace may close. In all things care for me and

cen - ter; Re - new our cour - age for the way. New life, new  
 wak - ing, Help me, dear Lord, your will to do. In you a -  
low - ly And truth - ful, as a Chris - tian's ought. So make me  
 tect me; Je - sus, be all my heart's de - sire; Je - sus, be  
 cov - er My head in time of fear and woes. So may I,

strength, new hap - pi - ness We ask of you — oh, hear and bless.  
 lone, my God, I live; You on - ly can my sins for - give.  
while I'm liv - ing here Your faith - ful ser - vant through the year.  
 in my thoughts all day And nev - er let me fall a - way.  
 when my life is done, Ap - pear with joy be - fore your throne.

## ✠ THE MESSAGE ✠

---

### A SAVIOR IS BORN

#### “New Year, Same Hope”

Luke 2:25-38

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: <sup>29</sup> “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. <sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all people, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” <sup>33</sup> The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. <sup>38</sup> Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

## 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, visit our website: [www.dulutheran.org](http://www.dulutheran.org) and click on the “Give” tab.*

## ✠ PRAYERS ✠

---

### NEW YEAR'S EVE RESPONSIVE PRAYER

- P:** It is fitting, O Lord, in the closing hours of this year, to express our gratitude for the countless gifts of grace we have received from you.
- C:** **You have been faithful to your promises and loving toward all you have made.**
- P:** You clothe creation with beauty; you feed even the birds and tell us that we are much more valuable than they. Clothing and food, safety and health, possessions and money, even life itself – all these come to us from your generous hand.
- C:** **We thank you for these blessings, and we ask that you continue to grant them to us.**
- P:** We thank you especially for your Word and sacraments, which strengthen our faith, shield us from temptation, and equip us for service.
- C:** **Increase our commitment to these gifts, so that we may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Continued on the next page...*



*Continued from the previous page.*

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

*Silent prayer.*

P: As you led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, so lead us by the light of your Word that we may live our lives to your glory and remain focused on our future in heaven.

C: **We ask these things in the name of Jesus. In his name we began this year; in his name we bring it to a close. 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.**

## † 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 to the Lord.**

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

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

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

C: **Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord God of heav-en-ly hosts:  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-  
na, ho-san-na, ho-san-na in the high-est.  
Bles-ed is he, bles-ed is he, bles-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-  
na, ho-san-na, h-san-na in the high-est.**

## 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.

## 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 or ELS 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 Denney after the service.*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"As Angels Joyed with One Accord"

CW 5

Printed on the back of the Message Notes

## SONG OF THANKSGIVING

"Song of Simeon"

*After a brief introduction, please sing...*



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing  
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-  
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the  
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

## CLOSING PRAYER

P: Eternal Lord, a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. Give us a steady hope as we live our lives with the promise of your Son, "Surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age." By your Word which we have heard today and by your body and blood given to us in the Sacrament, give us strength for this new year. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

## BLESSING

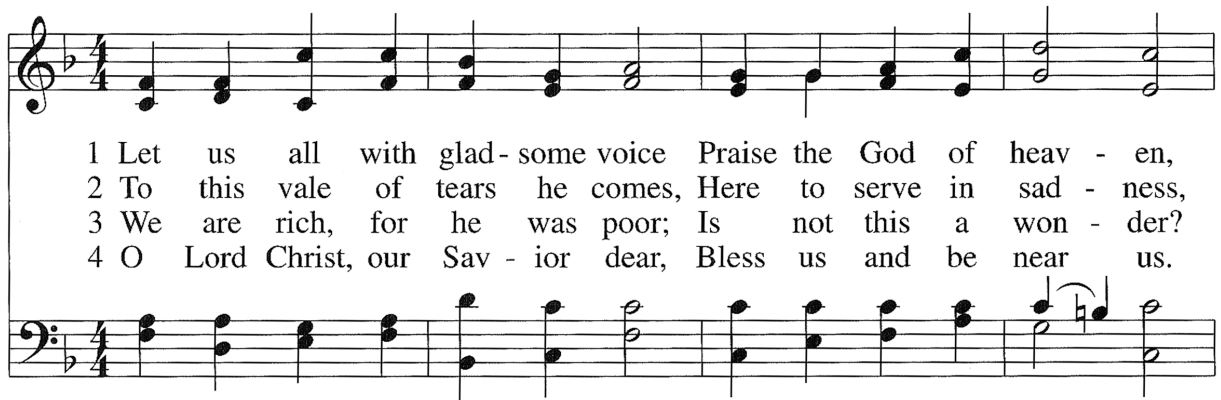
P: May the blessing of the eternal God be upon us: his light to guide us, his presence to shelter us, and his peace to unite us.

C: Amen.

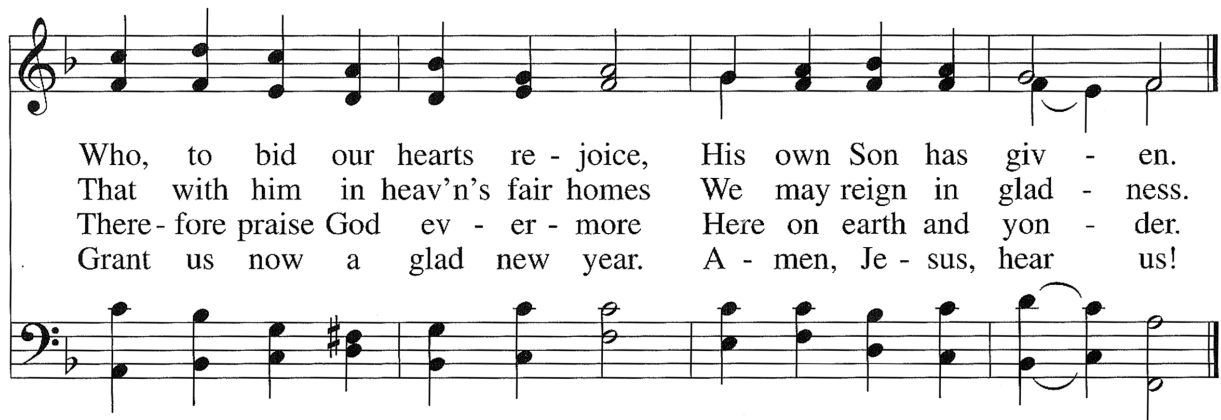
## CLOSING HYMN

"Let Us All With Gladsome Voice"

CW 64



1 Let us all with glad - some voice Praise the God of heav - en,  
2 To this vale of tears he comes, Here to serve in sad - ness,  
3 We are rich, for he was poor; Is not this a won - der?  
4 O Lord Christ, our Sav - ior dear, Bless us and be near us.



Who, to bid our hearts re - joice, His own Son has giv - en.  
That with him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in glad - ness.  
There - fore praise God ev - er - more Here on earth and yon - der.  
Grant us now a glad new year. A - men, Je - sus, hear us!

