



rethinking
CHRISTIANITY

March 17, 2024

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, sign up for our weekly email here: <https://www.dulutheran.org/subscribe>.

Midweek Lent Services: This Wednesday, we will have our last Midweek Lent service at **7:00 PM**. This week we will have Pastor Sam Biebert, from Christ Lutheran in Cambridge, MN guest preaching for us. We hope you can join us as we follow our Savior's journey to his cross.

Midweek Lent Dinners: Everyone is welcome to join us for our last Midweek Lent potluck dinner this Wednesday at **6:00 PM**. We are looking for volunteers to help by bringing soup, sandwiches, a dish, or dessert to pass. Thank you as well to the many volunteers who helped provide food for our meals this Lent!

Young Professionals Event: Please join us for a night of Duckpin Bowling on **Friday, March 22** at Skyline. Bowling starts at **7 pm** and costs \$14 per person. Let Becky Miller know if you plan to attend or if you have any questions. rehomiller@gmail.com.

Voters Meeting: A special voter's meeting is being scheduled for **Sunday, March 24, 2024** to be held after church in lieu of Bible Study. The topic will be to discuss and vote on the recommendation from the church council to increase the overall budget for the Little Lambs Learning Center. In conjunction with this budget increase, we will discuss how it will be offset by grants made available through the state of Minnesota. We look forward to meeting to discuss these changes on the 24th. If you have any questions prior to the meeting, please reach out to one of the council members.

Holy Week: Maundy Thursday service will be at **7 PM** with communion and Good Friday service will be at **7 PM**.

Easter Sunday: On **Sunday, March 31**, we will begin the celebration of our Lord with an Easter Breakfast at **8:00 AM**. Worship will be at **9:00 AM**, followed by a kid's egg hunt at **10:30 AM**. We hope you can join us here as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.

Youth Rally Fundraising: Last Sunday we raised over \$1,800 for SOTH teens to attend the WELS Youth Rally in Fort Collins, CO this summer. Thank you to the Hursts who made a home cooked breakfast and thank you for your generous donations! This year we will have 9 teens attending the Youth Rally. We are still accepting donations for this project and if you would like to help, more information is included in the weekly email or you can speak with Jesse Dunsmoor.

OPENING HYMN

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

CW 255

1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty; Zi - on, let me
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; Come thou al - so
 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed; Here thy seed is
 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en; Let me keep thy
 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee; Let thy will be

en - ter there, Where my soul in joy - ful du - ty
 un - to me. Where we find thee and a - dore thee,
 du - ly sown. Let my soul, where it is plant - ed,
 gift di - vine, How - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en;
 done in - deed. May I un - dis - turbed draw near thee

Waits for him who an - swers prayer. Oh, how bless - ed
 There a heav'n on earth must be. To my heart, oh,
 Bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone, So that all I
 May thy Word still o'er me shine As my guid - ing
 While thou dost thy peo - ple feed. Here of life the

is this place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!
 en - ter thou; Let it be thy tem - ple now!
 hear may be Fruit - ful un - to life in me.
 star through life, As my com - fort in all strife.
 foun - tain flows; Here is balm for all our woes.

INVOCATION

P: Jesus has promised: "Where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."
(Matthew 18:20) We worship, therefore, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN & GOD'S PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. Almighty Father, your Son died and was raised up in power. Now enable us to die to our sin in repentance, so we may rise to new life in him. We confess to you:

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, saw you when you were born sinful and loved you so much that he sent his one and only Son, to remove sin's hold on your life. Jesus' death has paid for your sins past, present, and future. Through faith in him, you have freedom from the guilt that sin brings. God's Word promises you: all your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

RESPONSE OF FORGIVENESS

"Glory to God"

p. 16 in front of Hymnal

Sing at the beginning of music...

**Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you,
We glorify you, we give thanks to you, for your great glory,
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther al-mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.
You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.
For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord.
You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
Are most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive forgiveness of sins and inherit eternal life; through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

✠ READINGS FROM GOD'S WORD ✠

FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:1-7

But now, this is what the LORD says— he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. ³ For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead. ⁴ Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give men in exchange for you, and people in exchange for your life. ⁵ Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. ⁶ I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’ Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth— ⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 119c

pg. 111 in front of the Hymnal



Oh, how I love your law!*
I meditate on it all day long.

I have more insight than all my teachers,*
for I meditate on your statutes.

I have more understanding than the elders,*
for I obey your precepts.

Refrain

I have kept my feet from every evil path*
so that I might obey your Word.

I have not departed from your laws,*
for you yourself have taught me.

How sweet are your words to my taste,*
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

VERSE OF THE DAY

- P: Alleluia. "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Alleluia. (Mark 10:45)
- C: **These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God and that by believing we may have life in his name.**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 5:4-9

- ⁴ No one takes this honor upon himself; he must be called by God, just as Aaron was. ⁵ So Christ also did not take upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father." ⁶ And he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."
- ⁷ During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered ⁹ and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

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

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

"How Firm a Foundation"

New Hymnal

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, you saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call you to go,
4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,

is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent Word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow,
my grace all - suf - fi - cient shall be your sup - ply;

What more can he say than to you he has said,
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
for I will be with you, your trou - bles to bless,
the flames will not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
up - held by my right - eous, om - ni - po - tent hand.
and sanc - ti - fy to you your deep - est dis - tress.
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.

5 "The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not, desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"

✠ THE MESSAGE ✠

RETHINKING CHRISTIANITY

“Rethinking Commitment”

John 12:20-33

²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” ²² Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus. ²³ Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵ The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

²⁷ “Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” ²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. ³⁰ Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹ Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³² But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.” ³³ He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

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 and click on the “Give” tab.

✠ PRAYERS ✠

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Prayer and petitions offered on behalf of the Church.

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 good and right so to do.**

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 brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a true would in turn by a tree be overcome. 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.
Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

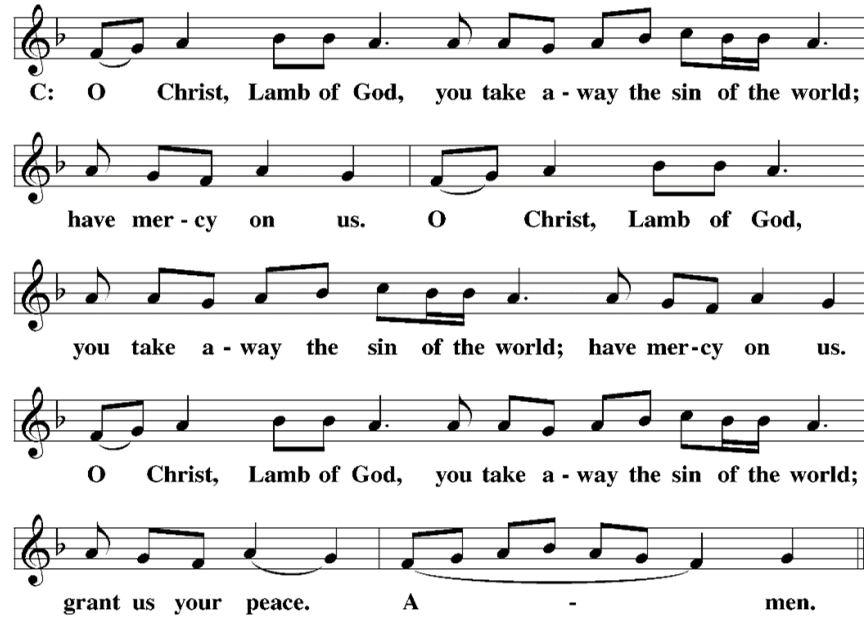
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.**

Continued on the next page...

Continued from the previous page.



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 Denney after the service.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Christ, the Life of All the Living"

CW 114

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 & BLESSING

P: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: 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

“Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle”

CW 122 vs.1-4

Printed on the back page.

CLOSING HYMN

“Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle”

CW 122 vs.1-4

1 Sing, my tongue, the glo - rious bat - tle; Sing the end - ing
 2 Tell how, when at length the full - ness Of th' ap - point - ed
 3 Thus, with thir - ty years ac - com - plished, He went forth from
 4 Faith - ful cross, true sign of tri - umph, Be for all the
 5 Un - to God be praise and glo - ry; To the Fa - ther

of the fray. Now a - bove the cross, the tro - phy,
 time was come, He, the Word, was born of wom - an,
 Naz - a - reth, Des - tined, ded - i - cat - ed, will - ing,
 no - blest tree; None in fo - liage, none in blos - som,
 and the Son, To th' e - ter - nal Spir - it hon - or

Sound the loud tri - um - phant lay. Tell how Christ, the
 Left for us his Fa - ther's home, Blazed the path of
 Did his work and met his death; Like a lamb he
 None in fruit your e - qual be, Sym - bol of the
 Now and ev - er - more be done — Praise and glo - ry

world's Re - deem - er, As a vic - tim won the day.
 true o - be - dience, Shone as light a - midst the gloom.
 hum - bly yield - ed On the cross his dy - ing breath.
 world's re - demp - tion, For your bur - den makes us free.
 in the high - est While the time - less a - ges run.