



rethinking
CHRISTIANITY

February 25, 2024

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Tim Denney | Office Phone (218) 722-4364 | Cell (517) 392-8494 | 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 "worshipping 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

Prayer Chain: If you have a prayer request or would like to be a part of the SOTH Prayer Chain, please speak with Pastor Denney. You can help brothers and sisters at church by praying for them in difficult times or offering prayers of thanksgiving. Prayer requests can be submitted in person, through text, by phone at 517-392-8494, or by email at pastor@dulutheran.org. You can also submit requests through our website www.dulutheran.org.

Midweek Lent Services: On Wednesday evenings, we have Midweek Lent services at **7:00 PM**. These services have a specific focus on our Savior's journey to the cross for us and our salvation. This year on Wednesday evenings we are following the series: "Places of the Passion". Each week we will reflect on a place that Jesus visited in the last 72 hours of his life. We hope you can join us for these special services!

Midweek Lent Dinners: On Wednesday evenings before our Midweek Lent services, we will have a potluck dinner at **6:00 PM**. Each week we are looking for volunteers to help by bringing soup, sandwiches, a dish, or dessert to pass. Everyone is welcome to join us! If you have any questions, please speak with Peter Moeri.

All women are welcome to join us for **Bible study** on **Tuesday, February 27 at 6 pm** at Kiersten Nash's house: 3590 Getchell Rd, Hermantown. We hope to see you there! We will be meeting every 4th Tuesday of each month, so if you cannot make it this time, we hope you can join us for future meetings. If you have any questions, please reach out to Kely Dunsmoor or Kiersten Nash.

Polling Station: On **Tuesday, March 5th**, our facilities will be used as a polling station for the city of Duluth. Voting will begin Tuesday morning at 7:00 AM and conclude at 8:00 PM.

Kickoff for the Senior/Retirees Fellowship! Please join us for lunch and fellowship on **Tuesday, March 12th** at the Social House (located behind Gordy's on Highway 53). We will gather in the back room at 11:30 am. We will plan for future get-togethers, so please bring your ideas and preferences. Let me know if you will be able to join us by texting 651-332-1374 or email: kathyhedin@aol.com.

Women's Painting Event: Join us in the fellowship hall on **Saturday, March 16th at 2 PM** to paint an Easter or Spring themed wood sign. You can select your sign choice by following this link; <https://forms.gle/74XsvfUAvNZu1jhg8>.

WELS Women's Conference: The WELS Women's Ministry is putting on a conference with the theme of "Powered to Proclaim". The keynote speakers and breakout sessions will focus on the work of the Holy Spirit as recorded by Luke in Acts and its application to us as 21st-century Christian women. This will be on **July 28-30th** in Pewaukee, WI. Registration opens soon. Please contact Kely Dunsmoor if you are interested in attending this event with a group from SOTH.

OPENING HYMN

“How Great Thou Art”

CW 256



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der
 2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der,
 3 And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing,
 4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion



Con-sid-er all the works thy hand hath made,
 And hear the birds sing sweet-ly in the trees;
 Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
 And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!



I see the stars, I hear the might-y thun-der,
 When I look down from loft-y moun-tain gran-deur
 That on the cross my bur-den glad-ly bear-ing
 Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-ra-tion



Thy pow'r through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played.
 And hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze,
 He bled and died to take a-way my sin,
 And there pro-claim: “My God, how great thou art!”

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior-God, to thee, “How great thou



art! How great thou art!” Then sings my soul, my



Sav-ior-God to thee, “How great thou art! How great thou art!”

INVOCATION

P: This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. We begin our worship 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: May our prayers rise before you like incense;

C: **The lifting up of our hands like the evening sacrifice.**

P: O Lord, I call to you, come quickly to me.

C: **Hear my voice when I call to you.**

P: Heavenly Father, you will not turn away from us, even though you are just and holy, you love those who act unjustly to you. Sin is ever present and the temptations of the world and our sinful flesh never grow weak. Hear us as we come to you in repentance and confess our sins.

C: **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do. You should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Jesus, your Savior, lived a perfect life, died an innocent death, and rose from death to remove your sin and guilt forever. God's Word declares to you, "your sins are forgiven" in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**
(1 Corinthians 15:57)

RESPONSE OF FORGIVENESS

"Oh, Taste and See"
p. 39 in front of Hymnal

Sing after a brief introduction...

**Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless-ed are they who take ref-uge in him.
Your Word, O Lord, is e-ter-nal;
It stands firm in the heav-ens.
Your faith-ful-ness con-tin-ues for-ev-er.
Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless-ed are they who take ref-uge in him.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: God of all power and might, you are the giver of all that is good. Help us love you with all our heart, strengthen us in true faith, provide us with all that we need, and keep us safe in your care; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Job 1:13-21

¹³ One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, ¹⁴ a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, ¹⁵ and the Sabeans attacked and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" ¹⁶ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" ¹⁷ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" ¹⁸ While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, ¹⁹ when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" ²⁰ At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship ²¹ and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 73

pg. 94 in front of the Hymnal

Refrain

Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and
not be a - fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my
sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

Psalm tone *

I am always with you, O LORD;*
you hold me by my right hand.
You guide me with your counsel,*
and afterward you will take me into glory.
Whom have I in heaven but you?*

And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

My flesh and my heart may fail,*
but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.

**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. "Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross." Alleluia.
(Philippians 2:8)

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

Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰ For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

CONFESSION OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

(THE APOSTLES' CREED)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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.

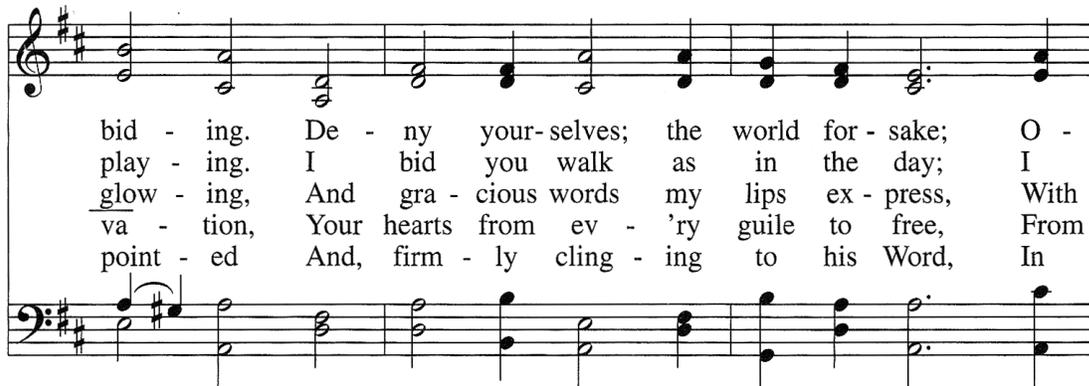
HYMN

"Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spoke"

CW 453



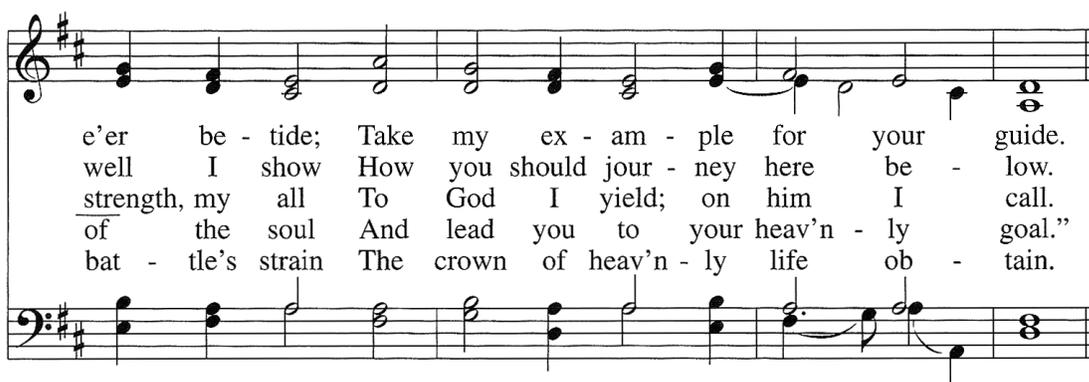
1 "Come, fol - low me," the Sav - ior spoke, "All in my way a -
2 "I am the light; I light the way, A god - ly life dis -
3 "My heart a - bounds in low - li - ness, My soul with love is
4 "I teach you how to shun and flee What harms your souls' sal -
5 Then let us fol - low Christ our Lord And take the cross ap -



bid - ing. De - ny your - selves; the world for - sake; O -
play - ing. I bid you walk as in the day; I
glow - ing, And gra - cious words my lips ex - press, With
va - tion, Your hearts from ev - 'ry guile to free, From
point - ed And, firm - ly cling - ing to his Word, In



bey my call and guid - ing. Oh, bear the cross, what -
keep your feet from stray - ing. I am the way, and
meek - ness o - ver - flow - ing. My heart, my mind, my
sin and its temp - ta - tion. I am the ref - uge
suf - f'ring be un - daunt - ed. For those who bear the



e'er be - tide; Take my ex - am - ple for your guide.
well I show How you should jour - ney here be - low.
strength, my all To God I yield; on him I call.
of the soul And lead you to your heav'n - ly goal."
bat - tle's strain The crown of heav'n - ly life ob - tain.

RETHINKING CHRISTIANITY
“Rethinking the Cross”

Mark 8:31-38

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.”

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? ³⁷ Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

MESSAGE NOTES

#1 Suffering is something that people to seek _____, but Christ calls us to _____ it.

⇒ Mark 8:31-33; Matthew 10:38; Jeremiah 12:1

⇒ Peter tried to convince Jesus that he should turn away from the path of the cross.

⇒ Jesus call us to do something that does not come naturally—take up our cross.

#2 The cross was _____ for our Savior and he empowers us to _____ ours.

⇒ Mark 8:31-38; John 15:13; 2 Corinthians 12:9

⇒ Without Christ’s suffering and death, we would be lost to sin for an eternity.

⇒ As we look to Christ’s cross, we find the strength to take up our own.

#3 One day the crosses we _____ will be replaced with a _____.

⇒ Mark 8:31-38; Matthew 27:46; John 10:28; Revelation 2:10

⇒ Jesus’ cross paved the way for his glorious and victorious resurrection.

⇒ A victorious future awaits all who follow and believe in Jesus Christ.

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

✠ PRAYERS ✠

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

- P:** Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.
- C:** **Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.**
- P:** Let us pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith as Christians.
- C:** **By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.**
- P:** Let us pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and injured, the depressed and lonely, those suffering from affliction, and all who face struggles of life with a heavy heart.
- C:** **Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.**
- P:** Let us pray for those who care for others: pastors and teachers; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.
- C:** **Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.**
- P:** We know that you know all burdens of our hearts and we bring them to you this day silently.
- Silent prayer.*
- P:** Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life.
- C:** **Hear us for the sake of Jesus our Savior. 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.

1. Be thou my— vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Be thou my— breast-plate, my sword for the fight;
 3. Rich - es I— need not, nor man's emp - ty praise;
 4. High King of— heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
 Thou my whole ar - mor and thou my true might;
 Thou mine in - her - i - tance now and al - ways;
 May I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun.

Thou my— best— thought in the day and the night;—
 Thou my— soul's— shel - ter and thou my strong tow - er.
 Thou and— thou— on - ly the first in my heart;—
 Heart of— my— own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,——

Wak - ing and sleep - ing, thy— pres - ence my light.
 Raise thou me heav'n - ward, great— Pow'r of my pow'r.
 High King of heav - en, my— treas - ure thou art.
 Still be my vi - sion, O— Rul - er of all.

CLOSING PRAYER

P: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

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

“Savior, I Follow On”
CW 473
Printed on the back page.

1 Sav - ior, I fol - low on, Guid - ed by thee,
 2 Riv - en the rock for me, Thirst to re - lieve,
 3 Of - ten to Ma - rah's brink Have I been brought;
 4 Sav - ior, I long to walk Clos - er with thee;

See - ing not yet the hand That lead - eth me.
 Man - na from heav - en falls Fresh ev - 'ry eve.
 Shrink - ing the cup to drink, Help I have sought,
 Led by thy guid - ing hand, Ev - er to be

Hushed be my heart and still; Fear I no fur - ther ill.
 Nev - er a want se - vere Caus - eth my eye a tear,
 And with the prayer's as - cent Je - sus the branch hath rent,
 Con - stant - ly near thy side, Quick - ened and pu - ri - fied,

On - ly to meet thy will My will shall be.
 But thou dost whis - per near, “On - ly be - lieve.”
 Quick - ly re - lief hath sent, Sweet - 'ning the draught.
 Liv - ing for him who died Free - ly for me.