



**rethinking**  
**CHRISTIANITY**

February 18, 2024

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## 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 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

**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](mailto:pastor@dulutheran.org). You can also submit requests through our website [www.dulutheran.org](http://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.

Mark your calendars for **family game night!** Everyone is welcome to join us **Friday, February 23 from 6pm-8pm** in the fellowship hall at church to play games, have snacks and enjoy fellowship together! Feel free to bring your favorite games from home and a snack to share if you wish. Any questions, please speak to Peter Moeri or Kiersten Nash.

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.

**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](mailto: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. More details to come!

**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

# "All People that on Earth Do Dwell"

CW 233

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, Sing to the  
2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; With - out our  
3 Oh, en - ter then his gates with praise; Ap - proach with  
4 For why? The Lord, our God, is good; His mer - cy

Lord with cheer - ful voice. Him serve with fear; his praise  
aid he did us make. We are his folk; he doth  
joy his courts un - to. Praise, laud, and bless his name  
is for - ev - er sure. His truth at all times firm -

forth - tell; Come ye be - fore him and re - joice.  
us feed, And for his sheep he doth us take.  
al - ways, For it is seem - ly so to do.  
ly stood And shall from age to age en - dure.

5 To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
The God whom heav'n and earth adore,  
From us and from the angel host  
Be praise and glory evermore.

# 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

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- P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve his punishment. 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: **Lord, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought and word and deed. We have not loved you with all our heart and soul, we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. In your mercy, deepen our sorrow for the wrong we have done and the good we have left undone, so that we may hate our sins and seek your forgiveness.**
- P: God, our Heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Jesus Christ lived a perfect life, and died an innocent death in your place so that your sins would not be counted against you. By his selfless action God has given you an eternal inheritance in heaven. God in his grace forgives you all your sins. Therefore, strive to sin no more and cling to Jesus who gives you peace.
- C: **If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come.**  
(2 Corinthians 5:17)
- P: Through the death and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ, all your sins have been forgiven. Be assured that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life.

## 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

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- P: Lord our strength, the battle of good and evil rages within and around us, and our ancient foe tempts us with his deceits and empty promises.

*Continued on the next page.*

P: Keep us steadfast in your Word, and when we fall, raise us up again and restore us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

✠ READINGS FROM GOD'S WORD ✠

FIRST READING

Romans 8:31-39


<sup>31</sup> What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> 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? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

PSALM OF THE DAY


Psalm 6

pg. 66 in front of the Hymnal

*Refrain*



*Psalm tone*



Ó LORD, do not rebuke me in your ánger\*  
or discipline me in your wrath.

Be merciful to me, LORD, for Í am faint;\*  
O LORD, heal me, for my soul is in ánguish.

Turn, O LORD, and delíver me;\*  
save me because of your unfailing love.

*Refrain*

I am worn out from góaning.\*  
My eyes grow weak with sórrow.

Away from me, all you who do évil,\*  
for the LORD has heard my weeping.

The LORD has heard my cry for mércy;\*  
the LORD accépts my prayer.

**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

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**P:** Alleluia. "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Alleluia. (Matthew 4:10)

**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.

## GOSPEL READING

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Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, <sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.'" <sup>5</sup> The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to." <sup>7</sup> So if you worship me, it will all be yours." <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'" <sup>9</sup> The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. <sup>10</sup> For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; <sup>11</sup> they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" <sup>12</sup> Jesus answered, "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

**P:** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C:** Praise be to you, O Christ.

## CONFESSION OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

(THE NICENE CREED)

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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

### "A Mighty Fortress is our God"

CW 201



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A trust - y  
2 With might of ours can naught be done; Soon were our  
3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, All ea - ger  
4 The Word they still shall let re - main, Nor an - y



shield and weap - on; He helps us free from ev - 'ry  
loss ef - fect - ed. But for us fights the val - iant  
to de - vour us, We trem - ble not, we fear no  
thanks have for it; He's by our side up - on the



need That has us now o'er - tak - en. The  
one Whom God him - self e - lect - ed. You  
ill; They shall not o - ver - pow'r us. This  
plain With his good gifts and Spir - it. And



old e - vil foe Now means dead - ly woe;  
ask, "Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it is,  
world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,  
do what they will— Hate, steal, hurt, or kill—



Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in  
The al - might - y Lord. And there's no oth - er  
He can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is  
Though all may be gone, Our vic - to - ry is



fight; On earth is not his e - qual.  
God; He holds the field for - ev - er.  
done! One lit - tle word can fell him.  
won; The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

## † THE MESSAGE †

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### RETHINKING CHRISTIANITY “Rethinking Trials, Tests, and Temptations”

Genesis 22:1-14

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. <sup>2</sup> Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.”

<sup>3</sup> Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. <sup>4</sup> On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. <sup>5</sup> He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.”

<sup>6</sup> Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, <sup>7</sup> Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied. “The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” <sup>8</sup> Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together. <sup>9</sup> When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup> Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. <sup>11</sup> But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. <sup>12</sup> “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.” <sup>13</sup> Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup> So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”

## WORSHIPING THE LORD WITH OUR OFFERINGS

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*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 †

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### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Prayer and petitions offered on behalf of the Church*

### LORD'S PRAYER

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**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 †

*Prayer of Preparation: Lord God, Heavenly Father, you called me by name and declared that I was your child through the washing of my Baptism. I desire to receive the true body and blood of my Savior, Jesus Christ, in this Holy Meal. Continue to grant me grace, that I may stand before you and the body of believers and faithfully speak of the hope that comes through your life, death, and resurrection. Strengthen me. Grant me the forgiveness of sins and the ability to do that which pleases you; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up unto 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 tree 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

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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.

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

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*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

**"If God Himself Be for Me"**

CW 419

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

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P: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of 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

“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

CW 439

Printed on the back page.

CLOSING HYMN

“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

CW 439

1 Lord, take my hand and lead me Up - on life's way;  
 2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear;  
 3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en And night has come,

Di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me From day to day.  
 For you, the Rock of A - ges, Are al - ways near.  
 I know that you will strength - en My steps toward home,

With - out your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;  
 Close by your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,  
 And noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend!

So take my hand, O Sav - ior, And lead the way.  
 For when your hand is guid - ing, In peace I go.  
 So take my hand and lead me Un - to the end.