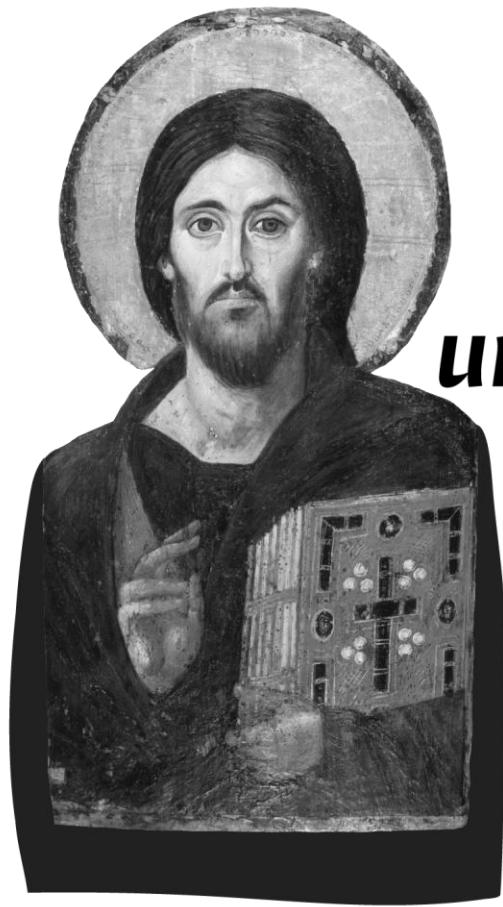




unexpected **TRUTHS**

DID JONAH REALLY... ?

September 20, 2026



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS
www.duluthern.org

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

Pastor Todd Engel: Cell (651) 309-7311 · Office (218) 722-4364 · Email pastor@dulutheran.org

WELCOME!

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 [M] are spoken by the minister, and the parts marked [C] are to be spoken or sung by the congregation. If you prefer to use a physical hymnal or wish to see the songs in four-part harmony, there are hymnals available in the pew stands. **Today's order of service follows Setting Three which begins on page 188 in the hymnal.**

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

Altar Flowers: Today's bouquet is given to the glory of God by Jon & Frances Wittenberg in celebration of their 23rd wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

Today's Schedule: Our fall schedule started last week! Please join us after the service for Adult Bible Study, Sunday School, Youth Group, and Music Ministry. Adult Bible Study will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Sunday School children should meet their teachers in the back of the Fellowship Hall; they will go to their various classrooms or music time from there. Youth Group will meet in the conference room. **Confirmation Class** will also started last week; students should meet in the Fellowship Hall after the Bible Study/Sunday School hour.

Adult Choir: Our new season of choir has started! We will be meeting on **Sunday mornings at 8:00am** up in the balcony. We're happy to welcome back those that have sung before as well as anyone new who would like to join in singing our Savior's praises. Any questions, please contact Becky Miller or Laura Metcalf.

Women's Bible Study: Please join us as we continue studying the book of Amos on **Tuesday, September 22 at 6pm** at Kiersten Nash's home (5569 Lilac Hill Rd, Duluth, MN.) We would love to have you join us for Christian fellowship, snacks and time in God's Word together!

Youth Group Campfire: Students in 7th–12th grade are invited to a Youth Group Campfire on **Friday, September 25th, from 6:30 to 8:30pm**. Join us behind the church for s'mores, yard games, and a devotion around the fire!

Directory Update: The table in the entryway has a printout of membership information for the new church directory. Please take a moment to review your information and provide any updates needed. You can also indicate if you would like a printed copy of the directory (it will also be available online). Thank you!

Blueprint School Update: The congregation meeting to go over the results of the Blueprint Schools survey will be next **Sunday, September 27th** during the Bible Study hour. Everyone is welcome to attend. During the meeting, the Sunday School children are invited to gather in the sanctuary for a brief introduction to the Children's Christmas service.

For more announcements and event information, visit the church website at dulutheran.org/events or sign up for our weekly email at dulutheran.org/subscribe. You can also view the church calendar at dulutheran.org/church-calendar.



1 Lord, 'tis not that I did choose you; that, I know, could
 2 It was grace in Christ that called me, taught my dark - ened
 3 Praise the God of all cre - a - tion, praise the Fa - ther's



nev - er be, for this heart would still re - fuse you
 heart and mind; else the world had yet en - thrall - ed me,
 bound - less love. Praise the Lamb, our ex - pi - a - tion,



had your grace not cho - sen me. You re - moved the
 to your heav'n - ly glo - ries blind. Now I wor - ship
 Priest and King en - throned a - bove. Praise the Spir - it



sin that stained me, cleans - ing me to be your own; for this
 none a - bove you; for your grace a - lone I thirst, know - ing
 of sal - va - tion, him by whom our spir - its live. Un - di -



pur - pose you or - dained me, that I live for you a - lone.
 well that, if I love you, you, O Fa - ther, loved me first.
 vid - ed ad - o - ra - tion to the great Je - ho - vah give.

Stand

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION

M: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: **If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

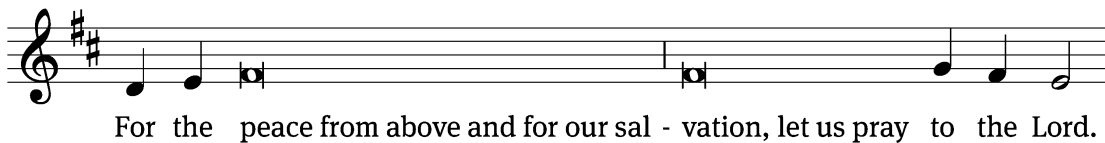
C: Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

ABSOLUTION

M: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy



For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and
praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**
Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.
A - men. A - men.

Glory to God in the Highest

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to
God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,
and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly

Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on

us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the

Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For

you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus

Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to

God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,



SALUTATION

M: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.
Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and promise to reward us according to your grace. Help us to rid our minds of worldly expectations and rejoice that you freely pour out the blessings of salvation to all people; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: **Amen.**

Be seated

FIRST READING

Jonah 3:10—4:11

¹⁰When God saw their actions, that they had turned from their evil way, God relented from the disaster which he said he would bring on them, and he did not carry it out.

¹But to Jonah all this seemed very bad, and he became very angry. ²He prayed to the LORD, "LORD, wasn't this exactly what I said when I was still in my own country? That is why I previously fled to Tarshish, because I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abounding in mercy, and you relent from sending disaster. ³So now, LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live."

⁴But the LORD replied, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

⁵Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city. He made a shelter for himself there and sat in the shade under it, waiting to see what would happen in the city.

⁶Then the LORD God provided a plant and made it grow up over Jonah to provide shade over his head, to relieve him from his discomfort. So Jonah was very happy about the plant. ⁷But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, and it attacked the plant so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind. The sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, so he said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?"

Jonah said, "I do have a right to be angry — angry enough to die!"

¹⁰So the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this plant. You did not work for it or make it grow. It grew up in one night and perished after one night. ¹¹So should I not be concerned for

Nineveh, the great city, in which there are more than one hundred twenty thousand people who do not know the difference between their right hand and their left—and also many animals?”

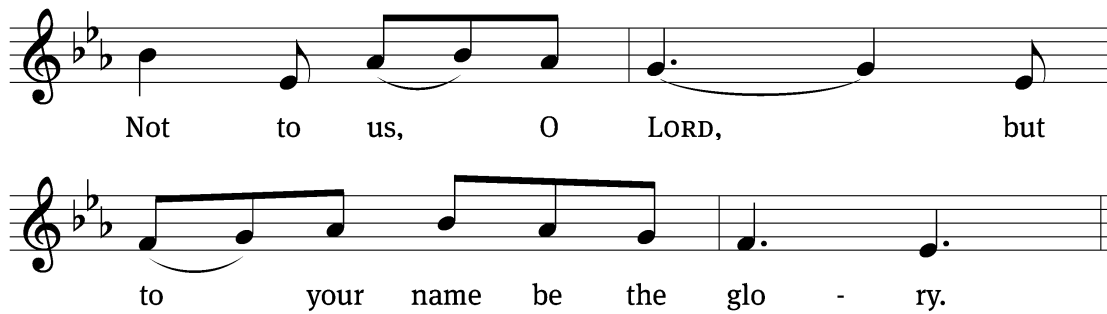
M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 115A

Refrain



Tone



Why do the nations say, “Where / is their God?”

Our God is in heaven; he does whatever / pleases him.

The LORD remembers us and will / bless us:

He will bless his people / Israel,

he will bless those who / fear the LORD—

small and / great alike. *Refrain*

All you Israelites, trust / in the LORD—

he is their / help and shield.

House of Aaron, trust / in the LORD—

he is their / help and shield.

You who fear him, trust / in the LORD—

he is their / help and shield.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son

and to the Holy / Spirit,

as it was in the be- / ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

⁶This does not mean that God's word has failed, because not all who are descended from Israel are really Israel, ⁷and not all who are descended from Abraham are really his children. On the contrary, "Your line of descent will be traced through Isaac." ⁸This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are counted as his descendants. ⁹For this is what the promise said: "I will arrive at this set time, and Sarah will have a son."

¹⁰Not only that, but Rebekah also had children by one man, our forefather, Isaac. ¹¹Even before the twins were born or did anything good or bad, in order that God's purpose in election might continue— ¹²not by works but because of him who calls us—it was said to her, "The older will serve the younger." ¹³Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

¹⁴What will we say then? Does this mean that God is unjust? Absolutely not! ¹⁵For God says to Moses:

I will show mercy to whom I show mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.

¹⁶So then, it does not depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

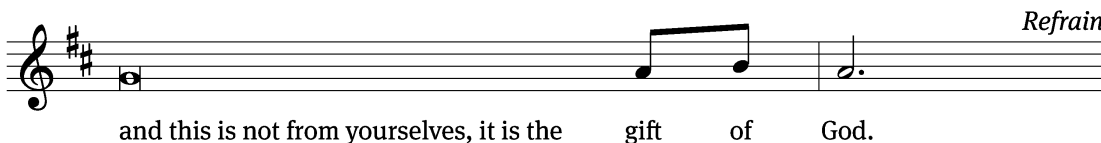
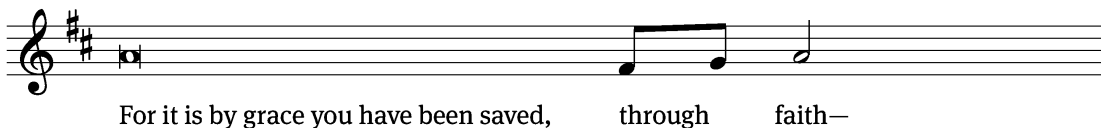
Ephesians 2:8



Refrain



Tone



Refrain

¹“Indeed the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing to pay the workers a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³He also went out about the third hour and saw others standing unemployed in the marketplace. ⁴To these he said, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will give you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour and did the same thing. ⁶When he went out about the eleventh hour, he found others standing unemployed. He said to them, ‘Why have you stood here all day unemployed?’

⁷“They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’

“He told them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When it was evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last group and ending with the first.’

⁹“When those who were hired around the eleventh hour came, they each received a denarius. ¹⁰When those who were hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But they each received a denarius too. ¹¹After they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner: ¹²‘Those who were last worked one hour, and you made them equal to us who have endured the burden of the day and the scorching heat!’

¹³“But he answered one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not make an agreement with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what is yours and go. I want to give to the last one hired the same as I also gave to you. ¹⁵Can't I do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶In the same way, the last will be first, and the first, last.”

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHOIR: What an Awesome God

by Phil Wickham, Jonathan Smith, & Rich Mullins

God is great
Give Him all the praise
Hallelujah, Name above all Names
Fire in His eyes
Healing in His veins
Everywhere His glory on display

Take a look at those stars
He can Name them all
Before His throne every knee falls
The demons have to run

The angels have to praise
Even the wind and waves obey

Our God is an awesome God
He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom power and love
Our God is an awesome God

Our God is an awesome God
He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom power and love
Our God is an awesome God

*And even when I ran
He didn't run away
He came and put death back in its place
Friday on a cross
Broken for my shame
Sunday morning rose up from that grave*

*Take a look at those scars on His hands & feet
He saved our souls for eternity
Worthy is the Lamb
Glory to the King
Oh, let all the saints and the angels sing*

*Our God is an awesome God
He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom power and love
Our God is an awesome God*

*Our God is an awesome God
He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom power and love
Our God is an awesome God*

*Eyes on the Sky
There will be a day
He will come and wipe our tears away
No more fear
No more pain
No more sorrow sin or shame*

*The King is coming back again
A reign of love that will never end
For everything You've done
And everything You do
And everything You are I'll sing to you*

*Our God is an awesome God
He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom power and love
Our God is an awesome God*

*My God You're an awesome God
You're great in all You do
I'm made to worship You
My God You're an awesome God*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children up through 5th grade are invited to come up to the altar steps and sit for a special devotion with Pastor Engel. This service segment is intended to engage the children and help them understand today's message. They will return to their seats afterward.

HYMN OF THE DAY: By Grace I'm Saved
Printed on the next page

CW 575

HYMN OF THE DAY: By Grace I'm Saved

CW 575



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; my soul, be -
 2 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, came down to
 3 By grace! O mark this word of prom - ise when you are
 4 By grace to tim - id hearts that trem - ble, in trib - u -
 5 By grace! On this I'll rest when dy - ing; in Je - sus'



lieve and doubt it not. Why wa - ver at this word of
 earth to bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own
 by your sins op - pressed, when Sa - tan plagues your trou - bled
 la - tion's fur - nace tried, by grace, de - spite all fear and
 prom - ise I re - joice, for though I know my heart's con -



prom - ise? Has Scrip - ture ev - er false - hood taught? So then this
 mer - it that Je - sus died, your soul to win? No, it was
 con - science, and when your heart is seek - ing rest. What rea - son
 trou - ble, the Fa - ther's heart is o - pen wide. Where could I
 di - tion, I al - so know my Sav - ior's voice. My heart is



word must true re - main: by grace you, too, shall heav'n ob - tain.
 grace, and grace a - lone, that brought him from his heav'n - ly throne.
 can - not com - pre - hend God by his grace to you did send.
 help and strength se - cure if grace were not my an - chor sure?
 glad, all grief has flown since I am saved by grace a - lone.

SERMON: Did Jonah Really Spend Three Days in a Whale?

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Stand

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 truly 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.

Be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

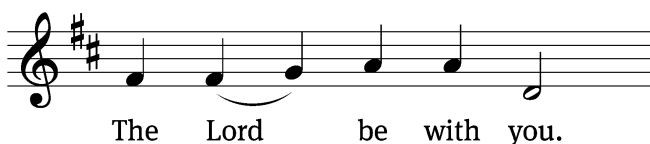
THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

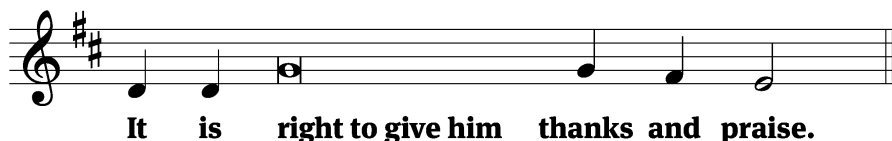
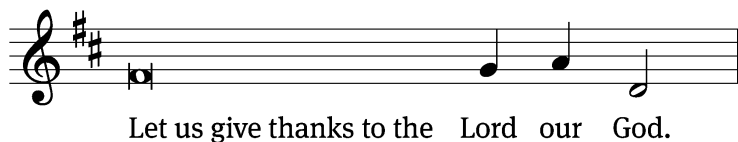
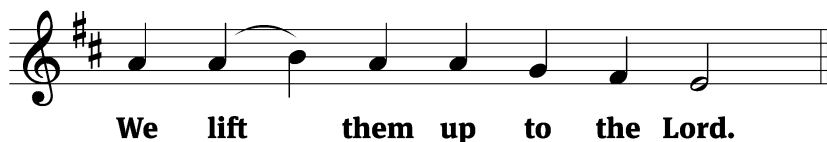
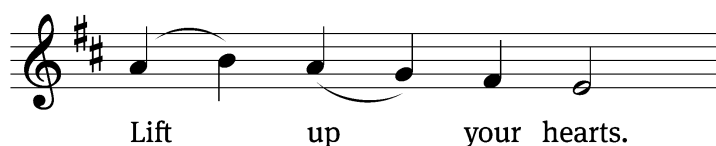
The order of service can be found on page 199 in the hymnal.

Personal preparation and self-examination can be found on pages 295 and 296 in the hymnal.

Stand

PREFACE



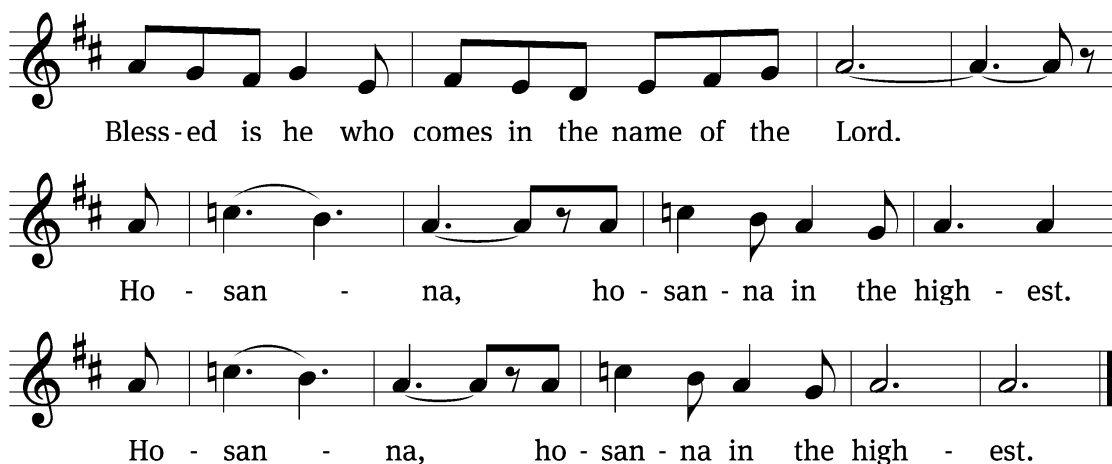


PROPER PREFACE

M: 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 promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy





PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: 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.

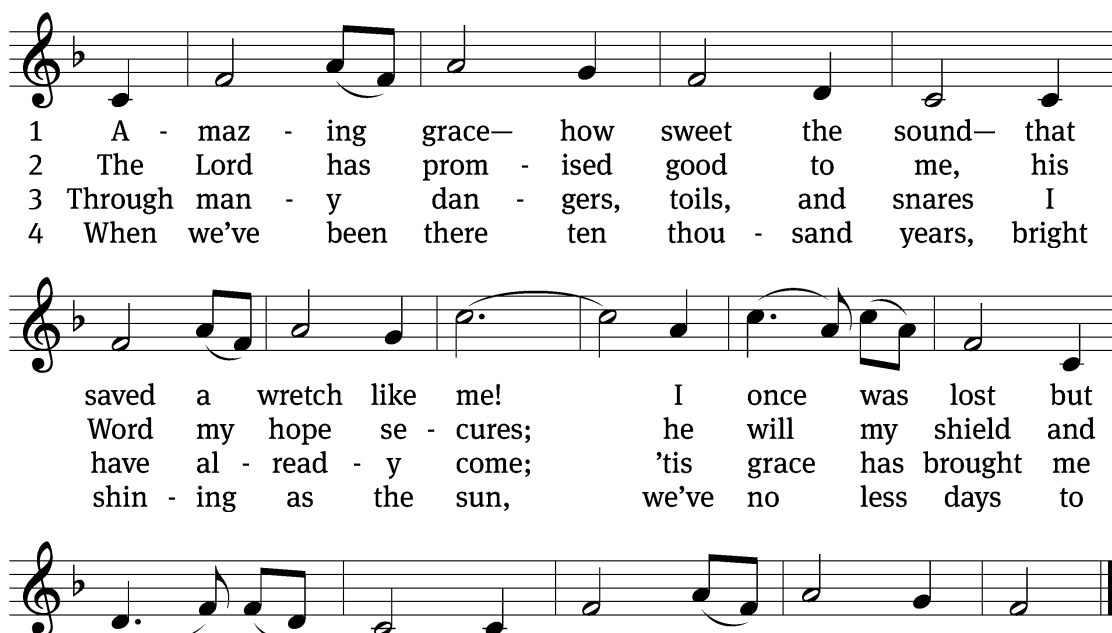
Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us, grant us peace.

Be seated

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 Engel after the service.



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— that
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 Word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind but now I see.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Stand

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

C: **his mercy endures forever.**

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

M: 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 willingly 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.**

BLESSING

M: 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.**

HYMN: Jesus Loves Me

CW 584 sts. 1, Ref, 2



1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so.
2 Je - sus loves me! He who died heav-en's gates to o - pen wide.



Lit - tle ones to him be - long; they are weak, but he is strong.
He will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.



Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!



Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

Acknowledgments

Setting Three from Christian Worship

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September 18, 2026
Dear Little Lambs Family,

The Toddlers

The toddlers started their week by working on their hand-eye coordination. They placed straws into different sized bottles. Then they explored colors and built towers on the light table. They also loved building and playing with the trains. Some of their favorite books were: *Down by the Station*, *Bear wants More*, and *The Wheels on the School Bus*. Next week we will work on our hand-eye coordination.

The Preschool Rooms

This week, we started our number work by focusing on the number 1. Our small group theme was shapes. We started the week by making cookie cutter shapes out of playdough. We ended the week by doing a scavenger hunt around the classroom and playground to find the shapes we learned about. During movement we practiced dribbling a ball.

Looking ahead to next week, we will be learning the letter B and focusing on our five senses.

The Bible Lesson

This week, we learned **God Creates Our Beautiful World** (Genesis 1:1-2:3). God used His almighty power to create the beautiful world that we live in. It did not take him long periods of time to create everything, just 6 normal days. What an amazing God we have! Next week, we will learn how God created man and woman.



LITTLE LAMBS LEARNING CENTER
802 MAPLE GROVE ROAD, DULUTH

Maximize Your Impact with a Donor-Advised Fund

A Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) is a flexible giving account that makes it easier to manage your generosity while maximizing your tax benefits.

Think of a DAF as a dedicated charitable checkbook.

1. Give: Donate cash, appreciated stock, or other assets into your DAF. You get an immediate tax deduction in the year you contribute—even if the money hasn't been sent to the church yet.
2. Grow: The balance in your DAF can be invested tax-free. As it grows over time, your gift can have a greater impact on our ministry.
3. Grant: You decide how much and when to support the Shepherd of the Hills ministry.

Recent updates to tax laws have made DAFs more valuable than ever for everyday givers.

- The "Bunching" Strategy: Under current tax rules, you only get an itemized charitable deduction if your overall giving exceeds a certain percentage of your income. A DAF lets you "bunch" a few years' worth of giving into a single year to comfortably clear that hurdle. You get the large tax deduction upfront, but you can still distribute the funds to the church week-by-week or year-by-year so our offerings remain steady.
- Skip the Capital Gains Tax: If you donate stocks or mutual funds that have gone up in value directly to your DAF, you completely avoid paying capital gains tax on the growth—plus, you still get to deduct the full current market value of the stock.

You can set up a Donor-Advised Fund directly through the WELS Foundation, or you can easily open one with most major brokerage firms like Schwab, Fidelity, or Vanguard.

- Learn more about establishing a DAF:
wels.net/giving/wels-foundation/donor-advised-fund/

Because everyone's financial picture is unique, we always encourage you to consult with your personal tax advisor to see how a DAF fits into your plan.

If you have questions about charitable giving or supporting Shepherd of the Hills, please reach out to any member of our Planned Giving Committee:

Jon Nash
Jake Barr
Pat Fleming
Chris Hill
Jesse Dunsmoor