



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS
www.duluthernan.org

January 4, 2026

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

Office Phone (218) 722-4364 | Email contact@dulutheran.org | 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 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. 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

Today's Schedule: There will not be Adult Bible Study, Sunday School, Youth Group, or Confirmation Classes following the service today. Our regular Sunday schedule will resume on next **Sunday, January 11th**.

Offering Envelopes: The envelopes for 2026 are available under the mailboxes. Please take yours with you.

Pastor Call Meeting: We will be having our next meeting to extend a call on **Tuesday, January 13th, at 6pm**. Childcare will be available. Please continue to attend these meetings; your input is valuable as we continue to seek a full-time shepherd!

Women's Book Group: Our next book will be "Divine Direction: How God Guides Your Path" by Sharla Fritz. We will start reading this on our own **January 12th**, and then meet together for a meal and review on **Tuesday, March 17th at 6pm** at the church. Please let Kely Dunsmoor know if you plan to join! You can learn more about the book and order a copy by scanning the QR code.



Men's Fellowship Event: Please join us on **Thursday, January 15th at 6:30pm** at 7 West Taphouse in Hermantown (2510 Maple Grove Rd). No need to RSVP; just come and enjoy fellowship and a burger together. Hope to see you there! If you have questions, please speak with Grant Holzhueter.

Camp Croix Summer Sessions: Registration opened on January 2nd! You can see the available dates and learn more about the camp at campcroix.org/youth-bible-camp

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



1 Come, your hearts and voic - es rais - ing, Christ the
 2 Christ, from heav'n to us de - scend - ing and in
 3 Ja - cob's Star in all its splen - dor beams with
 4 From the bond - age that op - pressed us, from sin's



Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; loud - ly sing his
 love our race be - friend - ing, in our need his
 com - fort sweet and ten - der, forc - ing Sa - tan
 fet - ters that pos - sessed us, from the grief that



love a - maz - ing, wor - thy folk of Christ - en - dom.
 help ex - tend - ing, saved us from the wi - ly foe.
 to sur - ren - der, break - ing all the pow'rs of hell.
 sore dis - tressed us, we, the cap - tives, now are free.

5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing
 when by faith we grasp this blessing,
 when, O Christ, we come addressing
 thanks to you and highest praise!

6 Gracious Child, in mercy hear us,
 from your lowly manger cheer us,
 gently lead us and be near us
 till we join th' angelic choir.

Stand

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

CONFESSION

P: 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.

P: 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.

Silence for meditation and reflection

ABSOLUTION

P: 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

CW 190

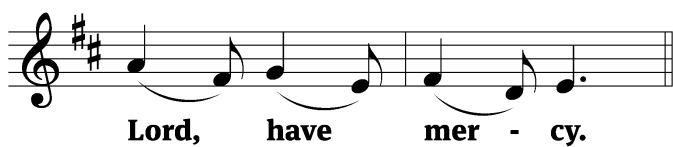
P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.



P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Glory to God in the Highest

CW 191

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,
 and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, 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

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

¹⁰I will rejoice greatly in the LORD. My soul will celebrate because of my God,
for he has clothed me in garments of salvation. With a robe of righteousness he covered me,
like a bridegroom who wears a beautiful headdress like a priest, and like a bride who adorns herself with her jewelry.

¹¹For as the earth produces its growth, and as a garden causes what has been sown to sprout up,
so God the LORD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up in the presence of all the nations.

¹For the sake of Zion I will not be silent. For the sake of Jerusalem I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth shining brightly, and her salvation burns like a torch.

²Nations will see your righteousness, and all kings will see your glory.

You will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will assign to you.

³Then you will be a beautiful crown in the LORD's hand, and a royal diadem in the palm of your God.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:3–18

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

⁴He did this when he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, so that we would be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ. He did this in accordance with the good purpose of his will, ⁶and for the praise of his glorious grace, which he has graciously given us in the one he loves.

⁷In him we also have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in keeping with the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished on us in all wisdom and insight. ⁹He made known to us the mystery of his will in keeping with his good purpose, which he planned in Christ. ¹⁰This was to be carried out when the time had fully come, in order to bring all things together in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In him we have also obtained an inheritance, because we were predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in keeping with the purpose of his will. ¹²He did this so that his glory would be praised as a result of us, who were the first to hope in Christ.

¹³In him, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and in him, when you also believed, you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. ¹⁴He is the down payment of our inheritance until the redemption of God's own possession, so that his glory would be praised.

¹⁵This is why, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶I never stop giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷I keep praying that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, will give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in knowing Christ fully. ¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know the hope to which he has called you, just how rich his glorious inheritance among the saints is,

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 98:3*Refrain**Tone*

GOSPEL

John 1:14–18

¹⁴The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵John testified about him. He cried out, “This was the one I spoke about when I said, “The one coming after me outranks me because he existed before me.” ¹⁶For out of his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. The only-begotten Son, who is close to the Father’s side, has made him known.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

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 Warskow. This service segment is intended to engage the children to help them understand today’s message. They will return to their seats afterward.



1 The on - ly Son from heav - en, fore - told by an - cient seers,
 2 O time of God ap - point - ed, O bright and ho - ly morn!
 3 O Lord, our hearts a - wak - en to know and love you more,
 4 O Fa - ther, here be - fore you with God the Ho - ly Ghost



by God the Fa - ther giv - en, in hu - man form ap - pears.
 He comes, the King a - noint - ed, the Christ, the vir - gin - born,
 in faith to stand un - shak - en, in spir - it to a - dore,
 and Je - sus, we a - dore you, O Pride of an - gel host.



No sphere his light con - fin - ing, no star so
 grim death to con - quer for us, to o - pen
 that we, through this world mov - ing, each glimpse of
 Be - fore you mor - tals low - ly cry, "Ho - ly,



bright - ly shin - ing as he, our Morn - ing Star.
 heav'n be - fore us and bring us life a - gain.
 heav - en prov - ing, may reap its full - ness there.
 ho - ly, ho - ly, O bless - ed Trin - i - ty!"

✠ THE MESSAGE ✠

Rejoice in the Garments of Salvation

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Stand

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.

Be seated

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.

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's Son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death.

C: **You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.**

P: Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

C: **You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.**

P: Prince of peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

C: **Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.**

P: Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn.

C: **Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.**

P: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

P: Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

C: **Amen.**

✠ 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.

P: The Lord be with you.



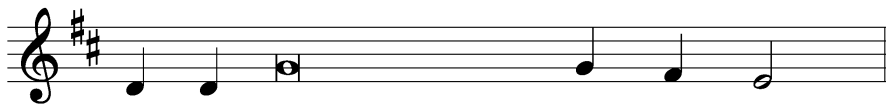
And al - so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.

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



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whose wonderful and mysterious birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 200



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts,



heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: 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

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."

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Lamb of God

CW 202

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 afternoon. If you are interested in learning more about becoming part of our fellowship, please speak to Pastor Warskow after the service.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

CW 363



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, now raise to heav'n our voice;
 2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to thee.
 3 Now through his Son doth shine the Fa-ther's grace di - vine.
 4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground,



he from whom joy stream - eth poor in a man - ger lies;
 Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;
 Death was reign - ing o'er us through sin and van - i - ty
 where the an - gels sing - ing with all his saints u - nite,



not so bright - ly beam - eth the sun in yon - der skies.
 thro' thy grace and mer - it, blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
 till he o - pened for us a bright e - ter - ni - ty.
 sweet - est prais - es bring - ing in heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art!	Thou my Sav - ior art!
draw me un - to thee!	Draw me un - to thee!
May we praise him there!	May we praise him there!
Oh, that we were there!	Oh, that we were there!

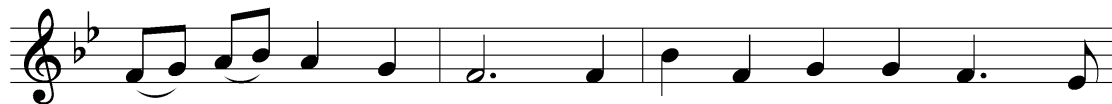
DISTRIBUTION HYMN: Your Body, Given for Me, O Savior

CW 671

Printed on the next page.



1 Your bod - y, giv'n for me, O Sav - ior, your blood, which
 2 With you, Lord, I am now u - nit - ed; I live in
 3 Who can con-demn me now? For sure - ly the Lord is
 4 Tho' death may threat - en with dis - as - ter, it can - not
 5 Thus ev - 'ry pain is dis - ap - pear - ing; one taste my



you for me have shed— these are my life and strength for -
 you and you in me. In you my soul will be de -
 near, who jus - ti - fies. No hell I fear, and thus se -
 rob me of my cheer, for he who is of death the
 heart has come to know— of Je - sus and his love en -



ev - er; by them my hun - gry soul is fed.
 light - ed, as joys in - crease and sor - rows flee.
 cure - ly with Je - sus I to heav - en rise.
 mas - ter with help and strength is al - ways near.
 dear - ing, the taste that sweet - ens ev - 'ry woe.



Refrain

O Je - sus, may your bod - y and your blood



be for my soul the high - est good.

Stand

THANKSGIVING

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

C: his mercy endures forever.

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

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

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 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

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: Once in Royal David's City

CW 343



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and
3 And our eyes at last shall see him through his own re -
4 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble with the ox - en

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
deem - ing love, for that child, so dear and gen - tle, is our
stand - ing by shall we see him, but in heav - en, set at

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er
cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and mean and
Lord in heav'n a - bove, and he leads his chil - dren
God's right hand on high. Then like stars his chil - dren

mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
on to the place where he is gone.
crowned, all in white, his praise will sound.

Acknowledgments

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