

Christ's Advent Brings



to the Redeemed



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS
www.duluthieran.org

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

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WELCOME

We are glad that you have chosen to spend time with us in worship. In our worship, we gather, before Jesus, our Good Shepherd, to offer him our love and praise. Our Lord builds us up in faith through his Word and equips us for living now and in eternity. Our prayer is that the good news of Christ's love touches your heart and transforms your life. Whether you're worshipping with us here today or watching online, we are happy you have joined us.

WORSHIP SERVICE

The goal of our worship is to praise God and enrich your faith through his Word. To make your experience today easier, the worship folder you're holding has the entire order of service. The pieces marked [P] are spoken by the pastor, and the parts marked [C] are to be spoken or sung by the congregation. 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

Advent Service: Our final Advent services for this year will be on **Thursday, December 18th at 7:00pm**. There will be a soup supper starting at 6:00pm. You may bring a soup, side, or dessert to share - or simply come to enjoy food and fellowship.

Teacher Call Meeting: We will be having our next meeting to extend a call for a fulltime preschool teacher on **Thursday, December 18th**, following the Advent service. Childcare will be available in the Fellowship Hall.

Preschool Christmas Program: Little Lambs Learning Center will be having their Christmas program on **Friday, December 19th at 6:00pm**. Everyone is invited! There will be refreshments and fellowship following the program. If you would like to help or donate food, please scan the QR code to sign-up:



Children's Christmas Service: Our Sunday School students will be having their Christmas service next **Sunday, December 21st at 2:00pm**. They have been working hard and are excited to lead the service through songs and narrations.

Candlelight Christmas Eve: We will be having a traditional candlelight service on **Wednesday, December 24th at 5:00pm**, led by Elder Ryan Bogart. We hope you will be able to come be a part of this special evening!

Christmas Day Service: Our Christmas Day service will be **Thursday, December 25th at 9:00am**, led by Elder Ryan Bogart. Please join us as we rejoice in the birth of our King!

Giving Tree for the Women's Care Center: Our *Giving Tree* in the entrance area is decorated with ornaments of items needed by the Women's Care Center. Please tape the paper ornament to the unwrapped gift & place it in the box near the tree by **Friday, December 19th**. If you have any questions or would like someone to shop for you, contact Kim Kirkland.

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, thou long-expect-ed Je-sus, born to
 2 Is-rael's strength and con-so-la-tion, hope of
 3 Born thy peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a
 4 By thine own e-ter-nal Spir-it rule in

set thy peo-ple free; from our fears and
 all the earth thou art, dear de-sire of
 child and yet a king, born to reign in
 all our hearts a-lone; by thine all-suf-

sins re-lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
 ev-'ry na-tion, joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.
 us for-ev-er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.
 fi-cient mer-it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

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.

Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

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

A - men. A - men.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated

✠ READINGS FROM GOD'S WORD ✠

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the desert will be glad.
The wasteland of the Arabah will rejoice and blossom like a crocus.
²It will bloom lavishly,
and there will be great joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it.
It will be excellent like Carmel and Sharon.
They will see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make the shaky knees steady.
⁴Tell those who have a fearful heart:
Be strong.
Do not be afraid.
Look! Your God will come with vengeance.
With God's own retribution, he will come and save you.

⁵Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,
and the ears of the deaf will be unplugged.
⁶The crippled will leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy.
Waters will flow in the wilderness,
and streams in the wasteland.
⁷The burning sand will become a pool,
and in the thirsty ground there will be springs of water.
There will be grass, reeds, and rushes where the haunts of jackals once lay.

⁸A highway will be there,
a road that will be called the holy way.
The impure will not walk there.
It will be reserved for those who walk in that holy way.
Wicked fools will not wander onto it.
⁹No lion will be there,
nor will any ferocious animal go up on it.
They will not be found there,
but only the redeemed will walk there.
¹⁰Then those ransomed by the LORD will return.
They will enter Zion with a joyful shout,
and everlasting joy will crown their heads.
Happiness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Robert A. Hobby

SECOND READING

James 5:7–11

⁷Therefore, brothers, be patient until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the valuable harvest from the ground, patiently waiting for it, until it receives the early and late rain. ⁸You be patient too. Strengthen your hearts because the coming of the Lord is near.

⁹Do not complain about one another, brothers, so that you will not be judged. Look! The Judge is standing at the doors!
¹⁰Brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of suffering with patient endurance. ¹¹See, we consider those who endured to be blessed. You have heard of the patient endurance of Job and have seen what the Lord did in the end, because the Lord is especially compassionate and merciful.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

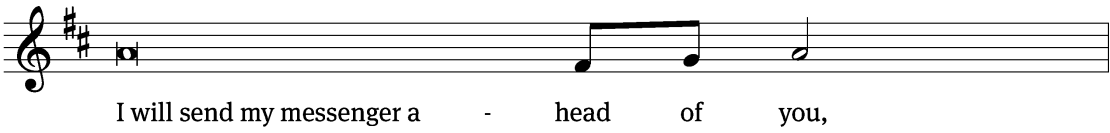
Matthew 11:10



Refrain



Tone



GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2–11

²While John was in prison, he heard about the things Christ was doing. He sent two of his disciples ³to ask him, “Are you the Coming One or should we wait for someone else?”

⁴Jesus answered them, “Go, report to John what you hear and see: ⁵The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the gospel is preached to the poor. ⁶Blessed is the one who does not take offense at me.”

⁷As these two were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the crowds about John. “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? No, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹So what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you! And he is much more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, ‘Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Amen I tell you: Among those born of women there has not appeared anyone greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

- 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 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
 3 Re - joice, then, you sad-heart - ed, who sit in deep-est gloom,
 4 Sin's debt, that fear - ful bur - den, let not your souls dis - tress;
 5 He comes to judge the na - tions, a ter - ror to his foes,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light.
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
 who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.
 your guilt the Lord will par - don and cov - er by his grace.
 a light of con - so - la - tion and bless - ed hope to those



O Je - sus, let your Word be a lamp to light my way,
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing that led you to em - brace
 De - spair not; he is near you, he's stand - ing at the door
 He comes, for you pro - cur - ing the peace of sin for - giv'n,
 who love the Lord's ap - pear - ing. O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to show me how to please you, to guide me ev - 'ry day.
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race!
 who best can help and cheer you and bids you weep no more.
 his chil - dren thus se - cur - ing e - ter - nal life in heav'n.
 send forth your beams most cheer - ing, and guide us safe - ly home.

✠ THE MESSAGE ✠

Christ's Advent Brings Joy to the Redeemed
 Isaiah 35:1-10

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: Gracious Lord, you sent your Son into our world to destroy the power of Satan and restore the human race as your children and heirs. Work in us during this Advent season so that we may rejoice in the coming of our Savior and long for his coming again.
- C: Make us eager to receive the King who comes to save us.**
- P: Use the preaching of your holy law to rid us of all delusions that we can gain your love with our own efforts. Move us to realize how hopeless we are because of sin and to feel sorrow for what we have done wrong.
- C: Lead us to be honest about our sinful status in your sight.**
- P: Lift up our hearts to see the King who comes to save. Reveal to us his willingness to take on our human form and stand in our place. Show us the power he extends in his Word and sacraments to make us your children and keep us in faith. Thrill us with his promise to come and take us to our eternal home to live with you forever.
- C: Open our eyes to see and believe the wonders of the Savior's love.**
- P: As we live with Christ and trust in him, move us to turn away from sin day after day with the strength your Holy Spirit provides. When we fall, forgive us and renew us to love and serve you and all people.
- C: Empower us and guide us to walk with Christ by faith.**

P: Protect us from the distractions that come at this time of the year. Even in gift-giving and celebrating, keep our hearts focused on Christ and his forgiving love.

C: **Give us joy at his coming at Christmas, his coming in the gospel, and his coming again.**

P: Move us to share with others the most important gift of this season, the truth about Jesus. Even in busy times lead us to pray for those whose joy is diminished because of sickness, pain, or loss. [Especially bless... *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Give us opportunities to provide help to those in need.

C: **May others see the love of Christ in our words and actions.**

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

Silent prayer

P: Loving Lord, work in us during this Advent season so that our joy may be genuine and may rest in the promises of the King who comes to save.

C: **Come, Lord Jesus. 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.



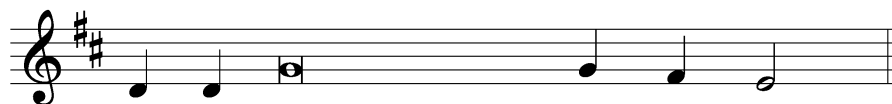
And al - so with you.

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, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he

called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. 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."

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



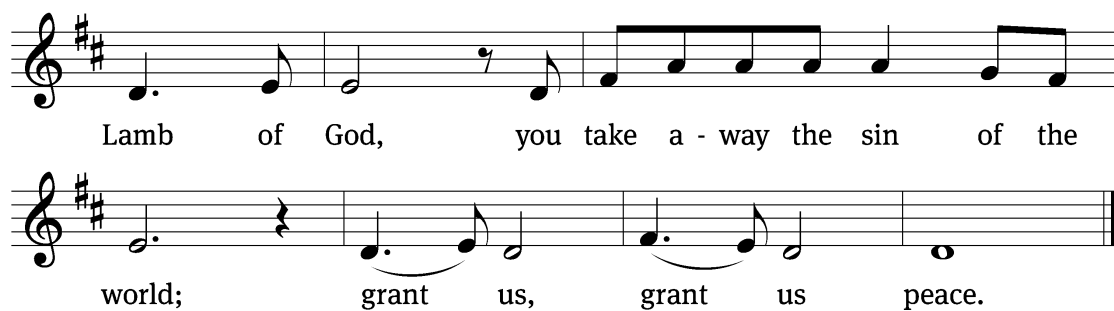
world; have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us.



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 Warskow after the service.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: Of the Father's Love Begotten

CW 358

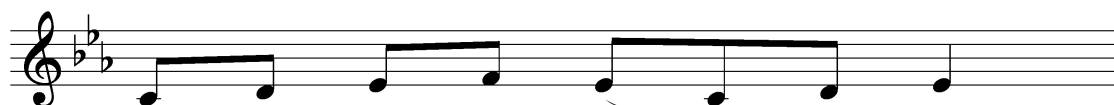
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1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers and sa - ges sang of old with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him, an - gel hosts his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing, pow'rs, do - min - ions bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he,
 bore the Sav - ior of our race,
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word.
 and ex - tol our God and King.
 and un - end - ing prais - es be,



of the things that are, that have been,
 and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er,
 Now he shines, the long - ex - pect - ed;
 Let no tongue on earth be si - lent,
 hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion



and that fu - ture years shall see ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 first re - vealed his sa - cred face ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 let cre - a - tion praise its Lord ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

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: There Is a Redeemer

CW 519



1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son,
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names,
3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see his face;



pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.
pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, hope_ for sin - ners slain.
there I'll serve my King for-ev - er in___ that ho - ly place.

Refrain



Thank you, O my Fa - ther, for giv-ing us your Son



and leav - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

Acknowledgments

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