



Lowering Our Defenses
Ash Wednesday Service



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS
www.duluthernan.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.

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

Call Meeting: We will be having our call meeting after this evening's service. Everyone is encouraged to stay for it.

Men's Fellowship Event: There is a Men's Fellowship Bockfest Event planned for this **Saturday, March 8th, starting at 11am**. We will meet at the parsonage for a Bible Study centered on the Book of Titus and then bundle up to partake in some smoked meats, sauerkraut, Polka Music, Hammerschlagen, and fire-poked bock beer outside around a fire. Contact Peter Moeri with any questions.

Senior Fellowship Lunch: Please join us for lunch on **Tuesday, March 11th at 11:30 am**. We will meet in the small room at Valentini's, 4960 Miller Trunk Hwy. RSVP by text to Kathy Hedin, 651-332-1374. Hope to see you there!

Women's Book Group Updates:

- **Current Book:** We will meet at church on **Monday, March 31st at 6pm** to share a meal and review the book "Elijah: Faith and Fire" by Priscilla Shirer.
- **Upcoming Book:** Please join us starting **April 7th** as we read Amber Albee Swenson's newest book "Seeking a Gentle and Quiet Spirit in a Harsh and Noisy World", a 12 lesson women's Bible study book based on 1 Peter 3. There will be a book club meeting on **Thursday, July 10th**. Please email Kely Dunsmoor (kjdunsmoor@gmail.com) if you plan to join.

New Hymnal Practice: If anyone would like to continue practicing the liturgy from the new hymnals, we will continue to meet on Sunday afternoons at 1:00 before service. Please speak with Laura Metcalf if you have any questions.

Women's Bible Study: Please mark your calendars for the next Bible study on **Tuesday, March 25th at 6pm**, at church.

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 To - day your mer - cy calls us to wash a - way our sin.
 2 To - day your gate is o - pen, and all who en - ter in
 3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us, his Ho - ly Spir - it waits;
 4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, what - ev - er we have been,
 shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come and par - don for their sin.
 his bless - ed an - gels gath - er a - round the heav'n - ly gates.
 what should we do with - out you when heart and eye run o'er?



how - ev - er long from mer - cy our hearts have turned a - way,
 The past shall be for - got - ten, a pres - ent joy be giv'n,
 No ques - tion will be asked us how of - ten we have come;
 When all things seem a - gainst us, to drive us to de - spair,



your pre - cious blood can wash us and make us clean to - day.
 a fu - ture grace be prom - ised, a glo - rious crown in heav'n.
 al - though we oft have wan - dered, it is our Fa - ther's home.
 we know one gate is o - pen, one ear will hear our prayer.

Stand

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

CW 154

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.

ABSOLUTION

CW 154

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

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.

Be seated

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, you never despise what you have made and always forgive those who turn to you. Create in us such new and contrite hearts that we may truly repent of our sins and obtain your full and gracious pardon; 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

✠ READINGS FROM GOD'S WORD ✠

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 12:1–13

David and Nathan

¹So the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came and told him this:

There were two men in a city. One was rich and one poor. ²The rich man had a large number of flocks and herds. ³The poor man did not own anything except one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He raised it so that it grew up together with him and his children. It ate from his food and drank from his cup. It slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

⁴When a traveler came to the rich man, the rich man was unwilling to take an animal from his flock or from his herd to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. So he took the lamb from the poor man and prepared it for the man who had come to him.

⁵David's anger flared up against that man. He said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this is as good as dead. ⁶In place of that lamb, he will restore four lambs, because he did this and had no pity."

⁷Nathan told David, "You are the man."

The Message of Judgment Against David

This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says.

I anointed you king over Israel. I rescued you from the hand of Saul. ⁸I gave the house of your master to you, and I gave the wives of your master into your embrace. I gave you the house of Israel and the house of Judah. If this was too little, I would have added even more. ⁹Why have you despised the word of the LORD by doing evil in his eyes? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword. You have taken his wife as your own wife. You have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰So now the sword will not depart from your house forever, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.

¹¹This is what the LORD says. Look! I am raising up disaster against you from your own house. Right in front of your eyes I will take your wives and give them to your neighbor, and he will lie down with your wives in the sight of the sun. ¹²Because you acted in secret, I will do this in front of all Israel in broad daylight.

¹³David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."

Nathan said to David, "The LORD himself has put away your sin. You will not die.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2

²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, inasmuch as God is making an appeal through us. We urge you, on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

¹As fellow workers we also urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ²For he says:

At a favorable time I listened to you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you.

Look, now is the favorable time! See, now is the day of salvation!

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Joel 2:13



Refrain



Glo - ry, praise, and hon - or to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.

Tone



Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and com - pas - sion - ate,



slow to anger and abound - ing in love.

Refrain

GOSPEL

Luke 18:9–14

The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

⁹Jesus told this parable to certain people who trusted in themselves (that they were righteous) and looked down on others: ¹⁰"Two men went up to the temple courts to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood and prayed about himself like this: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people, robbers, evildoers, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week. I give a tenth of all my income.'

¹³"However the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even lift his eyes up to heaven, but was beating his chest and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

¹⁴"I tell you, this man went home justified rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN: Savior, When in Dust to You

CW 393



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to you low we bow in hom - age due,
2 By your help - less in - fant years, by your life of want and tears,
3 By your hour of dire de - spair, by your ag - o - ny of prayer,
4 By your deep ex - pir - ing groan, by the sad se - pul - chral stone,



when, re - pent - ant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes,
by your days of deep dis - tress in the sav - age wil - der - ness,
by the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn,
by the vault whose dark a - bode held in vain the ris - ing God,



O, by all your pains and woe suf - fered once for us be - low,
by the dread, mys - te - rious hour of th' in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r,
by the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice,
O, from earth to heav'n re - stored, might - y, re - as - cend - ed Lord,



bend - ing from your throne on high, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
turn, O turn a fa - v'ring eye, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
lis - ten to our hum - ble sigh, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
bend - ing from your throne on high, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

✠ THE MESSAGE ✠

Lowering Our Defenses

2 Samuel 12:1-13

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.

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

C: Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

P: Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

C: Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

P: Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

C: Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

P: Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

C: Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

P: Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

C: Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

P: Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

C: **Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.**

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

Silent prayer

P: We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

C: **Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.**

P: Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

C: **Amen.**

✠ SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER ✠

Stand

PREFACE

CW 165

P: The Lord be with you.



P: Lift up your hearts.



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



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:

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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with 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.

O Christ, Lamb of God

CW 169

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.

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: Jesus Sinners Does Receive

CW 654

Printed on the insert.

Stand

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: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. 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.

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: Jesus Paid It All

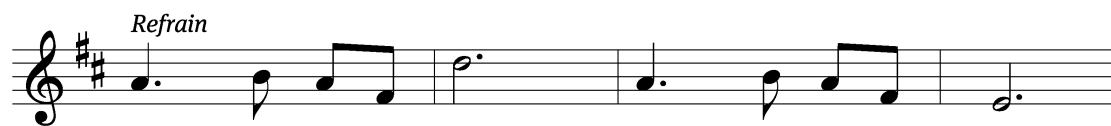
CW 562



1 I hear the Sav - ior say, "Thy strength in - deed is small!
2 Lord, now in - deed I find thy pow'r, and thine a - lone
3 For noth - ing good have I where - by thy grace to claim;
4 And when, be - fore the throne, I stand in him com - plete,



Child of weak - ness, watch and pray, find in me thine all in all."
can _ change the lep - er's spots and _ melt the heart of stone.
I'll _ wash my gar - ments white in the blood of Cal - v'ry's Lamb.
"Je - sus died my soul to save," my _ lips shall still re - peat.



Je - sus paid it all, all to him I owe;



sin had left a crim - son stain, he washed it white as snow.