

The Beginning of the End >

Live as Citizens of Heaven

October 4, 2026



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS
www.duluthernan.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 One which begins on page 154 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 of flowers is given to the glory of God by David and Diana Larson in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

Women's Book Group: We will meet at church this **Thursday, October 8th, at 6pm** to share a meal and review the book "The Body Teaches the Soul" by Justin Whitmel Earley. Please let Kely Dunsmoor know if you plan to attend.

Junior Accompanists: If you have a child or teen who would be interested in playing the piano during the offering for upcoming services, please speak with Dawn Bird, in person or text 218-525-2408 or email birdhouse101993@gmail.com. We'd love to have them use their God-given musical talents in our services!

Congregational Services Meeting: Pastor Hein from WELS Congregational Services will be having a congregation meeting with us on **Saturday, October 17th at 10am**. This is a reschedule of the meeting from April. The goal is to help us determine short term and long-term goals as a congregation. Childcare will be provided and following the meeting, the church will provide a meal for all participants and their families. Please come and provide input to determine the future of the work our congregation does!

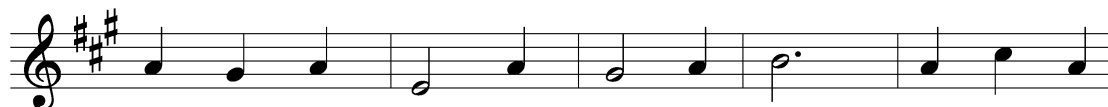
Voters Meeting: We will be having a voters meeting on **Sunday, October 18th** in lieu of Bible Study.

Camp Croix 3rd Annual Fundraiser Event: Please join us on October 24th from 2-5pm at St. Croix Lutheran Academy to celebrate the completion of the new Ministry Center! There will be food, fellowship, silent and live auctions, as well as other fun activities. Learn more and register at campcroix.org/launch. **Interested in donating to the silent auction?** Please reach out to Jon or Kiersten Nash. Thank you for supporting Camp Croix!

Silent Auction & Pie Social: Save the date for **Saturday, November 21st from 2-4pm** for our annual Silent Auction & Pie Social! Join us for pie, bingo, and a silent auction to raise funds for the local food bank, Second Harvest Northland. Please consider donating a pie or an item for the auction to help make this another fun and successful event!

Food Drive: We will be hosting a food drive during the month of November. Please plan to bring any nonperishable food items you wish to donate; we will be collecting for Second Harvest Northland.

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 Fight the good fight with all your might; Christ is your
 2 Run the straight race through God's good grace; lift up your
 3 Cast care a - side, lean on your guide; his bound-less
 4 Faint not nor fear, his arms are near; he chang - es



strength and Christ your right. Lay hold on life, and
 eyes and seek his face. Life with its way be -
 mer - cy will pro - vide. Lean, and the trust - ing
 not, and you are dear. On - ly be - lieve, and



it shall be your joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.
 fore us lies; Christ is the path and Christ the prize.
 soul shall prove Christ is its life and Christ its love.
 you will see that Christ is Lord e - ter - nal - ly.

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.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

ABSOLUTION

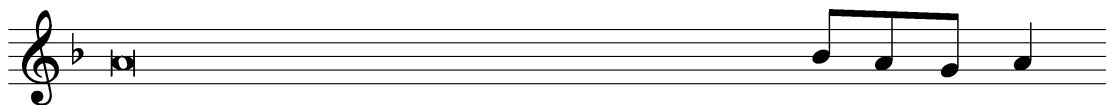
M: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son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

C: **Amen.**

Lord, Have Mercy



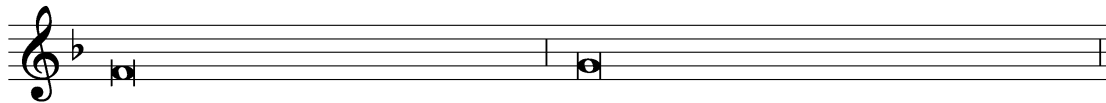
In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



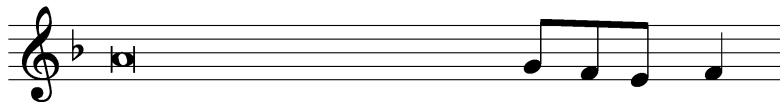
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



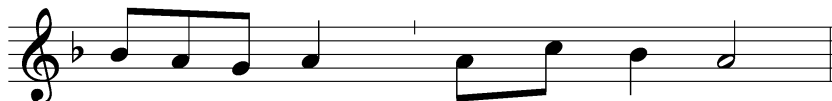
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

Glory Be to God on High



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



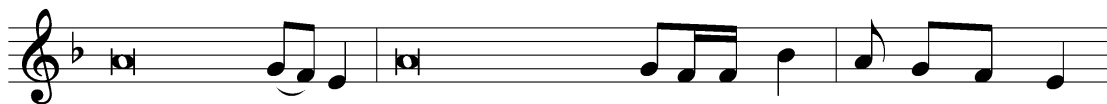
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



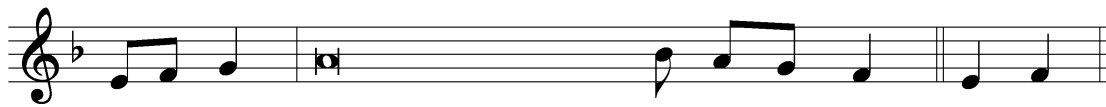
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness, keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you; 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 5:1–7

¹Let me sing for my loved one a song about my loved one's vineyard.

My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile ridge.

²He dug it up and gathered the stones out of it.

He planted it with the best vines.

He built a tower in the middle of it.

He also cut a winepress into it.

He expected it to produce clusters of sweet grapes,
but it produced only sour grapes.

³“So now, you residents of Jerusalem and you men of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.

⁴What more could have been done for my vineyard
that I have not already done for it?

When I expected it to produce clusters of sweet grapes,
why did it produce sour grapes?

⁵Now, let me tell you what I will do to my vineyard.

I will take away its hedge, and it will become a pasture.

I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled down.

⁶I will make it a wasteland.

It will not be pruned or hoed.

So briars and thorns will shoot up.

I will also command the clouds not to pour rain on it.”

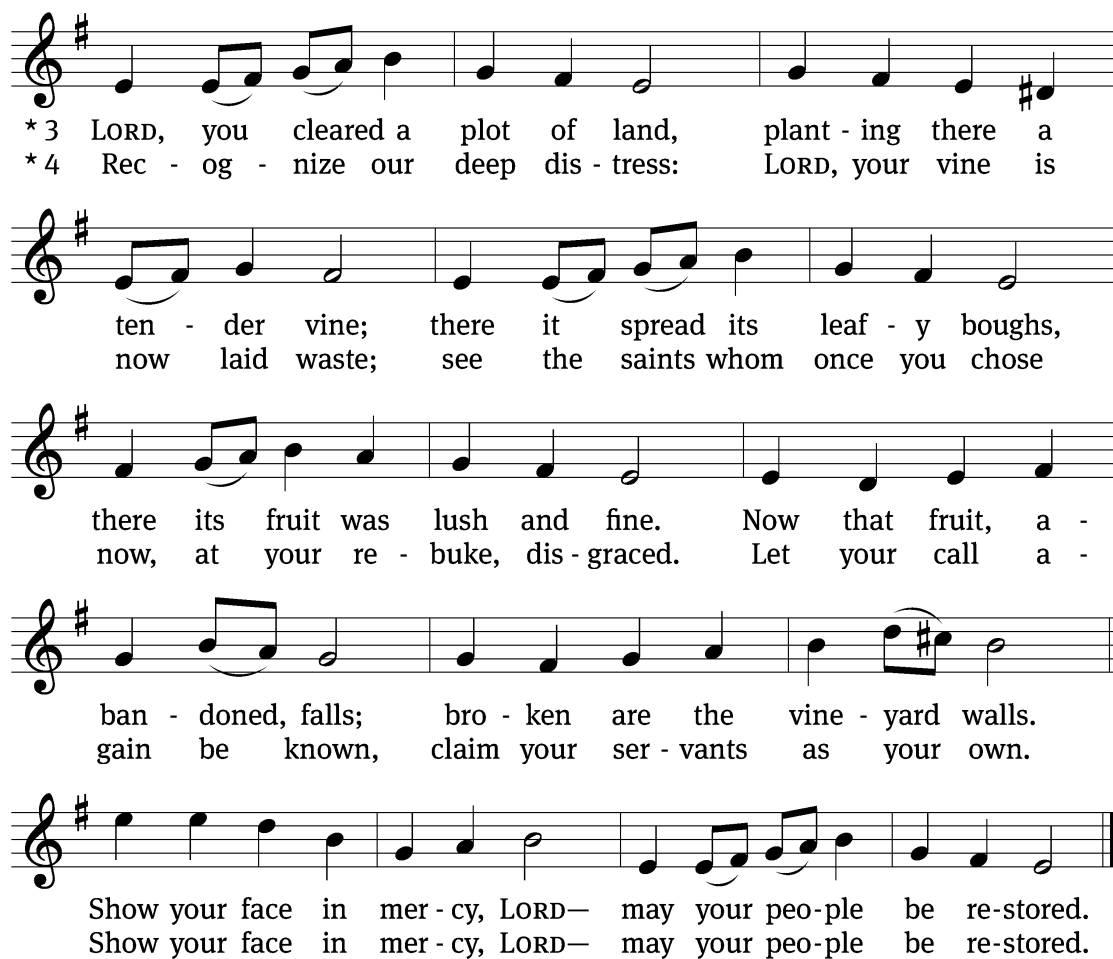
⁷Yes, the vineyard of the LORD of Armies is the house of Israel,
and the men of Judah are the planting that was pleasing to him.
He expected justice, but instead there was oppression.
He expected righteousness, but there was an outcry.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 80A sts. 3–4



* 3 LORD, you cleared a plot of land, plant - ing there a
* 4 Rec - og - nize our deep dis - tress: LORD, your vine is

ten - der vine; there it spread its leaf - y boughs,
now laid waste; see the saints whom once you chose

there its fruit was lush and fine. Now that fruit, a -
now, at your re - buke, dis - graced. Let your call a -

ban - doned, falls; bro - ken are the vine - yard walls.
gain be known, claim your ser - vants as your own.

Show your face in mer - cy, LORD— may your peo - ple be re - stored.
Show your face in mer - cy, LORD— may your peo - ple be re - stored.

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:12–21

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus also took hold of me. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it yet, but there is one thing I do: Forgetting the things that are behind and straining toward the things that are ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal, for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Therefore, let all of us who are mature continue to think this way. And if you think differently about anything, God will reveal this to you too. ¹⁶Only let us think the same thing and walk in line with what we already have attained.

¹⁷Brothers, join together in imitating me and in paying attention to those who are walking according to the pattern we gave you. ¹⁸To be sure, many walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. I told you about them often, and now I am saying it while weeping. ¹⁹Their end is destruction, their god is their appetite, and their glory is in their shame. They are thinking only about earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven. We are eagerly waiting for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹By the power that enables him to subject all things to himself, he will transform our humble bodies to be like his glorious body.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

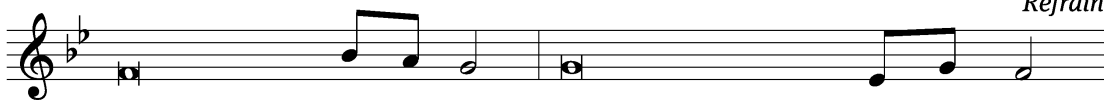
Ephesians 2:10



Refrain



Tone



Refrain

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33–43

³³"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. He leased it out to some tenant farmers and went away on a journey. ³⁴When the time approached to harvest the fruit, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵The tenant farmers seized his servants. They beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶Then the landowner sent even more servants than the first time. The tenant farmers treated them the same way. ³⁷Finally, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. ³⁸But when the tenant farmers saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance!' ³⁹They took him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰So when the landowner comes, what will he do to those tenant farmers?"

⁴¹They told him, "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end. Then he will lease out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him his fruit when it is due."

⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

"The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?

⁴³“That is why I tell you the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruit.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

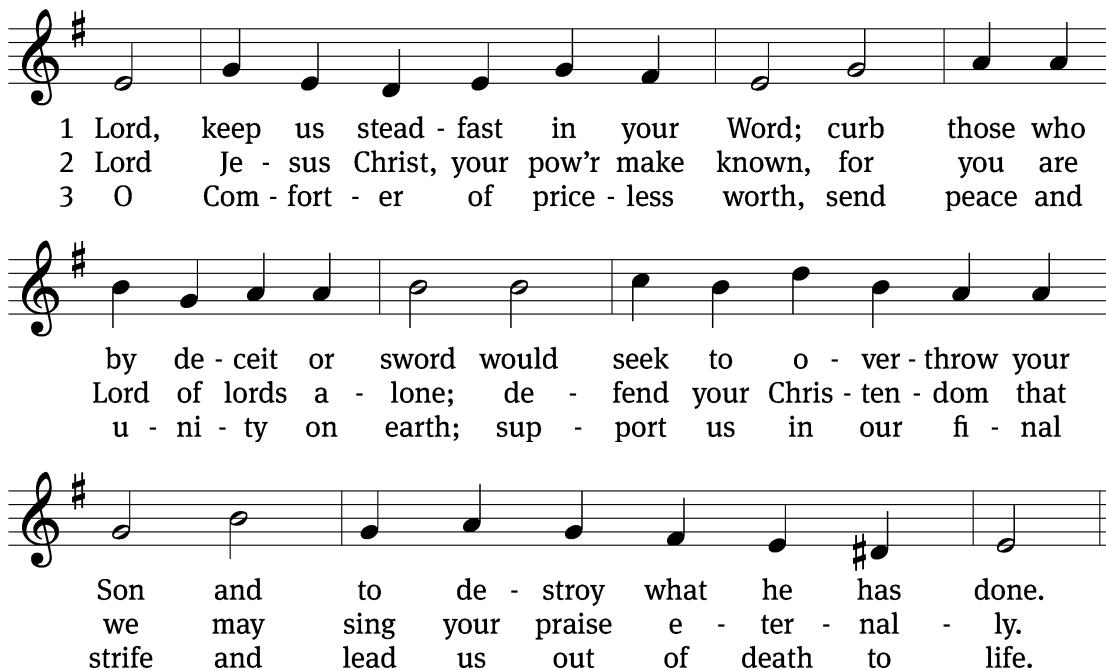
Be seated

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 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: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

CW 862



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your Word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would seek to o - ver - throw your
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your Chris - ten - dom that
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal

Son and to de - stroy what he has done.
we may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
strife and lead us out of death to life.

SERMON: Live as Citizens of Heaven

Philippians 3:12-21

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

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBER: Tally Stehr

The pastor speaks to the new member:

M: Friend in Christ,

St. Paul described the unity that exists in Christ's church when he wrote, "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." With sincere joy we welcome you to the fellowship of our congregation.

As you know, believers in Christ regularly gather around his Word and sacraments, encourage one another in faith and life, and carry out the work of his kingdom. The Scriptures encourage us: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

I ask you: Is it your desire to join us in worship and mission and support this work with your prayers and gifts?

Response: It is, and I ask God to help me.

The pastor speaks to the congregation:

M: Brothers and sisters,

As we welcome Tally Stehr to our Christian family, I encourage you in the name of Jesus to keep her in your minds, hold her in your hearts, and pray for her again and again. Show her the face of friendship and offer her a hand of support. Encourage her with your "works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

The peace of Christ be with us all. Amen.

PRAYER

M: Gracious Father, we thank you for leading Tally to desire to become a member of our congregation. Guide us with your wisdom as we worship and work together. Mold our minds and hearts into a single Christlike will so that we may be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

WORSHIPING THE LORD WITH OUR OFFERINGS



Members of Shepherd of the Hills respond to their Savior's love with offerings that are given joyfully & 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 donate. If you wish to support us by making an online offering, scan the QR code here or visit our website: duluth Lutheran.org & click on the "GIVE" tab.

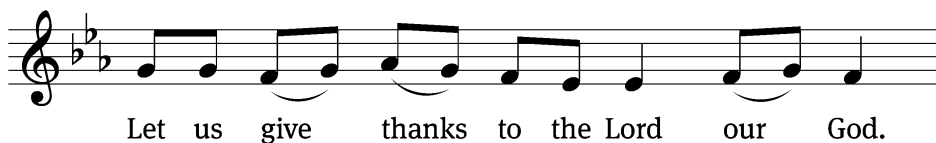
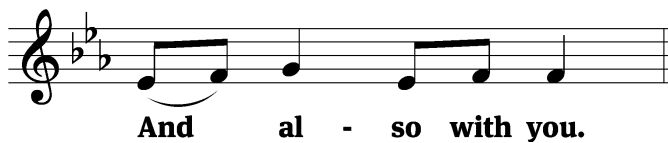
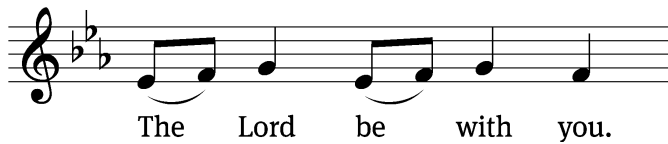
THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The order of service can be found on page 165 in the hymnal.

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

Stand

PREFACE





It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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



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

M: 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

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.

O Christ, Lamb of God

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.

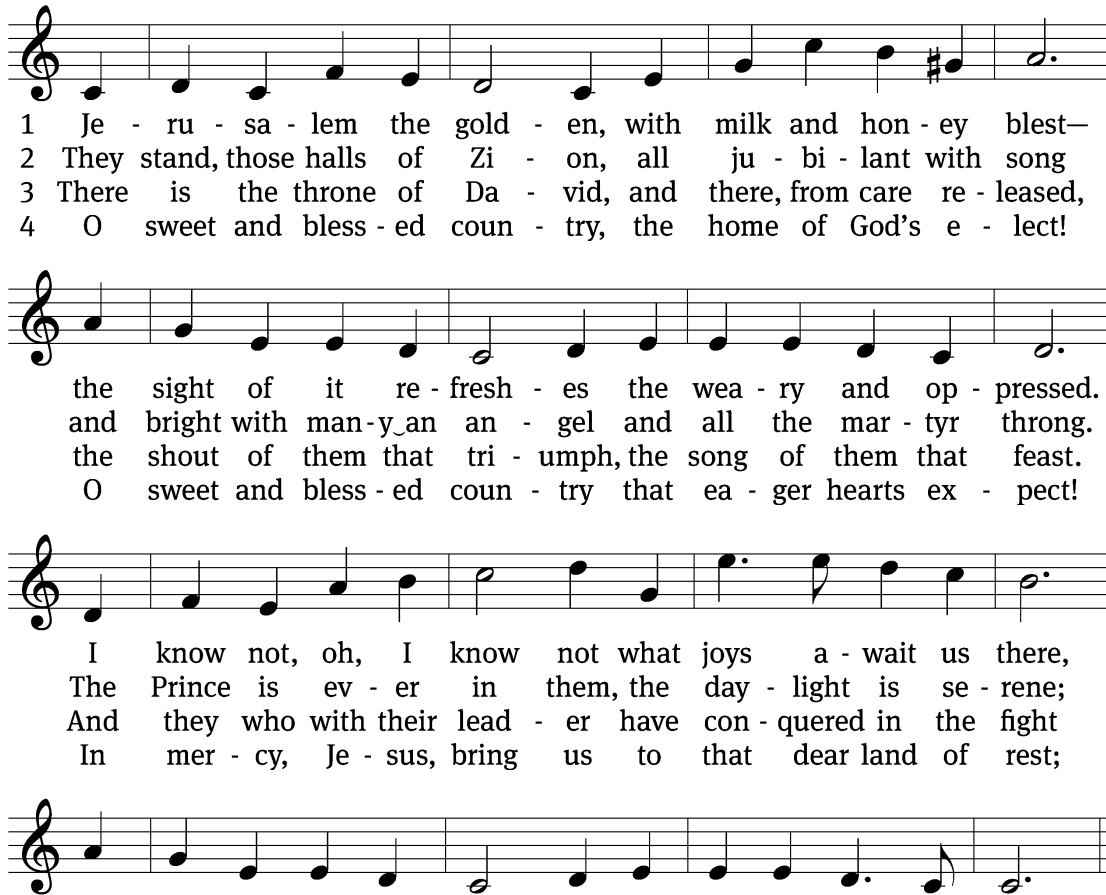
Be seated

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 Engel after the service.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: Jerusalem the Golden

CW 890



1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, with milk and hon - ey blest—
2 They stand, those halls of Zi - on, all ju - bi - lant with song
3 There is the throne of Da - vid, and there, from care re - leased,
4 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try, the home of God's e - lect!

the sight of it re - fresh - es the wea - ry and op - pressed.
and bright with man - y an an - gel and all the mar - tyr throng.
the shout of them that tri - umph, the song of them that feast.
O sweet and bless - ed coun - try that ea - ger hearts ex - pect!

I know not, oh, I know not what joys a - wait us there,
The Prince is ev - er in them, the day - light is se - rene;
And they who with their lead - er have con - quered in the fight
In mer - cy, Je - sus, bring us to that dear land of rest;

what ra - dian - cy of glo - ry, what bliss be - yond com - pare.
the pas - tures of the bless - ed are ev - er rich and green.
for - ev - er and for - ev - er are clad in robes of white.
you are with God the Fa - ther and Spir - it ev - er blest.

Stand

THANKSGIVING

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: 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

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: I'm But a Stranger Here

CW 853

1 I'm but a stran - ger here, heav'n is my home;
2 What though the tem - pest rage, heav'n is my home;
3 There - fore I mur - mur not, heav'n is my home;

earth is a des - ert drear, heav'n is my home;
short is my pil - grim - age, heav'n is my home;
what - e'er my earth - ly lot, heav'n is my home;

dan - ger and sor - row stand round me on ev - 'ry hand;
and time's wild, win - try blast soon shall be o - ver - past;
and I shall sure - ly stand there at my Lord's right hand;

heav'n is my fa - ther - land, heav'n is my home.
I shall reach home at last, heav'n is my home.
heav'n is my fa - ther - land, heav'n is my home.

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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October 2, 2026

Dear Little Lambs Family,

The Toddlers

The toddlers did several experiments. They explored and drew pictures in shaving cream. Then they used vinegar to melt baking soda ice cubes. They loved seeing the bubbles!. Some of their favorite books were: *How Do You Hug a Porcupine?*, *Oh Daddy!*, and *If you Take a Mouse to School*. Next week we will focus on cars.

The Preschool Rooms

This week, we continued our number work by focusing on the number 2. Our small group theme was art. They drew self-portraits and even our families. Then they did some pointillism painting (pictures made with dots) with q-tips. They also spent lots of time in the art area making other special works of art. During movement they practiced kicking.

Looking ahead to next week, they will be learning the letter C and focusing on leaves.

The Bible Lesson

This week, we learned **Adam and Eve Disobey God** (Genesis 3). God had created a perfect world but Adam and Eve's sins changed that. God still loved his people and gave us the best promise of all. His son Jesus who would save us from our sins. Next week, we will learn about Cain and Abel giving offerings to God.



LITTLE LAMBS LEARNING CENTER
802 MAPLE GROVE ROAD, DULUTH