



rethinking
CHRISTIANITY

March 10, 2024

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 this morning or watching online, we are happy you have joined us today.

WORSHIP SERVICE

The goal of our worship is to praise God and enrich your faith through his Word. To make your experience this morning 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.

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

Post-Service Breakfast: This morning, the Hurst family will provide breakfast for the congregation following the service. This will be in place of the usual snacks. Post-service time will extend to enjoy the breakfast and fellowship followed by a brief Stewardship and Planned Giving Committee Presentation. The youth group will assist with the setup, service, and breakfast clean-up. The youth group will be collecting a free-will offering. The proceeds help fund their upcoming trip to the WELS International Youth Rally on June 25-28 in Fort Collins, CO. The offering will help with registration, travel, and excursion expenses. There will be Sunday school classes and music practice.

Midweek Lent Services: On Wednesday evenings, we have Midweek Lent services at 7:00 PM. For Midweek Lent service this year we are following the series: "Places of the Passion". We hope you can join us for these special services!

Midweek Lent Dinners: On Wednesday evenings before our Midweek Lent services, we will have a potluck dinner at 6:00 PM. Each week we are looking for volunteers to help by bringing soup, sandwiches, a dish, or dessert to pass. Everyone is welcome to join us! If you have any questions, please speak with Peter Moeri.

Kickoff for the Senior/Retirees Fellowship! Please join us for lunch and fellowship on **Tuesday, March 12th** at the Social House (located behind Gordy's on Highway 53). We will gather in the back room at **11:30 am**.

Women's Book Group: We will have one book group meeting at the end on **Thursday, March 14th at 6 PM**. Please contact Kely Dunsmoor with any questions.

Women's Painting Event: Join us in the fellowship hall on **Saturday, March 16th at 2 PM** to paint an Easter or Spring themed wood sign. The cost is \$30. Snacks will be provided. Please reach out to Dawn Ray or Kely Dunsmoor with any questions.

Women's Bible Study: All women are welcome to join us as we continue our study of the book of Ephesians. This month we will be meeting on **Tuesday, March 26 at 6 pm** at Lorene Flemming's home: 3004 North 52nd Avenue East, in Duluth. If you have any questions, or would like to ride-share, please contact Kiersten Nash or Kely Dunsmoor.

Holy Week: Maundy Thursday service will be at 7 PM with communion and Good Friday service will be at 7 PM.

Easter Sunday: On **Sunday, March 31**, we will begin the celebration of our Lord with an Easter Breakfast at **8:00 AM**. Worship will be at **9:00 AM**, followed by a kid's egg hunt at **10:30 AM**. We hope you can join us here as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
 3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,
 4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -
 5 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a -

a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for
 reign - ing And, as on wings of an
 made you, Health has be - stowed and, when
 fend you; Sure - ly his good - ness and
 dore him! All that has life and breath,

he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
 heed - less - ly fall - ing, has stayed you.
 mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
 come now with prais - es be - fore him!

Let all who hear Now to his tem - ple draw
 Have you not seen All that is need - ful has
 What need or grief Ev - er has failed of re -
 Pon - der a - new What the Al - might - y can
 Let the A - men Sound from his peo - ple a -

near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 been Sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 lief? Wings of his mer - cy did shade you.
 do As with his love he be - friends you.
 gain; Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

INVOCATION

- P: This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. We begin our worship in the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN & GOD'S PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

- P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, the Bible tells us that, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) The Bible also shows us that, "the wages of sin is death". (Romans 6:23) Sin carries serious consequences between us and God.

We cannot hide our sins from a holy and almighty God. As Scripture teaches, "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account." (Hebrews 4:13) Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

- C: **Have mercy on me, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Cleanse me. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. (Psalm 51)**

- P: God has heard your prayer for mercy, and his Word promises you, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just; he will forgive us all of our sins." (1 John 1:9) This is because: "Jesus was delivered over to death for our sins and he was raised to life for our justification." (Romans 4:25) By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your sin and guilt forever. Go, then in the peace of God's forgiveness.

- C: **Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant a willing spirit to sustain me.**

RESPONSE OF FORGIVENESS

"Oh, Taste and See"
p. 39 in front of Hymnal

Sing after a brief introduction...

**Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless-ed are they who take ref-uge in him.
Your Word, O Lord, is e-ter-nal;
It stands firm in the heav-ens.
Your faith-ful-ness con-tin-ues for-ev-er.
Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless-ed are they who take ref-uge in him.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

C: Amen.

✠ READINGS FROM GOD'S WORD ✠

FIRST READING

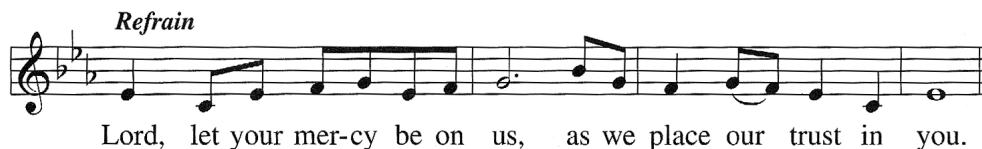
Numbers 21:4-9

- ⁴ They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵ they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"
- ⁶ Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.
- ⁸ The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." ⁹ So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 143

pg. 118 in front of the Hymnal



O LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mércy;*
in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.

Do not bring your servant into júdgment,*
for no one living is righteous before you.

My spirit grows faint wíthin me;*
my heart within me is dismayed.

Refrain

Answer me quicklý, O LORD;*
do not hide your face from me.

Let the morning bring me word of your unfáiling love,*
for I have put my trust in you.

Teach me to do your will, for you áre my God;*
may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

VERSE OF THE DAY

- P: Alleluia. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” Alleluia. (John 3:16)
- C: **These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God and that by believing we may have life in his name.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 2:1-10

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

CONFESSION OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

(THE APOSTLES’ CREED)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Children in attendance today may come up to the altar steps and sit for a special devotion with Pastor Denney. This service segment is intended to be more interactive and engage the children to help them understand today’s message. They will return to their seats afterward.

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

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

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

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

RETHINKING CHRISTIANITY

“Rethinking the Solution to Sin”

John 3:14-21

¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”

MESSAGE NOTES

#1 There is a universal _____ that _____ every single person.

⇒ John 3:14-21; Romans 5:12; Romans 3:23; Romans 7:19

⇒ It is apparent that we do not live in a perfect world and we are not perfect people.

⇒ By nature, sin has broken our relationship with God and separated us from him.

#2 The solution to sin cannot be found in _____, but only in _____.

⇒ John 3:14-21; Ephesians 2:8; Matthew 5:48; Romans 3:24; Jeremiah 31:34

⇒ Our human nature tells us that we have the answer to any problem we face.

⇒ There is only one Savior who could bring us forgiveness and salvation.

#3 Whoever _____ in Jesus has new life now and _____.

⇒ John 3:14-21; Ephesians 2:5; Galatians 2:20; Revelation 20:4

⇒ Jesus makes it very clear that salvation only comes by faith in him.

⇒ Through Jesus we are given a new perspective and a hope for the future.

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, visit our website: www.dulutheran.org and click on the "Give" tab.

† PRAYERS †

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

P: Dear God, heavenly Father, how great is your love for us! You willingly sent your beloved Son to a world of sinners. The innocent one came to serve the guilty, but his own people rejected him and put him to death.

C: **You did not withhold your one and only Son, but let him take our guilt on himself to set us free.**

P: Dear Son of God, our brother, how great is your love for us! You allowed yourself to be condemned so that we could be declared not guilty.

C: **Fill our hearts with the same self-sacrificing love you showed us.**

P: You allowed no suffering, no fear, and no doubt swerve you from your path to Calvary.

C: **Give us the same dedication and unshakeable commitment as we take up our cross and follow you.**

P: Dear Holy Spirit, how great is your love for us! By Word and sacrament, you have transformed our sinful and stubborn hearts, making us wise for salvation through faith in Christ and his gospel of forgiveness.

C: **Hold his cross before our eyes that we may dedicate our lives to him who died for us.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: Keep us in the true faith in unity with all faithful Christians, and as the angels praise your name continuously, so move us to offer you our constant thanks and praise for all that you have done and continue to do for us.

C: **Hear us for the sake of our Savior, Jesus Christ. 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.



1 Oh, to see the dawn of the dark - est day: Christ on the
 2 Oh, to see the pain writ - ten on your face, bear - ing the
 3 Now the day - light flees; now the ground be - neath quakes as its
 4 Oh, to see my name writ - ten in the wounds, for thro' your



road to Cal - va - ry. Tried by sin - ful men,
 awe - some weight of sin. Ev - 'ry bit - ter thought,
 mak - er bows his head. Cur - tain torn in two,
 suf - f'ring I am free. Death is crushed to death;



torn and beat - en, then nailed to a cross of wood.
 ev - 'ry e - vil deed crown - ing your blood - stained brow.
 dead are raised to life; "Fin - ished!" the vic - t'ry cry.
 life is mine to live, won thro' your self - less love!



1-3 This the pow'r of the cross: Christ be -
 4 This the pow'r of the cross: Son of



came sin for us. Took the blame,
 God— slain for us. What a love,



bore the wrath; we stand for - giv - en at the cross.
 what a cost! We stand for - giv - en at the cross.

CLOSING PRAYER

P: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, 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

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

New Hymnal

Printed on the back page.

1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Hith - er - to thy love has blessed me, thou hast drawn me to this place;
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be!

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 and I know thy hand will lead me safe - ly home by thy good grace.
 Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee:

Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove.
 Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
 prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

Praise his name, I'm fixed up - on it, name of God's re - deem - ing love.
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, bought me with his pre - cious blood.
 here's my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.