

JESUS CAME FOR ALL



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS
www.duluthelan.org

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 Two which begins on page 172 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 is given to the glory of God by Jon and Kiersten Nash in memory of Kayo Nash.

Decorating for Christmas: Thank you to the Property Committee and everyone who helped to decorate our building!

Food Drive and Fundraiser: Thank you all for your generous support of our neighbors in need! Through our Silent Auction and Food Drive, we were able to donate \$2,045 and 163 lbs of food to Second Harvest Northland!

Senior Fellowship Luncheon: Please join us for food and fellowship at the Crooked Pint Ale House at **12:00 noon on Tuesday, December 9th**. RSVP Kathy Hedin at 651-332-1374

Advent Services: Our Advent services are on Thursdays at 7:00pm, with a soup supper prior to service at 6:00pm. You are welcome to bring a soup, side, or dessert to share - or simply come to enjoy food and fellowship.

Christmas Schedule: The Children's Christmas Service will be **Sunday, December 21st at 2pm**, our Candlelight Christmas Eve service will be **Wednesday December 24th at 5pm**, and Christmas Day service will be **Thursday December 25th at 9am**.

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. Items include toys, gift cards, stocking stuffers, craft items, board games, candy, and more. Please tape the paper ornament to the unwrapped gift and place it in the box by the tree. This is a wonderful way we can support mothers who have opted for life for their babies! If you have any questions or would like someone to shop for you, contact Kim Kirkland. We will be collecting now through **December 19th**.

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 “Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; speak of peace,” so
2 All their sins our God will par - don, blot - ting out each
3 John the Bap - tist’s voice is cry - ing in the des - ert
4 Then make straight the crook - ed high - way; make the rough - er



says our God. “Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, groan - ing
dark mis - deed; all that well de - served his an - ger he no
far and near, call - ing peo - ple to re - pent - ance for the
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, read - y



from their sor - rows’ load. Speak to all Je - ru - sa - lem
more will see or heed. They have suf - fered man - y a day;
king - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
for his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



of the peace that waits for them; tell them that their
now their griefs have passed a - way. God will change their
Now pre - pare for God a way; let the val - leys
now o’er earth is spread a - broad, and all flesh shall



sins I cov - er, that their war - fare now is o - ver.”
ach - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.
see the to - ken that his word is nev - er bro - ken.

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

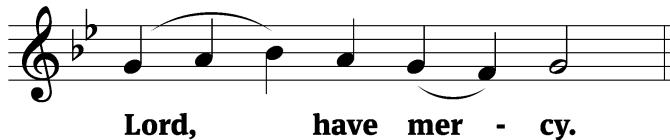
ABSOLUTION

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.

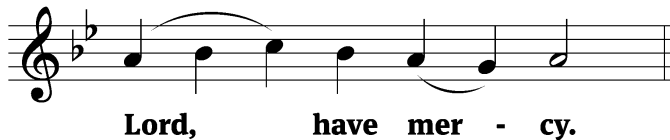
C: Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

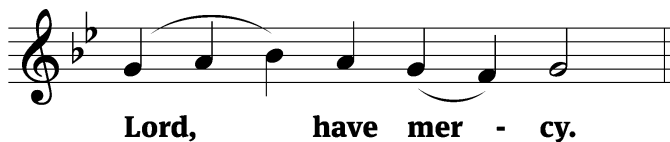
P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.



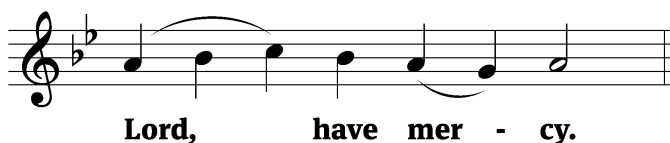
P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



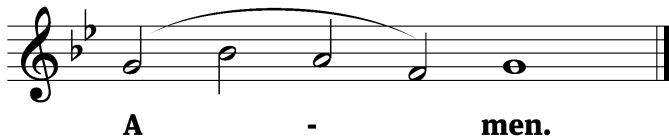
P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; 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

Isaiah 11:1–10

¹A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit.

²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him: the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³He will be delighted with the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, nor will he render decisions based on what he hears with his ears,

⁴but with righteousness he will judge the poor, and he will render fair decisions in favor of the oppressed on the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath from his lips he will put the wicked to death.

⁵Righteousness will be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his hips.

⁶The wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, the calf, the young lion, and the fattened calf together, and a little child will lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear will graze together, and their young ones will lie down together.

The lion will eat straw like the cattle. ⁸The nursing child will play near a cobra's hole,

and the weaned child will put his hand into a viper's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰This is what will take place on that day. The peoples will seek the Root of Jesse, who will be standing like a banner for the peoples, and his resting place will be glorious.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

⁴Indeed, whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that, through patient endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we would have hope. ⁵And may God, the source of patient endurance and encouragement, grant that you agree with one another in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that with one mind, in one voice, you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷For this reason, accept one another as Christ also accepted you to the glory of God. ⁸For I am saying that Christ became a servant of those who are circumcised for the sake of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs. ⁹He also did this so that the Gentiles would glorify God for his mercy, as it is written:

For this reason I will praise you among the Gentiles, and I will sing to your name.

¹⁰And again it says: Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.

¹¹And again: Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples give him praise.

¹²And again Isaiah says:

There will be a Root of Jesse,
and he is the one who will rise up to rule the Gentiles;
on him the Gentiles will place their hope.

¹³Now may the God of hope fill you with complete joy and peace as you continue to believe, so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 3:4,6

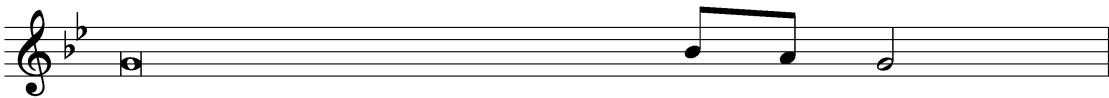


Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.

Refrain



And all people will see God's sal - va - tion.

¹In those days, John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, ²“Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near!” ³Yes, this is he of whom this was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
“Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight.”

⁴John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem, all of Judea, and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him. ⁶They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. ⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore produce fruit in keeping with repentance! ⁹Do not think of saying to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. ¹⁰Already the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹I baptize you with water for repentance. But the one who comes after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather his wheat into the barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY: On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

CW 316

Printed on the next page.



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin and fur - nished
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and lift us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; come, then, and lis - ten,
 for a Guest with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 up to fall no more; O make your face on
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings good news a - bout the King of kings.
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 us to shine, and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

✠ THE MESSAGE ✠

Jesus Came for All

Romans 15:4-13

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: Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

C: **Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.**

P: Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

C: **Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.**

P: Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

C: **Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.**

P: Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

C: **Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.**

P: Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

C: **Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.**

P: Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. [Pour out your special blessing on . . . *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

C: **Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.**

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

Silent prayer

P: Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

C: **In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

✠ SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER ✠

The order of service can be found on page 183 in the hymnal.

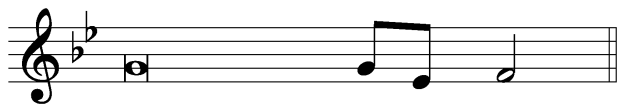
Personal preparation and self-examination can be found on pages 295 and 296 in the hymnal.

P: The Lord be with you.



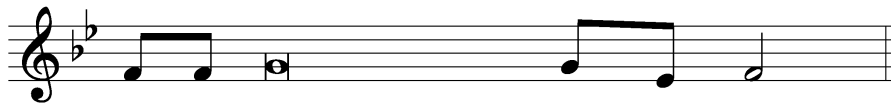
And al - so with you.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
 God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -
 san - na in the high - est!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

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.

Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

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: Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

CW 315



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, who has tru - ly
 2 What the fa - thers most de - sired, what the proph - ets'
 3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
 4 Sav - ior, hear my wel - come cry— loud ho - san - nas



kept his word and at last to us did send
 heart in - spired, what they longed for man - y a year
 Ja - cob's Lord— him of two - fold race be - hold—
 lift - ed high! King of glo - ry, en - ter in;



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
 stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
 tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
 cleanse my soul of ev - 'ry sin.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 5 Crush for me the serpent's head
that, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to you in faith,
safely kept through life and death, | 6 And, when you shall come again
as a glorious king to reign,
I with joy may see your face,
freely ransomed by your grace. |
|--|---|

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: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, 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: Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

CW 318



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
2 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with
3 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the
4 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion to the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, he will shield us
Fa - ther and the Son with the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, all you chil - dren of the day."
tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;
with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
last - ing Spir - it while e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2017 Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

All hymns and music reprinted with permission - Onelicense.net #A-715857 CCLI License #11371750