

1 Blessings from
Above

July 7, 2024 | July 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 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.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Our congregation enjoys the "worshipping 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

For more announcements and event information visit the church website at www.dulutheran.org/connect, or sign up for our weekly email here: <https://www.dulutheran.org/subscribe>. You can also view the church calendar at www.dulutheran.org/church-calendar.

Altar Flowers: This morning's altar flowers were given to the glory of God on behalf of the Moeri and Richie baby blessings.

No Sunday Bible Study: This morning there will not be Adult Bible Study following service this morning or child supervision at the playground for the holiday weekend. Sunday Bible Study will resume next week on July 14th.

Summer Celebration: VBS will conclude with our annual Summer Celebration party on **Thursday, July 25th, from 6:00 pm** to 8:00 pm. First, the children who attended VBS will show us a little of what they learned, followed by food, games, music, and more in the back of church. Everything is free of charge. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors too!



Summer Child Supervision: Sundays after service. Sign up by scanning this QR code or visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F4EAFAD23A75-49616081-sunday>.

VBS Volunteers: We are still in need for a few volunteers for VBS. This is such an important event that emboldens and sometimes even starts a child's walk with Christ before a new school year begins. Please see the opportunities available to see where you can help make an impact this summer! Scan the QR code to see if you'd like to help.



Women's Hiking Group: Join us for some beautiful summer hikes in the Duluth area. The next hike date is **Thursday, July 11th at 6 PM** at Kingsbbury Creek. It's a great way to enjoy the outdoors and connect. Please contact Kely Dunsmoor (218-750-0225) with any questions.

Men's Summer Fellowship Bonfire: On **July 11th at 6 PM** there is a Men's Fellowship Bonfire at Bill Dunsmoor's home (3980 Willow Place). These bonfire events feature a devotion and discussion, bonfire, grills for cooking, food and drinks, yard games. Men are welcome to bring their own meat for cooking and their own preferred beverages.

VBS | Mon-Wed July 22nd - 24th 5:30-7:30 p.m. for kids ages 3-11. | Breaker Rock Beach

We're headed to the beach, Breaker Rock Beach! Children ages 3-11 will learn God's rock solid truth in a world of shifting sands. Adventure awaits each day as kids explore tide pools, spot orcas, fly kites, and watch the mighty waves crash up against the immovable Breaker Rock! Scan the QR code or visit <https://www.dulutheran.org/vbs24> to register today.



1 God has spo - ken by his proph-ets, Spo - ken his un - chang-ing Word,
 2 God has spo - ken by Christ Je - sus, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Son,
 3 God is speak-ing by his Spir - it, Speak-ing to the hearts of all,

Each from age to age pro-claim-ing God the one, the right-eous Lord.
 Bright-ness of the Fa-ther's glo - ry, With the Fa-ther ev - er one,
 In the age-less Word ex - pound-ing His own mes-sage for us all.

In the world's de - spair and tur-moil One firm an - chor holds us fast:
 Spo - ken by the Word in - car-nate, God from God, be - fore time was,
 Through the rise and fall of na-tions One sure faith is stand-ing fast.

God is king, his throne e - ter - nal, God the first and God the last.
 Light from Light, to earth de-scend-ing — He re-veals our God to us.
 God a - bides, his Word un-chang-ing, God the first and God the last.

INVOCATION

- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
- C: **And also with you.**

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 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 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 PRAISE

"O Lord, Our Lord"

p. 28 in the front of the Hymnal

Please sing at the beginning of the music.

**O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.
Almight-y God, mer-ci-ful Fa-ther, you crown our life with your love.
You take a-way our sin; you com-fort our spir-it;
You make us pure and ho-ly in your sight.
You did not spare your on-ly Son, but gave him up for us all.
O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.
O Son of God, e-ter-nal Word of the Fa-ther,
You came to live with us; you made your Fa-ther known;
You washed us from our sins in your own blood.
You are the King of glo-ry; you are the Lord!
O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: God of all power and might, you are the giver of all that is good. Help us love you with all our heart, strengthen us in true faith, provide us with all we need, and keep us safe in your care; through Jesus Christ, your Son, 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

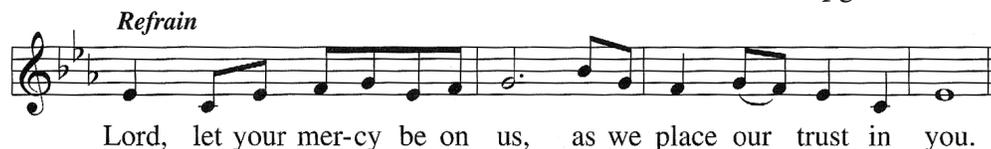
Ezekiel 2:1-7

He said to me, “Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you.”² As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me.³ He said: “Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their fathers have been in revolt against me to this very day.⁴ The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says.’⁵ And whether they listen or fail to listen—for they are a rebellious house—they will know that a prophet has been among them.⁶ And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them or their words. Do not be afraid, though briars and thorns are all around you and you live among scorpions. Do not be afraid of what they say or terrified by them, though they are a rebellious house.⁷ You must speak my words to them, whether they listen or fail to listen, for they are rebellious.

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 méy 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 ís dismayed.

Refrain

Answer me quicklý, O LORD;*
do not hide your fáce 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 lével 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. “But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’” Alleluia. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

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

2 Timothy 2:1-9

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. ³ Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer. ⁵ Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor’s crown unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶ The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. ⁷ Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, ⁹ for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God’s word is not chained.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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.**

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.

HYMN

"Fight the Good Fight"

CW 457



1 Fight the good fight With all your might;
2 Run the straight race Through God's good grace;
3 Cast care a - side, Lean on your guide;
4 Faint not nor fear; His arms are near.



Christ is your strength and Christ your light.
Lift up your eyes and seek his face.
His bound - less mer - cy will pro - vide.
He chang - es not, and you are dear.



Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Life with its way be - fore us lies;
Lean, and the trust - ing soul shall prove
On - ly be - lieve, and you will see



Your joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.
Christ is the path and Christ the prize.
Christ is its life and Christ its love.
That Christ is Lord e - ter - nal - ly.



† THE MESSAGE †

BLESSINGS FROM ABOVE “Strength in the Face of Opposition”

John 15:18-27

¹⁸“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the words I spoke to you: ‘No servant is greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. ²¹ They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ He who hates me hates my Father as well. ²⁴ If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: ‘They hated me without reason.’

²⁶“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. ²⁷ And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

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, you can scan the QR code or visit our website: www.duluthlutheran.org and click on the “Give” tab.

† PRAYERS †

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Prayer and petitions offered on behalf of the Church

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.

† SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER †

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Continued on the next page...

Continued from the previous page.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.



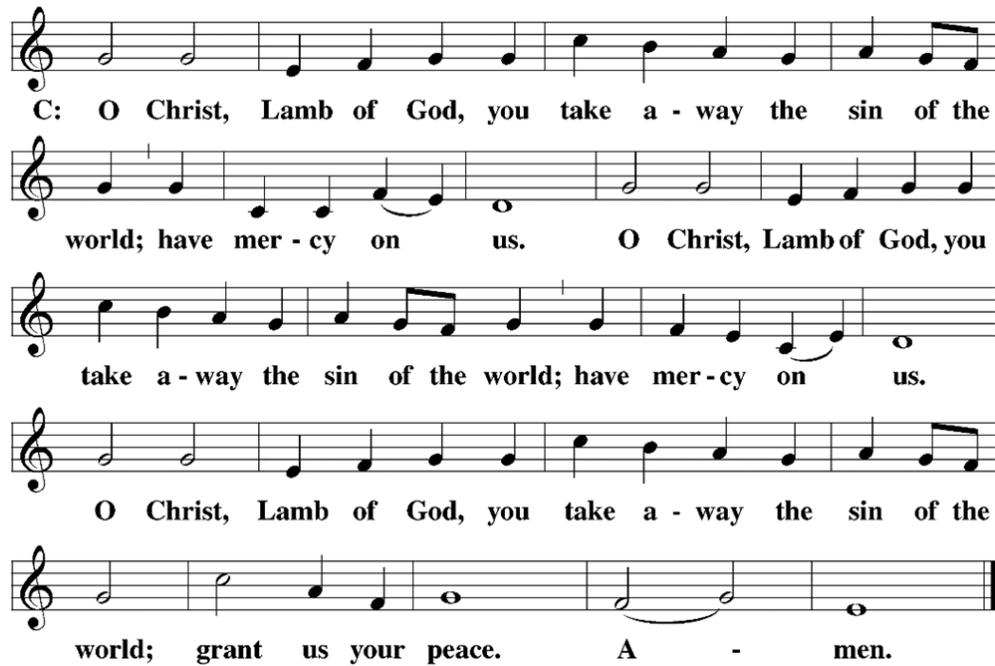
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.**

Continued on the next page...

Continued from the previous page.



C: 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.

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 Denney after the service.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Oh, for a Faith that Will Not Shrink"

CW 405

Printed on the back of the Message Notes

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

“Thank the Lord”

After a brief introduction, please sing...



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

CLOSING PRAYER & BLESSING

P: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. 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.

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

“Lift High the Cross”

CW 579

Printed on the back page.

Refrain

Lift high the cross; the love of Christ pro - claim Till
 Lift high the cross; the love of Christ pro - claim Till
 all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.
 all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod, Our
 2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign, The
 3 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be: Praise

Refrain

king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.
 to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.