



Bible Songs of Christmas
The Song of Mary



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS
www.duluth Lutheran.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.

Tonight's order of service follows Evening Prayer which begins on page 215 in the hymnal.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Our congregation enjoys the "worshiping family." 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

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!

Women's Fellowship: Please join us for a fellowship opportunity tomorrow, **Friday, December 5th at 6:30pm!** We'll meet at Boomtown Restaurant (4483 Martin Rd, Duluth). Please RSVP to Kiersten Nash at eckar011@gmail.com or 218-341-1991

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

Weekly Communion: Starting in December, we will be offering weekly communion. In-service communion will continue to be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month; on the other Sundays, we will offer communion following the service.

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.

OPENING SENTENCES

P: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
C: **the light no darkness can overcome.**

P: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
C: **and the day is almost over.**

P: Be our light and scatter the darkness,
C: **and hear our evening prayer and praise.**

HYMN: The Advent of Our King

CW 309 sts. 1–4



1 The ad - vent of our King our prayers must now em - ploy,
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son, in flesh con - tent to be,
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise to meet your low - ly King,
4 As judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come a - gain



and we must hymns of wel-come sing in strains of ho - ly joy.
him - self a ser-vant's form puts on to set his ser-vants free.
nor let a faith-less heart de-spise the peace he comes to bring.
and his true mem-bers all u - nite with him in heav'n to reign.

PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ. May his Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, for you are merciful and you love your whole creation. We, your creatures, glorify you—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**



Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift-ing up
of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I
call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I
cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,
the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac - ri - fice.

PSALM PRAYER

P: Let the incense of our prayers rise before you, O Lord, and let your mercy descend on us, that we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and forever in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

READING

Luke 1:39–56

³⁹In those days Mary got up and hurried to the hill country, to a town of Judah. ⁴⁰She entered the home of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹Just as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²She called out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" ⁴³But why am I so favored that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴In fact, just now, as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy! ⁴⁵Blessed is she who believed, because the promises spoken to her from the Lord will be fulfilled!"

⁴⁶Then Mary said,

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,

⁴⁸because he has looked with favor on the humble state of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm. He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones. He has lifted up the lowly.

⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things, but the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy,

⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his offspring forever.

⁵⁶Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then returned to her home

P: The Word of the Lord.

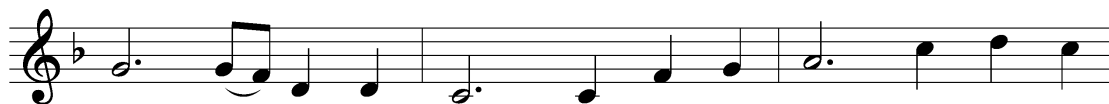
C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN: The Tree of Life

CW 574



1 The tree of life with ev - 'ry good in E - den's
2 The still - ness of that sa - cred grove was bro - ken
3 What mer - cy God showed to our race, a plan of
4 Now from that tree of Je - sus' shame flows life e -



ho - ly or - chard stood, and of its fruit so pure and
as the ser - pent strove with tempt - ing voice Eve to be -
res - cue by his grace, in send - ing One from wom - an's
ter - nal in his name; for all who trust and will be -



sweet God let the man and wom - an eat. Yet in this
guile and Ad - am too by sin de - file. O day of
seed, the One to fill our great - est need— for on a
lieve, sal - va - tion's liv - ing fruit re - ceive. And of this



gar - den al - so grew an - oth - er tree, of
sad - ness when the breath of fear and dark - ness,
tree up - lift - ed high his on - ly Son for
fruit so pure and sweet the Lord in - vites the



which they knew; its love - ly limbs with fruit a -
doubt and death, its aw - ful poi - son first dis -
sin would die, would drink the cup of scorn and
world to eat, to find with - in this cross of



dorned a - gainst whose eat - ing God had warned.
played with - in the world so new - ly made.
dread to crush the an - cient ser - pent's head!
wood the tree of life with ev - 'ry good.

Bible Songs of Christmas:
The Song of Mary

Stand

Song of Mary

CW 220

My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my spir-it re-
joic-es in God my Sav-ior, for he has looked with fa-vor
on his low-ly ser-vant. From this day all gen-er-a-tions
will call me bless-ed. The Al-might-y has done great
things for me, and ho-ly is his name. He has mer-cy on
those who fear him in ev-'ry gen-er-a-tion.
He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scat-tered the
proud in their con-ceit. He has cast down the might-y
from their thrones and has lift-ed up the low-ly.



He has filled the hun - gry with good things, and the rich
 he has sent a - way emp - ty. He has come to the
 help of his ser - vant Is - ra - el, for he has re - mem - bered his
 prom - ise of mer - cy, the prom - ise made to our fa - thers,
 to A - bra - ham, and to his chil - dren for - ev - er. A - men.

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

LORD, HAVE MERCY

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

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:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the leaders of our synod and district, for all pastors in Christ, for all who are servants of the Church, and for all the people of God, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For all who govern our nation and for all public servants, that they may be upheld and strengthened for every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.

P: Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our Lord:

C: **to you, O Lord.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies, that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and 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.**

BENEDICAMUS

P: Let us praise the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.


BLESSING

P: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: Amen.


Be seated

CLOSING HYMN: Creator of the Stars of Night


CW 323



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's
2 In sor - row that the an - cient curse should doom to
3 When earth drew on to dark - est night, you came, but
4 At your great name, ma - jes - tic now, all knees must
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the



ev - er - last - ing light, O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,
death a u - ni - verse, you came to save a ru - ined race
not in splen - dor bright, not as a king, but as the child
bend, all hearts must bow; all things on earth with one ac - cord
Spir - it, Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you, hear us when we call.
with heal - ing gifts of heav'n - ly grace.
of Mar - y, vir - gin moth - er mild.
join those in heav'n to call you Lord.
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Acknowledgments

Evening Prayer from Christian Worship
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