

A

Savior
IS BORN



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

No Sunday School/Bible Study: This morning after worship there will not be Sunday School, Adult Bible Study, Youth Group, or Youth Confirmation Class. We will be taking a break from our usual after service ministries for Christmas and New Year's Day. All of our after service ministries will start back up again on **Sunday, January 7th**.

No Midweek Service: Midweek worship will resume on **Wednesday, January 10th at 7:30 PM**. During the weeks between Christmas and New Year there will not be a Midweek Service (December 27th, January 3rd).

New Year's Eve Service: Next **Sunday, December 31st, at 9:00 AM**, we will have a special New Year's Eve worship service with holy communion. As we prepare to close another year, we are reminded of all the blessings that God has given to us and also look ahead to a New Year guided by his grace and mercy.

OPENING HYMN

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”
CW 61

- 1 **Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all you nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th’ angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”**
- 2 **Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail th’ incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”**
- 3 **Hail, the heav’nly Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris’n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

CHRISTMAS LITANY

- P: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
- C: **O Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the heavens.**
- P: Give thanks to the Lord of lords, to him who alone does great wonders, who by his understanding made the heavens, who spread out the earth upon the waters, who made the great lights—the sun, to govern the day, the moon and stars to govern the night.
- C: **Great is the Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.**
- P: But our iniquities have separated us from our God; our sins have hidden his face from us. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. We look for deliverance, but it is far away.
- C: **For our offenses are many in his sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our sins.**
- P: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. God has given us good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.
- C: **Let the name of the Lord be praised forever and ever. Alleluia!**

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, Creator and Sustainer of the universe, we praise you for the special love you have shown us, your fallen and sinful creatures. You have kept your word and sent your Son to be born as the promised Savior. Lord Jesus Christ, we marvel at your servant heart, which moved you to do your Father's will and take on our flesh. You became fully human so that you might live the holy and perfect life we could not live, endure the agony of the cross, and suffer death as our substitute. O Holy Spirit, we thank you for your saving work of bringing us to faith in our newborn Savior. You have opened our eyes to see despite his humble appearance and lowly circumstances, this child who lies in Bethlehem's manger is the mighty God, the Redeemer of the world. Let this joyous message of Christmas be preached in all the world, and may it find ready acceptance in believers' hearts for the eternal benefit of lost souls, for the extension of your kingdom, and for the glory of your holy name.

C: Amen.

HYMN

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"
CW 38 vs. 1-4

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | "From heav'n a-bove to earth I come
To bear good news to ev-'ry home;
Glad ti-dings of great joy I bring,
Where-of I now will say and sing: | 3 | "This is the Christ, our God most high,
Who hears your sad and bit-ter cry;
He will him-self your Sav-ior be
From all your sins to set you free. |
| 2 | "To you this night is born a child
Of Mar-y, cho-sen vir-gin mild;
This lit-tle child of low-ly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth. | 4 | "He will on you the gifts be-stow
Pre-pared by God for all be-low,
That in his king-dom bright and fair,
You may with us his glo-ry share |

✠ READING FROM GODS WORD ✠

FIRST READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

- 7 How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace,
who bring good tidings,
who proclaim salvation,
who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"
- 8 Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;
together they shout for joy.
When the LORD returns to Zion,
they will see it with their own eyes.

continued from the previous page.

- 9 Burst into songs of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
- 10 The LORD will lay bare his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth will see
the salvation of our God.

VERSE OF THE DAY

- P: Alleluia. "But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.'" Alleluia. (Luke 2:11)
- C: **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.**

HYMN

"Away in a Manger"
CW 68

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 A-way in a man-ger, no crib for a bed,
The lit-tle Lord Je-sus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The lit-tle Lord Je-sus a-sleep on the hay. | 2 The cat-tle are low-ing, the ba-by a-wakes,
But lit-tle Lord Je-sus, no cry-ing he makes.
I love you, Lord Je-sus; look down from the sky,
And stay by my side un-til morn-ing is nigh. |
| 3 Be near me, Lord Je-sus; I ask you to stay
Close by me for-ev-er and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear chil-dren in your ten-der care,
And take us to heav-en to live with you there. | |

SECOND READING

Colossians 1:15-23

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

- P: The Word of the Lord.
- C: **Thanks be to God.**

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.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

"Let All Together Praise Our God"

CW 41

Printed on the next page.

1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore his
 2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
 3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine A ser - vant's
 4 A won - drous change which he does make: He takes our

high - est throne; To - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain And
 in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
 form to take; In want and low - li - ness must die Who
 flesh and blood, And he con - ceals for sin - ners' sake His

gives us his own Son, And gives us his own Son.
 in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
 heav'n and earth did make, Who heav'n and earth did make.
 maj - es - ty as God, His maj - es - ty as God.

5 He serves that I a lord may be —
 A great exchange indeed!
 Could Jesus' love do more for me
 To help me in my need,
 To help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door
 Of paradise today.
 The angel guards the gate no more;
 To God our thanks we pay,
 To God our thanks we pay.

THE MESSAGE

A SAVIOR IS BORN “Let All Together Praise Our God”

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

⁶ There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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.duluth-lutheran.com and click on the "GIVE" tab.

✠ PRAYERS ✠

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

P: On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

C: **Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!**

P: What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

C: **Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.**

P: In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherd spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

C: **Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.**

Continued from the previous page.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

P: As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

C: **Glory to God in the highest! 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.

† SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER †

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

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. When the time had fully come, he sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. 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.

HYMN

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

CW 63 vs. 1,3

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1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet-ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some ti - dings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo -

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

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.

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 or ELS 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.

There will be no distribution hymn for this morning's service.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

"Song of Simeon"

After a brief introduction, please sing...



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

CLOSING PRAYER & BLESSING

P: We give 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

“Joy to the World”
CW 62



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the



ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; He comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove The glo - ries of his right - eous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.