



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

"Encouraging faith and proclaiming God's love by Gathering, Growing and Giving."

6th Sun. of Epiphany

Service of the Word

February 12, 2023

This worship is being livestreamed. Your presence in the sanctuary signifies your agreeing to be on our live broadcast.

*NOTE: **Bold text** indicates worshippers' response, and *' means please stand as able.*

PRELUDE

Michelle Young

WELCOME/MINISTRY MOMENT

GATHERING

* #307 Green Hymnal GATHERING HYMN *"Forgive Our Sins, As We Forgive"*



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray;
2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.
Music: DETROIT, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844
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* P: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ , the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

* CALL TO WORSHIP (*Please respond with **bold text***)
God plants faith in our hearts. **It is the smallest of seeds,**
But it grows beyond measure, **And bears much fruit.**¹

*KYRIE

In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for all salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of Christ, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**



☒ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev - er.



☐ Great and won-der-ful are your deeds, O God of the u-ni-verse;



just and true are your ways, O Rul - er of all the na-tions.



Who can fail to hon-or you, Lord, and sing the glo-ry of your name?



☒ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev - er.



☒ For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One. All



na - tions will draw near and wor - ship be - fore you,



for your just and ho - ly works have been re - vealed.



☒ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev - er.

* P: The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

* PRAYER OF THE DAY Let us pray. Lord of stories, **Jesus taught us through stories and the wisdom of the shared word. Teach us through these stories, that we may learn, grow, and love. For the sake of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.** ¹

GROWING

Our First Bible reading comes from Psalm 84, please respond with the bold text verses

¹How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

²My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

³Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

⁴Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

⁵Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

⁶As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.

⁷They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

*Today's gospel reading takes us to the middle of Matthew's book. We hear Jesus' use of natural world images and familiar day-to-day activities of the people, to help them grasp the abundance of God's kingdom. We will hear Jesus explaining one parable for his disciples, only to followed up by more image-soaked parables that are meant to explain the immense value of the kingdom God offers humanity. THE HOLY GOSPEL according to Matthew the 13th chapter **Glory to you, O Lord***

²⁴He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

³¹He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." ³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." ³⁴Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. ³⁵This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: "I will open my mouth to speak in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world."

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." ⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it." The Gospel of the Lord **All: Praise to you O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON *All of creation is from God, and the wisdom of God can be found within it.* Pastor Mary Eide

HYMN OF THE DAY "*The Reign of God Like Farmer's Field*" page 6 (*New Song...listen first*)

GIVING

*THE APOSTLES' CREED (*professed together*)

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.* On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

**Or, He descended to the dead.*

The OFFERING PLATE is located at the entrance of the church sanctuary. Giving to support God's ministry at Shepherd of the Hill can be mailed to (Mailing address: 207 University St., Elk Mound, WI 54739 – OR – as a 'bill pay' on your bank account – OR – go to <https://www.sothem.org/give> to make a one time or reoccurring donation. Setting up an account with GivePlus offers you control over the amount & timing of your giving.

* OFFERING PRAYER O God, **your reign is like a treasure in a field or a pearl of great value. May we joyfully offer all that we have and all that we are in gratitude for receiving your salvation. Accept these, our gifts, for your work in the world, that all might know your priceless love. Amen.** ¹

PRAYERS AND PETITIONS (L: Merciful God, **All: You hear our prayer.**)

* LORD'S PRAYERS **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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen**

* ANNOUNCEMENTS/BLESSING God who longs for us to speak in prayer, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, † bless your going out and coming in, today and forever. **Amen.**

* #333 Green Hymnal SENDING HYMN "*Lord Take My Hand and Lead Me*"

* DISMISSAL Go and share God's peace. **Thanks be to God.**

* POSTLUDE

Michelle Young

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THIS WEEK AS A CHURCH...IN/OUTSIDE the BUILDING

TODAY	8:00am	- Sub sandwiches made
	8:45am	- Sunday School Classes
	10:00am	- Worship w/Sunday School students singing.
	11:00am	- Sub's picked up/Fellowship
	11:00-2pm	- EM Fire District Chili Feed Fundraiser/Open House
MONDAY	7pm	- AA Meeting
TUESDAY	4-6pm	- Food Pantry
	6pm	- Finance
WEDNESDAY	3:20pm	- 7 th -8 th gr. Confirmation class
FRIDAY:	10am-Noon	- Food Pantry
SUNDAY:	8:45am	- Sunday School Classes
	10:00am	- Communion Worship
MONDAY	<i>President's Day...OFFICE CLOSED</i>	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY...11:00-2pm - EM FIRE DISTRICT CHILI FEED FUNDRAISER/OPEN HOUSE Come support our Local Firefighters and EMTs, even get a tour. Firefighters and EMT positions are currently available. We thank (now retired) Fire Chief Les Shafer for 27 years of service; and warmly welcome Chief Colin Feuster as our new fire chief

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICE/SOUP SUPPER starting soon. Sign up to help provide food and clean up for 6pm Soup Suppers.

SHARE YOUR FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE/WHY during our Lent Midweek Services (2/22, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29) Sign up sheets will be up soon...or email/text Pastor Mary. meide@luthersem.edu

LUTHER PARK BIBLE CAMP **Summer staff applications** are being accepted now. Most staff are college age or older. Please go to <http://lutherpark.org/> for details. We need to hire about 30 staff people.

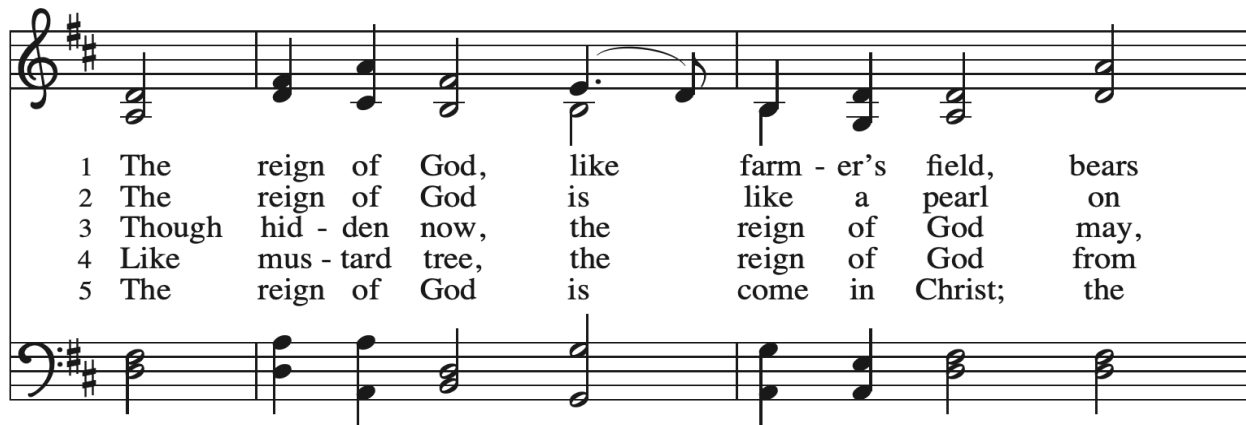
ALSO: Full-time salaried with benefits **Maintenance Position** at LPBC is open.

Please contact **Dick Iverson**, Interim Camp Executive Director at **(608) 792-6875**

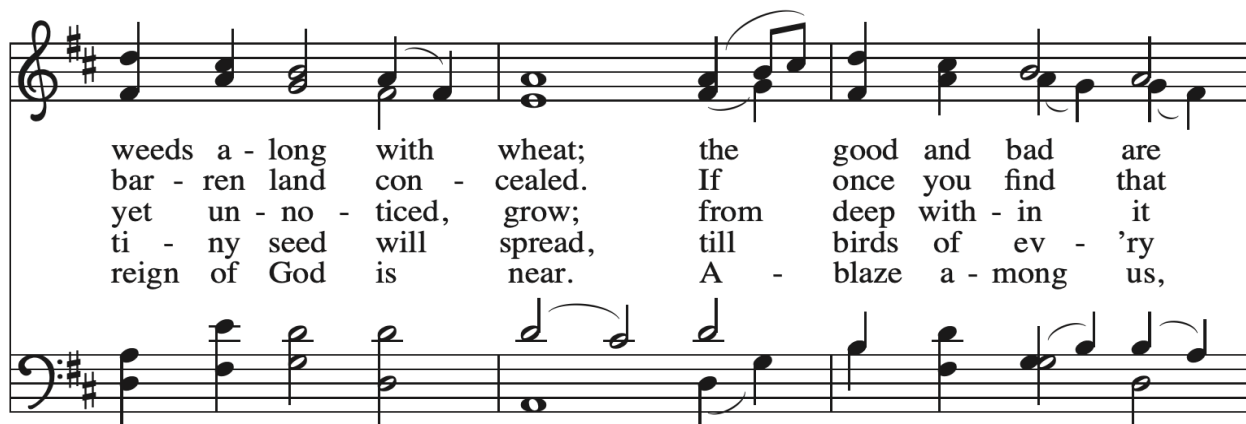
Pastor Mary here...wanting to share my deep gratitude for everyone who assisted with Loren's visitation and funeral; those who have cared for the family with cards, prayers, conversations and food. I ask for your continued prayers, kindness, and compassion for the family.

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The Reign of God Like Farmer's Field



1 The reign of God, like farm - er's field, bears
 2 The reign of God is like a pearl on
 3 Though hid - den now, the reign of God may,
 4 Like mus - tard tree, the reign of God from
 5 The reign of God is come in Christ; the



weeds a - long with wheat; the good and bad are
 bar - ren land con - cealed. If once you find that
 yet un - no - ticed, grow; from deep with - in it
 ti - ny seed will spread, till birds of ev - 'ry
 reign of God is near. A - blaze a - mong us,



in - ter - twined till har - vest is com - plete.
 pre - cious pearl, go out and buy that field.
 ris - es up, like yeast in swell - ing dough.
 feath - er come to nest, and there be fed.
 kin - dling hearts, the reign of God is here!

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 Music: DUNLAP'S CREEK, Samuel McFarland, fl. 1816; arr. *With One Voice*, 1995
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