



**Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA**

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

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

Service of the Word

November 28, 2021

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

*There is great joy in gathering with one another to lift up praise and thanksgiving to God. Measures have been put in place to provide a safe environment for us to gather in church to worship.*

+++++

NOTE: **Bold text indicates worshipers' response**, and \*' means please stand as you are able

PRELUDE

Michelle Young

WELCOME/INTRODUCTION OF "Christmas Around the World" Advent Theme

ADVENT WREATH READING/LIGHTING/SINGING

Reader: As we begin our celebration of Advent, we focus our attention on the Advent wreath here in our church. Similar wreaths can be found in Christian churches all around the world. We light candles at Advent and place lights on our Christmas tree to remind us – and everyone who sees them – that Jesus is the light of the world!

**People:** Dear God, **the lights of the season remind us of how Jesus came here on Earth to teach us all about your love, bring us the gift of your mercy, and lead us to heaven. In the weeks ahead, we will make time to remember how precious we all are to God. Amen.**

Reader: In Germany and Denmark candles are lit on Advent wreaths. In Ukraine, families light a candle in a loaf of bread and place it in the middle of their table. In Brazil, gigantic trees made of lights can be seen all over. In Argentina, families float 'globos,' paper balloons lit from inside, high into the air.

**People:** Dear Jesus, **may every light we see this Advent remind us of your great love for us and for all people, everywhere. Help us shine your love to others through our words and actions. Amen.**

By Lisa Komp. © Copyright 2021 by Creative Communications for the Parish, a division of Bayard, Inc. 1-800-325-9414. [www.creativecommunications.com](http://www.creativecommunications.com)

*(Light a blue candle.)*

Join in singing the 1<sup>st</sup> verse of "*Away in the Manger*" (Green #67)

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the sky looked down where he lay;  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

GATHERING

\* 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.**

\* OPENING LITANY (*Please respond with **bold text***)

L: Our faith is in the creator of heaven and earth; **I believe in God, the Father almighty**

L: God so loved the created, that he sent his only Son; **I believe in Jesus Christ, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

L: Jesus came to this world to teach us to love God and one another, and how to live well with and love our neighbors. He came with a mission from our creator; **He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

L: But death and sin had no hold on him, and so he went on to proclaim this good news; **He descended into hell.\* On the third day he rose again.**

L: And then it was time for the believers to continue Jesus' work from the Father, **so 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.**

L: But as promised, God sent an Advocate, a helper for the universal Christian Church. **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.*

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

\* PRAYER OF THE DAY Let us pray. Eternal and loving light, **shine in our hearts and shine through our lives. Jesus, light of the world, scatter the darkness of our ignorance, allow your mercy to be upon us, and flow through us. In this Advent season, we look for your face in the people around us, and ask that our lives may reflect your goodness. Amen.**

### GROWING

*Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is filled with gratitude for the believers in this city. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church. While this message was written for a community of believers that existed thousands of years ago, its message of longing to 'see the people 'face to face' is one we can relate to for our own church family. Listen for a message God has for us today. A reading from the Apostle Paul's letter to the Thessalonians, chapter 3, beginning at verse 9.*

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption. These are Jesus' words to his disciples, not long before the day of his arrest and death. It's a message of a time to come, and the waiting that is part of faithful living.*

The Gospel according to Luke, the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter. **All: Glory to you O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup>“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Mary Eide

HYMN OF THE DAY *"In the Bulb There is a Flower: Hymn of Promise"*



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;  
2 There's a song in ev - 'ry si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;  
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!  
there's a dawn in ev - 'ry dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.  
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty;



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,  
in our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

Text: Natalie Sleeth

Music: HYMN OF PROMISE, Natalie Sleeth

Text and music © 1986 Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## GIVING

**NOTE:** 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/credit union account – OR – go to [www.sothem.org](http://www.sothem.org) to **GIVE** tab to make a one time or reoccurring donation. Setting up an account with GivePlus offers you control on amount and timing of your giving.

\* OFFERING PRAYER God of our waiting and watching, **we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Jesus, light of the world, guide our path each day, as we give generously and gratefully to support your work in the world . Amen.**

\* PRAYERS AND PETITIONS (L: Hear us, O God **All: Your mercy is great.**)

\* 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 The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, ✝ through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

\* Green #400 SENDING HYMN "*My Lord, What A Morning* p. 5

\* DISMISSAL Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

\* POSTLUDE

Michelle Young

#### SCHEDULE

<b>TODAY</b>	<b>8:45am</b>	- <b>Sunday School Classes</b>
	<b>10:00am</b>	- <b>Worship</b>
	<b>11:00am</b>	- <b>Fellowship w/Christmas tree decorating</b>
MONDAY	5:30-7:30pm	- Church Council Decorate Tree/Meeting
	7pm	- AA Meeting
TUESDAY	1pm	- Bible Study on Holy Spirit (in basement)
	4-6pm	- Food Pantry
WEDNESDAY	3:20pm	- 7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> gr. Confirmation class
	6pm	- FREE Soup Supper
	7pm	- Blue Christmas Service
FRIDAY:	10am-Noon	- Food Pantry
SUNDAY:	8:45am	- Sunday School Classes
	10:00am	- Communion Worship w/Baptism

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

COME JOIN OUR BIBLE STUDY **Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 1pm** We will continue our study of the Holy Spirit. If you need a copy of the study from the *Gather* magazine ahead of time, you can pick one up at church or email Pastor Mary at [meide@luthersem.edu](mailto:meide@luthersem.edu) Here is a video from the Bible study author <https://youtu.be/AUINUXr7dgl>

Did someone say SOUP SUPPER? That's right, **Wednesday, 6pm Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>** Bob Dempski will be serving us homemade Chicken Noodle, Hamburger Vegetable and Vegetable Soups. All these will be accompanied by sandwiches and desserts.

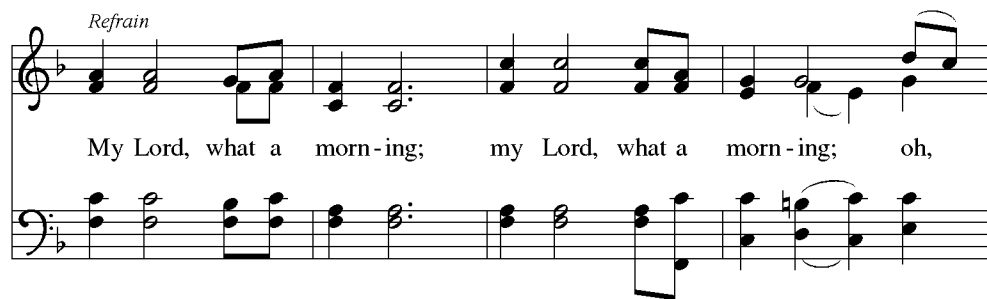
**BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP Wednesday, 7pm Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>** our state of mind and/or the events of the world around us don't always connect with the cultural expectation of a joy-filled or laughter-filled holiday season. Come to find some peace and hope within a time of worship.

Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS028313.

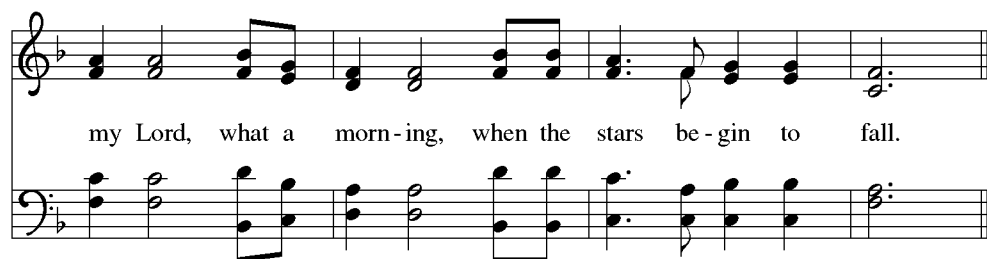
New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. One License Podcast / Streaming License A-724679

# My Lord, What a Morning

*Refrain*



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,

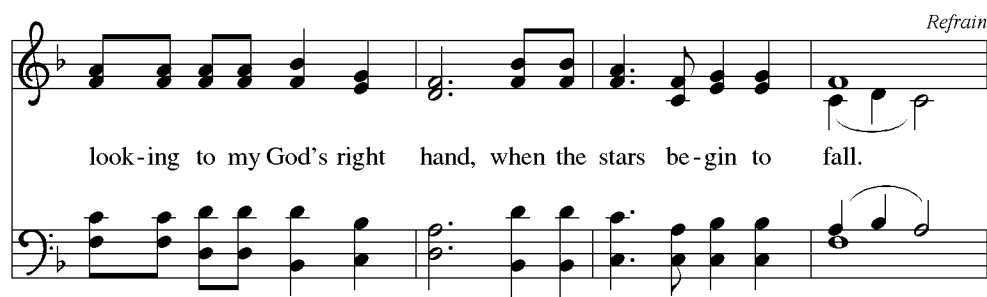


my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.



1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,  
2 You will hear the sin-ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,  
3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

*Refrain*



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

**Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church**

**207 University Street, Elk Mound, WI 54739**

Office Phone: 715-879-5115 Email: [sothlc@sothem.org](mailto:sothlc@sothem.org)

Website [www.sothem.org](http://www.sothem.org) Find us on Facebook, too!

Pastor Mary Eide (H) 715-309-4065 [meide@luthersem.edu](mailto:meide@luthersem.edu) Custodian, Terry Stamm 715-379-3728

Sunday School Coordinators: Chris Miller at [chrisbenelli.miller@gmail.com](mailto:chrisbenelli.miller@gmail.com) or Jaime Folczyk [mifolczyk@yahoo.com](mailto:mifolczyk@yahoo.com)

Financial Secretary: Barb Vadnais [barbvadnais1@gmail.com](mailto:barbvadnais1@gmail.com)