25th Sunday after Pentecost, November 15, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Shepherd of the Hill ELCA

"Encouraging faith and proclaiming God's love by Gathering, Growing, Giving."
Your presence in the sanctuary signifies your agreement to be on our live broadcast.



GATHERING

Please stand for the parts of the service designated with ✝

The congregation's parts are in **bold type.**

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTRODUCTION
Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

✝ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
In the name of the Father, and of the ✢ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.
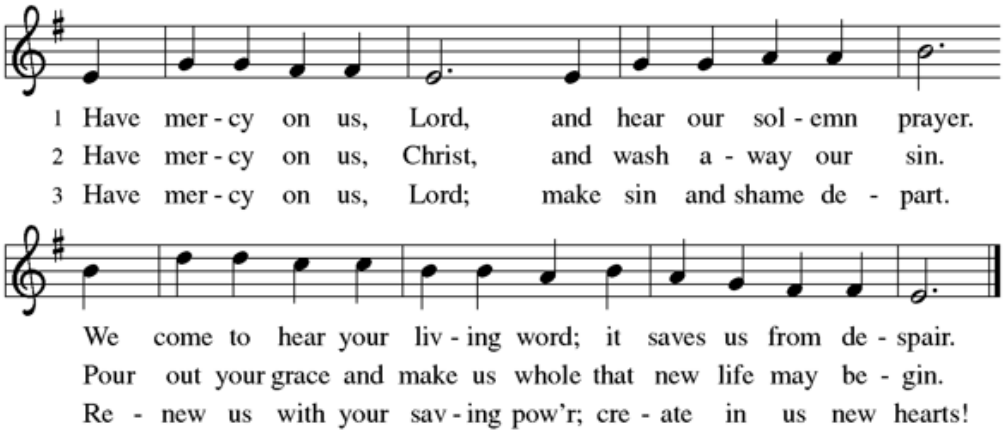
Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart;
we have not loved
our neighbors as ourselves.

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us,
and lead us, so that we may delight
in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**
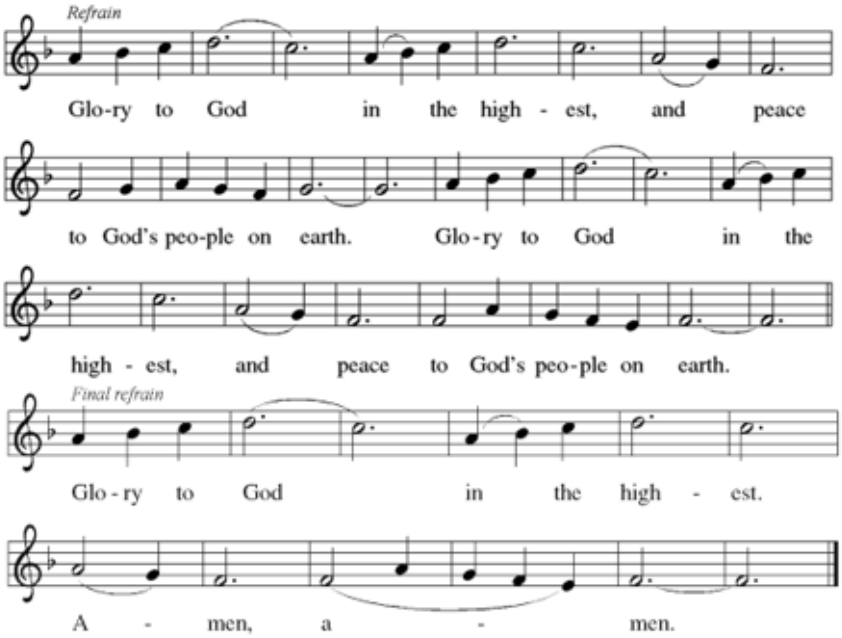
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

✝ GREETING
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

✝ KYRIE



✝ HYMN OF PRAISE



✝ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Righteous God, **our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✝ **GATHERING HYMN** Christ, Be Our Light **ELW 715**

WORD

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.

7 Be silent before the Lord God, for the day of the Lord is at hand! The Lord has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who settle like
dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." 13 Their
wealth shall be plundered and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not
inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. 14 The great day of
the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter; the warrior cries
aloud there. 15 That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and
devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 a day of trumpet
blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. 17 I will bring such
distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord,
their blood shall be poured out like dust and their flesh like dung. 18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth
shall be consumed, for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

We will read Psalm 90 responsively.

1 Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.
2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.
3 You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, O children of earth."
4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night;
5 you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:
6 in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
7 For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.
8 Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
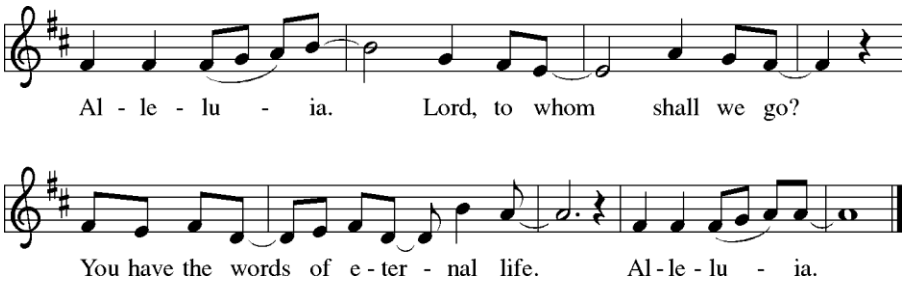
[9] When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
10 The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.
11 Who regards the power of your wrath? Who rightly fears your indignation?]
12 So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING: **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**
Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, 7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are **awake or asleep we** may live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

✝ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



✝ GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30
✝ The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**
Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two

talents made two more talents. [18] But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. [19] After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. [20] Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' [21] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [22] And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' [23] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [24] Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' [26] But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

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

SERMON Pastor Natalie Leske

CHILDREN'S TIME

✝ **HYMN OF THE DAY** Lord of Light **ELW 688**

✝ **CONFESSION OF FAITH- Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the hell.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.

✝ PRAYERS OF THE INTERCESSION

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You build up the church as a community of faithful witnesses throughout the generations. Enliven the worship, outreach, and service work of our congregations and ministries with the hope of your good news. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As the nights grow longer in the northern hemisphere, make us mindful of the earth's need for rest. Provide for fallow fields and hibernating animals; show us how to curb human impact on vulnerable lands and species. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine. Disrupt complacency among national and local leaders. Recommit our communities to transforming the systems that divide and oppress into those that empower and unite. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your embrace, we find refuge from all trials and troubles. Care for families who are separated or estranged, accompany all undergoing medical procedures or mental health treatment, and reassure any who are ill or despairing (*especially*). God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council members, finance committees, volunteer coordinators, and property. Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The faithful of every age trust in the hope of your saving grace. In thanksgiving for the ways our ancestors have journeyed before us, we remember all who have entered eternal life in you. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**

✝ GREETING OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.** *(Please share God's peace)*

✝ OFFERING and OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**
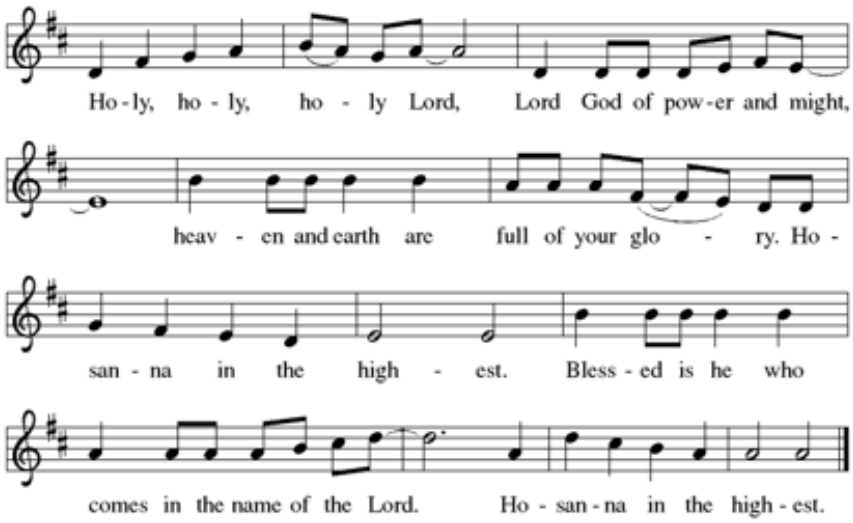
MEAL

✝ DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

✝ PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



✝ THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, we see and touch your Word in Jesus Christ, In him you have given us - and all the saints before us and those who will come after us- the gift of your love and forgiveness, the power of your sustaining spirit, and the firm foundation of truth as your Holy Word.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering your boundless love for us in Jesus Christ, we offer you our praise, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Almighty God, you've knit your people together in one mystic communion, and so we pray you send your Holy Spirit upon us and on this bread and this cup that they may be for us the body and the blood of Christ.

In this holy meal help us rejoice with the people of every time and place. With their guidance help us know your forgiveness and love and grow in grace as we advance in years.

May we know Christ in the breaking of this bread, so that in word and action we may be channels of your love, peace, and justice in the world. **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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

SHARING THE MEAL

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

✝ BLESSING

The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always. **Amen.**

✝ SENDING HYMN O God, Our Help in Ages Past **ELW 632**

✝ DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

SENDING MUSIC

WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding Leader	Pastor Natalie Leske
Musician	Lorin Divine
Acolyte	Kyler Powell
Slides	Bentley Klumby
Usher	Betty Heltne, Tim Jenson
Video	Billy Heltne
Reader	Stephany Grossbier

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Leaders Needed

- Ushers
- Readers
- Communion Assistants
- Livestream Helpers
- Advance Slides for screen

See Tim Jenson, Kris Jenson, Billy Heltne and Pastor Natalie with questions.



Love Lights

We will be having our Love Light tree again this year!
Proceeds split between the Christmas for Kids Fund and Shepherd of the Hill General Fund.
Forms in the gathering area.
See Kris J if you have any questions.
Thanks to all who volunteered to help.

WELCA Thankoffering will be Sunday, November 15th.



Shepherd of the Hill Christmas Program- Sunday, December 13, 2026 @ 10 am.

The W-ELCA are inviting everyone in the congregation to make baked goods, and lefse for the annual bake sale. Folks that are creative are welcome to make items for the event.

All monies from the sale go to the W-ELCA group, to be used to purchase items needed for the church.

Date: Sunday, December 13th

Lefse making:
If you know how to make lefse or want to learn how come join the group.
* December 11th, 1:00 pm until done...make the potatoes.
*December 12th, 9:00 am until noon...make the lefse.
*December 13th, bake sale/lefse/crafts... no sales until after the Christmas program.

Welcome to all visitors!
We are grateful that God brought you here today.
Please share your name and contact information in either the Guest Book or on a purple Visitor info sheet found in the Gathering Area.
Let us know if we can serve you in any way or if you have any questions.

Pastor Natalie's Office Hours:

Pastor Natalie's office hours are Wednesday from 10 am to 2 pm or by appointment.

You may call Pastor Natalie's cell phone 715-829-8324 to see if she can meet you Tuesday - Thursday.

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH AND BEYOND OUR DOORS

SUNDAY	11/15	8:45 am	- Sunday School
		10 am	- 25th Sunday after Pentecost, communion
			- W-ELCA Thank Offering
MONDAY	11/16	7 pm	- AA Meeting
TUESDAY	11/17	4-6 pm	- Food Pantry
WEDNESDAY	11/18	3:20 pm	- Confirmation
		5 pm	- Finance Committee Meeting
SUNDAY	11/22		- *NO Sunday School*
		10 am	- 26th Sunday after Pentecost

Elk Mound Community Food Pantry
Lower Level
Tuesdays: 4-6 pm

**** Faith Formation Follows the Elk Mound School Calendar ****

Sunday School~ ***3 years through 6th grade***
Sunday mornings- 8:45 to 9:45 am.

Confirmation Classes~ ***7th & 8th grade***
Class meets right after school on Wednesdays.

Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church
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Sunday School Coordinators: Jaime Folczyk mjfolczyk@yahoo.com
and Holly Sweeney hollysweeney65@gmail.com
Giving questions contact: Ali Sullivan bookkeeper@sothem.org