



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

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

1st Sunday of Advent *Holy Communion Sunday / Service of the Word* December 3rd, 2023

This worship is being live streamed. 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

Lorin Divine

WELCOME & MINISTRY MESSAGES

Pastor Ron Gerl

Reader: *Sarah Larson*

Acolyte: *Cade Larson*

Video: *Dave Young*

Ushers: *Tim Jenson, Keith & Rita Lee*

GATHERING

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

* GATHERING HYMN *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* LBW#25- all verses

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.

The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.

The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff'rings bore,
shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!

* CONFESSIO Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

Amen.

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.

Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,

you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world.

Amen.

* FORGIVENESS God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

Amen.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY Stir up your power, **O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Amen

ADVENT WREATH READING/ LIGHTING

First Sunday of Advent: HOPE

A reading from Isaiah 9:2, 6-7:

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this."

Lighting of candle 1 (singing *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* ELW#257 verse 1

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Advent Wreath Prayer: HOPE

Father God, every word in scripture points to the gift of hope that we have because of Christ Jesus. The Christmas story wasn't the beginning of that message of hope because the old testament is full of glimpses of your plan to redeem your people and restore them into a relationship with you, but we are able to truly begin to see and understand just how great your love for us is when we read the story of Jesus' birth in scripture.

That first Christmas, you gave us the gift of hope wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Thank you, Father, for your immeasurable gift. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. **Amen**

GROWING

Please join in reading Psalm 80 responsively.

Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 NIV

¹ Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth

² **before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh. Awaken your might; come and save us.**

³ Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

⁴ **How long, LORD God Almighty, will your anger smolder against the prayers of your people?**

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.

⁶ **You have made us an object of derision^[b] to our neighbors, and our enemies mock us.**

⁷ Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

¹⁷ **Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have raised up for yourself.**

¹⁸ Then we will not turn away from you; revive us, and we will call on your name.

¹⁹ **Restore us, LORD God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.**

Our reading today is from 1st Corinthians 1st chapter.

1st Corinthians 1:3-9 NIV

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **4** I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. **5** For in him you have been enriched in every way with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge **6** God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. **7** Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. **8** He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Here ends the second reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Please stand as you are able.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark 13th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

²⁴ "But in those days, following that distress, "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁶ "At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. ²⁸ "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it^[b] is near, right at the door. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. ³² "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert^[c]! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴ It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. ³⁵ "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: "Watch!"

The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O, Christ.

MESSAGE "How Santa and Jesus Differ"

Pastor Ron Gerl

* HYMN OF THE DAY *Standing on the Promises* Gospel Hymn- first 4 verses

Standing on the Promises

Standing on the promises of Christ my king, through eternal
ages let his praises ring; glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
standing on the promises of God.

Refrain: Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail, when the howling
storms of doubt and fear assail, by the living Word of God I shall prevail,
standing on the promises of God.

Refrain

Standing on the promises I now can see Perfect, present
cleansing in the blood for me; Standing in the liberty where Christ makes free,
standing on the promises of God.

Refrain

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord, bound to him
eternally by love's strong cord, overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
standing on the promises of God.

Refrain

text: Russell Kelso Carter (1886)

*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. ** universal

* PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things. Reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries near and far. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new. **Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

All creation signals your presence, O God: the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that both rest and flourish. Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth. **Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

Let the nations tremble at your holy presence, that justice and liberation prevail in all corners of the earth. Restore peace to nations in conflict, teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems, and bring stability to areas facing uncertain futures. **Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

Enrich the spirits of all who feel hopeless, fearful, or despairing. Stay close to those who await healing or relief (*especially*). Deliver all in any need. **Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

Be with those who keep awake at night: nurses working overnight shifts, caregivers of newborns and aging adults, stargazers, those who are anxious, or those who are traveling. Reveal to all that the dark can be a place of calm and comfort filled with your presence. **Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

You have sent out your angels and gathered your faithful people from every time and place, calling them into one fellowship of saints. Bless the witness of those who dwell in your eternal. **Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

Amen.

The OFFERING PLATE is located at the entrance of the church sanctuary. Your generous giving supports God's ministry at Shepherd of the Hill.

*OFFERING HYMN *We are an Offering* ELW#692

We are an Offering

We lift our voices we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord use our voices, Lord use our hands, Lord use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
We are an offering, we are an offering.

Text: Dwight Liles, b. 1957

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* OFFERING PRAYER God of power, **God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

* ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION 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.**
It is indeed right and salutary.....

* WORDS OF INSTITUTION

* 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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

* INVITATION All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat and drink what is good.

HOLY COMMUNION – *All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Jesus Christ in the bread and wine are welcome to commune with us. Gluten-free wafers available and give "thumbs up" for grape juice. Children who do not yet receive Holy Communion may come forward for a blessing. If you or a family member would like communion brought to them, please tell an usher.*

* POST COMMUNION PRAYER: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

* BENEDICTION

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today we welcome a new musician to our church family- Lorin Divine! Lorin will be playing once a month when Michelle is off. Welcome Lorin!



Effective 10/16 Secretary will be in office Mondays 9:30-11:30 am or occasional Wednesday 6-8 pm depending on her schedule.



Christmas for Kids~

SOTH is sponsoring two families this year. If interested to help with this outreach the signup sheets are on the Welcome table.

MAILING ADDRESSES for those folks who you may want to send words of care /concern /sympathy. **Please let the secretary know if you would like to be added and/ or know someone who might like to be.**

SIGN UP TO HOST A SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP~

Serve with family or friends **or** pair up with a "veteran" fellowship server- we love to help!
Entails: Making/serving coffee, cut/serve summer sausage and cheese, and crackers (found in the church refrigerator/ cabinets), and bring one treat (fruit or sweets or popcorn...you choose). Then just clean up after the event.



Habitat for Humanity "Faith Build"

Shepherd of the Hill, as a partner in the Menomonie Area Mission Coalition, is being invited to join *Chippewa Valley Habitat for Humanity* in a "Faith Build" to help local families in need of safe, affordable housing. **Chippewa Valley Habitat for Humanity** is a Christian ministry based in Eau Claire with a "mission to put God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope."

Three twin-home builds are being planned for the Brickyard Road area in Menomonie and one is already in the process of being constructed!

Here are some ways we can get involved:

- Volunteer as an individual at the worksite (*Activities may include framing, flooring, painting, trimming, siding, dry wall, landscaping, plumbing, electrical work, etc.*)
- Organize volunteers within our faith community.
- Provide lunch for on-site volunteers.
- Make a financial contribution and/or lead a fund-raising group.
- Share updates on social media and with friends.
- Create a welcome basket or other special items for the family.

Sign up to volunteer by creating an account (background check required) at:
cvh4h.volunteerhub.com

**** Ground Blessing Ceremony**

The ground blessing ceremony is scheduled for *Sunday, December 10 at 1:00p.m.* (Evening game for the Packers!) The city Mayor, the families, the faith community, neighbors, CVH4H Board Members and others are invited to join. Please register for the event through this [link](#). Or, go to cvh4h.volunteerhub.com and search for the event on December 10, 2023. The address and event details are noted on the event registration page.

***** Volunteer Days*****

There are two volunteer build day opportunities listed on cvh4h.volunteerhub.com Saturday, December 9th and Saturday, December 16th.

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