



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

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

2nd Sunday of Advent

Communion Worship

December 4th, 2022

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Let your light shine before others **ALL: That they may see our good works** L: And give glory to our God. **ALL: Alleluia! Amen.**¹

* CONFESSION We confess our sins before God and one another. *Pause for silence and reflection.*

Radiant God, **You have come to live among us, yet we fail time and again to see you in the faces of our neighbors. We look to ourselves instead of those in need. We seek the shallow comforts of things we can buy instead of the deep and lasting comfort of your presence. Forgive our stubborn refusal to see, and open our eyes to the joy and wonder of your incarnation.**

FORGIVENESS: Do not be afraid, for I bring you good news of great joy. The God of boundless grace forgives you all your sins, renewing your spirit for the sake of Immanuel, God with us. ¹

* PRAYER OF THE DAY ADVENT WREATH READING/LIGHTING

Reader: With Esther we see plainly the injustice at work in our world, O God.

ALL: And with Esther we know it is our call to stand up to injustice whatever the cost.

Reader: (light candle 1) We light this first candle as a beacon of hope for those who wait.

ALL: (light candle 2) We light this second candle as the fire of courage that we might bear

witness to your justice Narrative Lectionary Programs 1 22-23 Worship resources Copyright @ 2022 Clergy Stuff

(Light a blue candle.)

* Green #89 GATHERING HYMN "How Good Lord To Be Here" page 5

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

*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. God of grace and mercy, **With Esther we fear for the future of our people and all the earth. As we wait for your promised savior, give us hope that all will be made right in you. Amen.**¹

GROWING

With the invasion by foreign armies, most of the Jews find themselves exiled from their land, and now serving members of the Persian Empire. The events of Queen Esther's life, and those of her fellow Jews, remind us how the egotistical anger of one official led to the passing of a law to kill ALL the Jews living in the empire. Queen Esther is the ONLY Jew who is in a position to speak to the King, to stop the planned slaughter. The Persians don't know their queen is a Jew, and she would need to risk her own life, to save those of her faith. A reading from the Book of Esther, chapter 4.

4:1 When Mordecai learned [about the king's order for ALL the Jews to be killed on a set date] he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went through the city, wailing with a loud and bitter cry; 2 he went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one might enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. 3 In every province, wherever the king's command and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and most of them lay in sackcloth and ashes. 4 When Esther's maids and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed; she sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth; but he would not accept them. 5 Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what was happening and why. 6 Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate, 7 and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. 8 Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther, explain it to her, and charge her to go to the king to make supplication to him and entreat him for her people. 9 Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. 10 Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai, saying, 11 "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—all alike are to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden scepter to someone, may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days." 12 When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, 13 Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. 14 For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this." 15 Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, 16 "Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish." 17 Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE Mordecai: MOR-duh-ki Hathach: HAY-thuck Haman: HAY-man

CHILDREN MESSAGE & SERMON

Pastor Mary Eide

GREEN #453 HYMN OF THE DAY "If You But Trust in God to Guide You" page 6

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 <https://www.sothem.org/give> 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 that comes from your checking or savings account.*

* OFFERING PRAYER Loving God, **you call us to bold action on behalf of the world. Accept now these gifts for the good of all your beloved creation. Amen.**¹

* GREAT THANKSGIVING 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**

* 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 God sets a feast before us in the presence of our enemies, and strengthens us for the work ahead. Let us prepare our hearts and minds that we might answer God's call. Come and be satisfied. ¹

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 We give you thanks... **Amen.**

* ANNOUNCEMENTS/BLESSING Remembering that you are never alone on your walk through this world, feel the freedom of having the Holy Spirit within you, your Savior beside you, and your divine Father reaching out to you. Know you go into God's world blessed by God the Father, Son, and ✝ Holy Spirit, now and forever **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 #439 SENDING HYMN "*What A Friend We Have in Jesus*" p. 7

* CLOSING LITANY Still we wait for you, O God, **For the coming of the Light.** We see injustice everywhere, **As those in power oppress,** As peoples are deprived of their freedom, **As human rights are trampled.** With Esther give us courage to speak **On behalf of your beloved children,** That we might make it possible **For your justice to be done,** Even as we wait for you, O God, **For the coming of the Light.**¹

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

* POSTLUDE

Michelle Young

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THIS WEEK AT CHURCH AND BEYOND OUR DOORS

TODAY	8:45am	- Sunday School Classes
	10:00am	- Communion Worship
	11:00am	- 40th Anniversary Fellowship for Sandy & Conrad Barth
MONDAY	7pm	- AA Meeting
TUESDAY	4-6pm	- Food Pantry
WEDNESDAY	9-11am	- Visitation for Joann Knutson
	11am	- Funeral followed by luncheon and burial
	3:20pm	- 7 th -8 th gr. Confirmation class
FRIDAY:	10am-Noon	- Food Pantry
SUNDAY:	8:45am	- Sunday School Classes
	10:00am	- Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOVE LIGHTS forms are now available to remember/honor those you love. Half of \$10 donation goes to support the Christmas for Kids program to support local families for Christmas, and half for God's ministry here at Shepherd of the Hill.

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS POTLUCK is Wed. Dec. 14th at Noon...men are invited too. Short program to be held after the meal.

WOMEN'S LEFSE/BAKE/CRAFT SALE happening December 18th

INTENT AND VOLUNTEER FORMS DUE BY Dec. 18th.

Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church 207 University Street, Elk Mound, WI 54739

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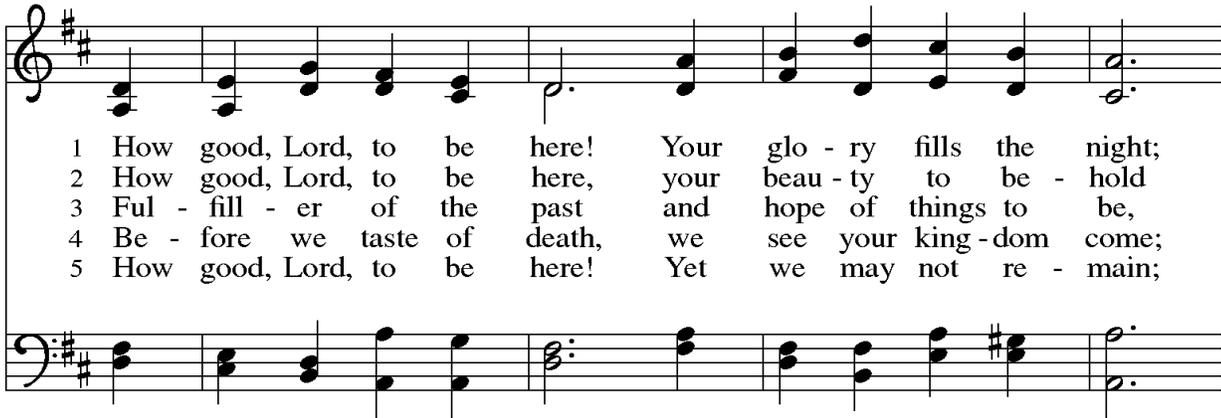
Pastor Mary Eide (C) 715-308-0652 meide@luthersem.edu Custodian, Terry Stamm 715-379-3728

Sunday School Coordinators: Jaime Folczyk mjfolczyk@yahoo.com and Holly Sweeney hollysweeney65@gmail.com

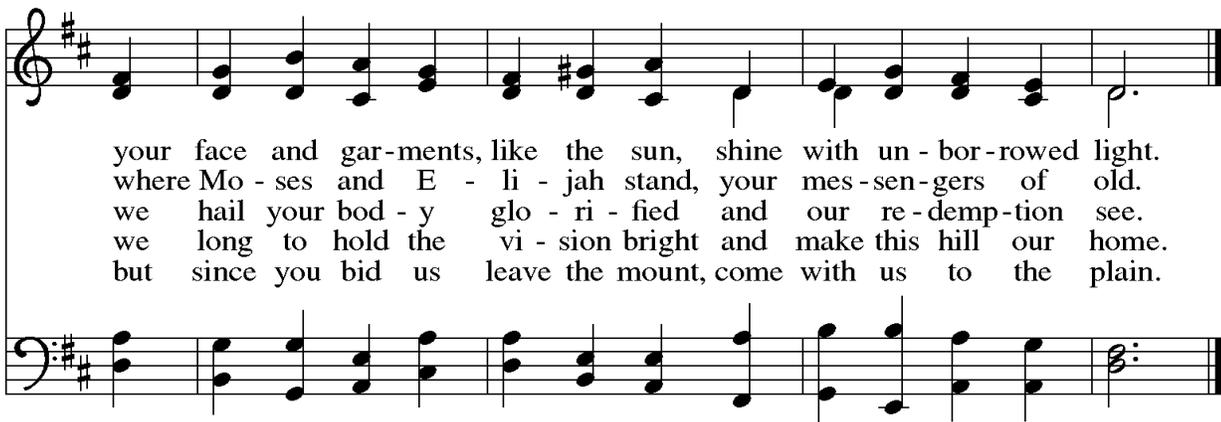
Financial Secretary: Barb Vadnais barbvadnais1@gmail.com

How Good, Lord, to Be Here!

Sing verses 1-4



1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;
2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be - hold
3 Ful - fill - er of the past and hope of things to be,
4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;
5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re - main;



your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.
where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.
we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.
we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.
but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858-1933, alt.

Music: POTSDAM, W. Mercer, *The Church Psalter and Hymn Book*, 1854

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If You But Trust in God to Guide You



1 If you but trust in God to guide you and place your
 2 What gain is there in fu - tile weep - ing, in help - less
 3 In pa - tient trust a - wait his lei - sure in cheer - ful
 4 Sing, pray, and keep his ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



con - fi - dence in him, you'll find him al - ways there be -
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in his care and
 hope, with heart con - tent to take what - e'er your Fa - ther's
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly, and trust his word; though un - de -



side you, to give you hope and strength with - in. For those who
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For he who
 plea - sure and all - dis - cern - ing love have sent; doubt not your
 serv - ing, you'll find his prom - ise true to be. God nev - er



trust God's change - less love build on the
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - ry loss.
 in - most wants are known to him who chose you for his own.
 will for - sake in need the soul that trusts in him in - deed.

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Text: Georg Neumark, 1621–1681; tr. composite, alt.
 Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark, 1621–1681

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What a Friend We Have in Jesus

1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.

Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820–1886
 Music: CONVERSE, Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

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