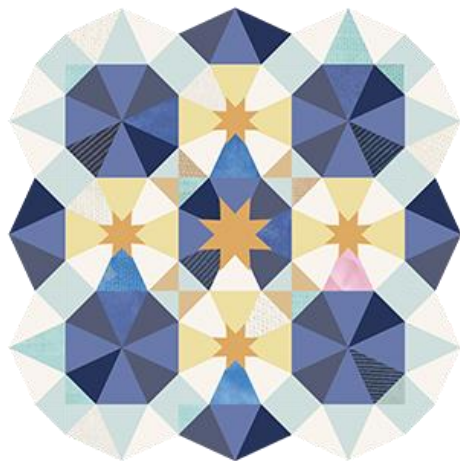


# YOU ARE A BLESSING

DECEMBER 1, 2024  
WITH HOLY COMMUNION  
10:00 AM



**WORDS**  
FOR THE **BEGINNING**

SHEPHERD OF THE MOUNTAINS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PARK CITY, UTAH



## SHEPHERD OF THE MOUNTAINS

LUTHERAN CHURCH – PARK CITY, UTAH

### **WHEN WE SAY ALL ARE WELCOME, WE REALLY MEAN IT!**

As all people are created in the image of God, we embrace diversity in our congregation and community, and we affirm the dignity and worth of every person.

We honor the guiding principle that discrimination is incompatible with Christ's unconditional love and we are committed to racial equity.

We boldly embrace, love, celebrate and welcome persons of all faith backgrounds, races, ethnicities, cultures, ages, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions.

Everyone has a place here.

**All are Welcome!**

*We encourage the participation of children in our worship. Drawing materials and children's bulletins are available at the back of the sanctuary above the basket of crayons. There are spaces available among the chairs for children who need to move!*

*Hearing Assistant Devices are available in the narthex.  
Please ask an usher if you need one.*

***Please take a moment and silence your cell phones***

# CALL TO WORSHIP

## PRELUDE and WELCOME

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Inspired by Isaiah 43:1-4 and Luke 1:26-29*

God says,

**“Do not be afraid.”**

God says,

**“I have called you by name.”**

God says,

**“I will be with you.”**

God says,

**“You are precious and honored in my sight.”**

At the beginning of this season,

**at the start of this week,**

at the top of this hour,

**may we wrap ourselves in these words. May we begin again.**

Let us worship our Holy God!

### CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY | HOPE

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again?

Where do we start?

**Let us begin with the good news! Let us begin by trusting that we are a blessing, loved by a gracious God.**

**Let us begin with music and singing!**

**Let us begin with warmth and welcome. Let us begin with hope.**

Yes, let us begin with hope.

Today we light the candle of hope to shine a light in a worn and weary world.

**May this be our foundation. May this be our fresh start.**

**May this be our new beginning.**

May hope flow forth from here. **Amen!**

## **ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING**

*“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

*ELW 257*

*vv 1*

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

In the Gospel of Luke, the angel Gabriel...

Let us pray:

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Affirming God,**

**Your first words to creation were words of love. You looked at this earth and said, *“It is good.”***

**You spoke affirmations through the prophets. You spoke blessings over Mary.**

**You spoke belonging through Christ.**

**At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing, made in your image, held in your love.**

**Forgive us for forgetting this truth.**

**Forgive us for measuring our worth by society’s measuring stick instead of yours.**

**We believe.**

**Help our unbelief.**

**In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.**

## **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

Family of faith,

I don't know the last time someone told you that you are good, just as you are.

I don't know the last time you heard that you are loved and created in the image of God.

I don't know the last time you trusted those words and truly believed that you are a blessing. However, in case it has been a while,

hear these words from Isaiah:

God says,

**“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.**

**I have called you by name.**

**You are mine.”**

We are forgiven. We are loved. Let it leave you awestruck.

**Thanks be to God! May we believe it. Amen.**

## **GATHERING SONG**

**“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”**

**ELW 242**

## **PRAYERS FOR ILLUMINATION**

Affirming God,

How often do you speak to us, and how often do we miss it?

How often do you whisper blessings over us that we refuse to hear? Open our hearts.

Create space in us to not only hear these words, but to believe the good news tucked between them.

We are hungry for your wisdom, so speak to us now.

With hope and curiosity, we listen.

With hope and curiosity,  
we dare to begin again.  
**Amen.**

## WORD

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



### READING

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

### SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

**“Blessed Be the God of Israel”**

**ELW 250**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us confess our faith:

**We believe in a blessing God  
who calls us Beloved.**

**We believe that this blessing showed up in the life of  
Mary and Jesus, and was also bestowed upon the  
hemorrhaging woman, the poor in spirit,**

**the children,**

**the crowds,**

**the Jews,**

**the Gentiles,**

**the faithful and the doubting.**

**So in faith,**

**we trust that God's blessing,**

**like ripples on the water,**

**forever reaches toward us.**

**And with wild hope,**

**we believe**

**that because of this blessing,**

**we are covered in love.**

**In Jesus, we are more than enough.**

**Thanks be to God!**

**Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*The assisting minister invites the assembly into prayer, saying,*

**God of Blessings, once again we find ourselves  
standing at the beginning...**

*The pastor concludes the prayers:*

**So on this new day, we pray: speak your words of  
blessing once again. In Jesus' name we pray.**

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you!**

## MEAL

### OFFERING

*The offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.*

***Cash, check and online donations are all welcome  
Thank you for your generosity!***



Scan to donate online via [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly)

### OFFERTORY

#### THE 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.**

### PREFACE

God of new beginnings, ...

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION



## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

*All are welcome to come forward for Holy Communion in this church. You do not need to be Lutheran; you do not need to be a member of Shepherd of the Mountains; you do not need to worry about whether you commune in your own parish. Those communing may eat the wafer and drink from individual cups found on the communion tray (red wine) or (white grape juice). Please indicate to the Pastor if Gluten-free wafers are preferred. Those who do not desire the Sacrament may come forward, arms crossed, for a blessing.*

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:*

*The body of Christ, given for you.*

*The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

*and each person may respond:*

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

*The Pastor offers a blessing for the congregation.*

*The people respond:*

**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God,

Sometimes we tell ourselves that too much has taken place to begin again.

We think the world is too far gone.

We think we have made too many mistakes.

We tell ourselves that we couldn't possibly begin again.

But then we come to this Table and we get a glimpse of your kingdom. We come to this Table and all are welcomed, all are seen, all are fed. And just like that, we have hope.

Just like that, we begin again.

Thank you for the gift of this fresh start.

Thank you for planting hope deep in our bones.

Thank you for meeting us in ordinary bread and juice to remind us that it's never too late to build your kingdom here.

We are grateful.

We are *so* grateful.

**Amen.**

# SENDING

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BENEDICTION

As you leave this place,  
may you have the wisdom to lean on one other.  
May you have the courage to hold onto hope,  
the compassion to do the good that is yours to do,  
and the confidence to trust that God sees you as a  
blessing. For in a world full of dead ends,  
Advent invites us to begin again.

So start here.

Start now.

Start with love and begin again.

In the name of Christ,  
our new beginning,  
go in peace.

**Amen.**

### SENDING SONG

“Love Has Come”

ELW 292

### SENDING

Go in peace. Encourage one another in Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE



## Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church

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Contact Office: [office@shepherdofthemountains.org](mailto:office@shepherdofthemountains.org)

Contact Pastor Derek Fossey: [pastor@shepherdofthemountains.org](mailto:pastor@shepherdofthemountains.org)

### **SHEPHERD OF THE MOUNTAINS MISSION STATEMENT**

*With open doors, minds, and hearts, we invite all to experience the joy of God's love through worship, community, and service.”*



*Revised 11-25-24*

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