


*In Celebration of God's Grace for 100 years  
in the Dakota-Montana District*

A wide, flat field of golden grass stretches to the horizon under a sky with scattered clouds and a bright, low sun.

**O GOD, OUR HELP  
IN AGES PAST**

A vast, eroded landscape with deep, winding canyons and ridges, tinted in shades of blue and purple.

**OUR HOPE  
FOR YEARS TO COME**

A range of rugged mountains with snow-capped peaks, viewed from a valley with rolling hills and trees showing autumn colors.

*Shining Mountains Lutheran Church ~ Bozeman, MT  
November 8, 2020*

## GATHERING RITE ON THE WORD

*This alternate beginning for worship may be used on any occasion to remind God's people of the eternal love of our gracious God. This is the love that has sustained us for 100 years of worship and service in the Dakota-Montana District of WELS.*

### INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

### HYMN #441 (vv.1-3)

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our  
2 Un - der the shad - ow of - your throne Your  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or



hope for years to come, Our shel - ter from the  
saints have dwelt se - cure; Suf - fi - cient is your  
earth re - ceived its frame, From ev - er - last - ing



storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home,  
arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.  
you are God, To end - less years the same.

### OPENING RESPONSES FROM PSALM 107

M: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

C: **His love endures forever.**

M: Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story –

C: **Those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,**

M: Those he gathered from the lands,

C: **From east and west, from north and south.**

M: Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love

C: **And his wonderful deeds for mankind,**

M: For he satisfies the thirsty

**C: And fills the hungry with good things.**

**HYMN #441** (vv.4-5)

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

4. *A thousand ages in your sight    Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night    Before the rising sun.*

5. *Time, like an ever-rolling stream,    Soon bears us all away;  
We fly, forgotten, as a dream    Dies at the op'ning day.*

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;

*Psalm 138:8*

**C: Your love, O LORD, endures forever – do not abandon the works of your hands.**

M: Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence,    *Heb. 4:16*

**C: So that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.**

M: We confess to the Lord:

**C: Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his holy life and innocent death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

# LORD, HAVE MERCY

KYRIE ELEISON

M: Let us now appeal to the eternal love of our gracious God.

C: **LORD, have mercy.**

M: For the love of God that won our salvation in Christ, let us pray to the LORD.

C: **LORD, have mercy.**

M: For the love of God to protect and provide for his Church on earth, let us pray to the LORD.

C: **LORD, have mercy.**

M: For the love of God to bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth, let us pray to the LORD.

C: **LORD, have mercy.**

M: O Lord God, help, save, comfort, and defend us in your eternal power and love.

C: **Amen.**

**HYMN #441** (vv.6)

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

*6. O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Still be our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray:

Lord God, you have promised your powerful grace and your abiding presence to your Church forever. We thank you for those who have gone before us, serving you in the one true Christian faith, and for the blessings of the past one hundred years in our small section of your kingdom on earth. Increase our faith in you. Knit us together in the bonds of your unchanging love. Make our fellowship an example of the good that comes from you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

## THE WORD

## FIRST READING

## Deuteronomy 7:6-9

*The mystery of election is beyond our understanding. God picked me? Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, he looks at people like us in the wide-open spaces of the Dakotas, Montana, Wyoming, and Canada? It's not because we're wonderful or numerous or powerful. We are, in fact, a tiny district in number. It's because "the LORD loved you." And because he "kept the oath," his oath. It's a marvel to think that God picked and preserved churches like ours. We're barely hanging on by our fingernails in some places. We're spread out so far and so thin. And yet he looked at us with love and continues to do so.*



6For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. 7The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. 8But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.

## PSALM OF THE DAY

## Psalm 46



The might-y Lord is with us; the God of Ja-cob is our for-tress.

*Psalm tone*



God is our refuge and strength,\*  
an ever-present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way\*  
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

though its waters roar and foam\*  
and the mountains quake with their surging.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,\*  
the holy place where the Most High dwells.

God is within her, she will not fall;\*  
God will help her at break of day.

“Be still, and know that I am God;\*  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth.”

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Refrain*

## SECOND READING

## Philippians 1:3-11

*In a district as far flung as ours, we learn the truth of the aphorism, "Absence makes the heart grow fonder." And so we pray for each other, as Paul reminds us with great longing and "the affection of Christ Jesus," not always seeing each other or knowing what to pray for, but realizing that from beginning to end it's God who started and finishes the work. May the Lord keep us pure and blameless "until the day of Christ." Then, no matter how little, if ever, we see each other during the days of life, we will be joined to glorify and praise our loving God forever.*



<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup>In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup>being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

<sup>7</sup>It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.

<sup>8</sup>God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, <sup>10</sup>so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup>filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## GOSPEL

John 17:1, 13-26

*There are times in everyone's life, and in our district, when we see how not "one" we have been. We show how much we need to be sanctified by the Spirit through the Word. We show how much protection we need from the evil one. We show how much the prayer of Jesus, "that we would be one" is more often an ideal than a reality. We show how true is our confession, that we "believe in one, holy, Christian, and apostolic Church," because we can rarely see this oneness. As we embark upon our next one-hundred years, pray the Lord Jesus to bring us closer and closer together in unity, in peace, and in love.*



After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. <sup>13</sup>"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. <sup>14</sup>I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. <sup>15</sup>My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. <sup>17</sup>Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. <sup>20</sup>"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup>that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that

the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup>I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one – <sup>23</sup>I in them and you in me – so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. <sup>24</sup>“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. <sup>25</sup>“Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup>I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

# HYMN #536

## *Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head*



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Church's head, You are her  
2 O Lord, let this your lit - tle flock, Your name a -  
3 Help us to serve you ev - er - more With hearts both  
4 And for your gos - pel let us dare To sac - ri -



one foun - da - tion. In you she trusts, be - fore you  
lone con - fess - ing, Con - tin - ue in your lov - ing  
pure and low - ly. And may your Word, that light di -  
fice all trea - sure; Teach us to bear your bless - ed



bows, And waits for your sal - va - tion. Built  
care, True u - ni - ty pos - sess - ing. Your  
vine, Shine on in splen - dor ho - ly That  
cross, To find in you all plea - sure. Oh,



on this rock se - cure, Your Church shall en - dure  
sac - ra - ments, O Lord, And your sav - ing Word  
we re - pent - ance show, In faith ev - er grow.  
grant us stead - fast - ness In joy and dis - tress.



Though all the world de - cay And all things  
To us e'er pure re - tain. Grant that they  
The pow'r of sin de - stroy And e - vils  
Lord, for your mer - cy's sake, Let us by  
pass a - way. Oh, hear, oh, hear us, Je - sus!  
may re - main Our on - ly strength and com - fort.  
that an - noy. Oh, make us faith - ful Chris - tians.  
grace par - take Of end - less joy and glo - ry.

## SERMON

**Philippians 1:3-11**

*O God Our Help in Ages Past  
Our Hope for Years to Come*

## APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## OFFERING

*Motivated by our Savior's love for us, we give him our first and best.*

*You can place your offering in the plate in the entryway,  
or by following this link to our secure online giving site.*



## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, at this 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Dakota-Montana District we reflect on your past help and are encouraged in our hope for the future. We praise you for keeping and sustaining your people throughout these 100 years and for preserving the preaching of your Word and the administration of your sacraments among us.

**C: We praise you also for using us to bring to others the good news that sinners are reconciled to you through the life and death of Jesus Christ.**

M: Now we ask you to give us courage and hope as we move day by day into the future. Keep safe all those who assemble here in your name.

**C: Do not permit the evil one to pluck us out of your mighty hand.**

M: Strengthen us in the confidence that you have already overcome our greatest enemies: sin, death, and the devil.

**C: Increase our trust in your precious promise that you are with us always.**

M: Cause your Holy Spirit to work mightily in us and through us, so that we may grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**C: Be with us as we strive to pass down to our children the truths that have been passed down to us. Continue to make our congregation and our district a beacon of your light in this sin-darkened world.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

M: Grant that this celebration of your gracious activity these last 100 years be only the prelude to that far greater celebration we will enjoy forever in the joy and glory of the world to come. Sanctify us by the truth; your word is truth.

**C: Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C:** 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.

## BLESSING

**M:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

**C:** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN #293

*God's Word Is Our Great Heritage*

God's Word is our great her - i - tage And shall be ours for -  
ev - er; To spread its light from age to age Shall be our  
chief en - deav - or. Through life it guides our way; In death it  
is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds en - dure, We keep its  
teach - ings pure Through - out all gen - er - a - tions.

# Announcements

**Serving Us This Week** (November 8<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>)

**Cleaners:** Bakers, Hunziker, Beal, Claunch

**Serving Us Next Week** (November 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>)

**Cleaners:** Linn, Joecks, Jesson, Hutchinson

## This Week at Shining Mountains:

Today	8:30 am	Divine Worship
	9:40 am	Sunday School & Bible Class
	10:30 am	Divine Worship
Monday, Nov. 9 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Pastor Circuit Mtg - Livingston
Tuesday, Nov. 10 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Little Lambs
	6:00 pm	Basic Bible Christianity
Wednesday, Nov. 11 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 pm	Basic Bible Christianity
	4:30 pm	Youth Confirmation Class
	6:00 pm	Basic Bible Christianity
	7:00 pm	Council Meeting
Thursday, Nov. 12 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Little Lambs
Saturday, Nov. 14 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	SHINE meeting
Sunday, Nov. 15 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 am	Worship with Communion
	9:40 am	Sunday School & Bible Class
	10:30 am	Worship with Communion

## Special Free Will Offering

In the entryway you will see a special offering basket. That free will offering will go to support some of the work we do together as a district and synod – such as Christian Education and Missions. The funds will be divided between a scholarship program to encourage children from our Dakota-Montana district to study for ministry and a fund to start and support new missions in our district.

## New Meditations and Forward in Christ

In the entryway near the mailboxes you will find the new Meditations Devotion booklet as well as the Forward in Christ magazine. Pick them up today and be fed, encouraged and uplifted.