



P Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.  
**C Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.**  
 P Prepare the way of the Lord.  
**C Make His paths straight.**

P Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.  
**C Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.**  
 P From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**C the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

**C 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.**

Old Testament Canticle

LSB page 261

*Refrain*

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
 He has be - come my sal - va - tion.  
 With joy will you draw wa - ter from the  
 wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that  
 day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,  
 make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -

claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."

*Refrain*

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done

glo - rious - ly; let this be made known in all the

earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -

hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the

Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

*Refrain*

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son  
 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;  
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will  
 be for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*  
 The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
 He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

## Readings From Holy Scripture

### Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35:1–10

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.” <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand

shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup>And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. <sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** "Creator of the Stars and Night" Holy Cross Choir and Handbells

## **Epistle**

James 5:7–11

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **Holy Gospel**

Matthew 11:2–15

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” <sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ <sup>11</sup>Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup>From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup>For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, <sup>14</sup>and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. <sup>15</sup>He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## CATECHISM REVIEW

### Ten Commandments

LSB page 264

- C** You shall have no other gods.  
 You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.  
 Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.  
 Honor your father and your mother.  
 You shall not murder.  
 You shall not commit adultery.  
 You shall not steal.  
 You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.  
 You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.  
 You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or  
 maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to  
 your neighbor.

## **Apostles' Creed**

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

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.**

## **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.**

**Hymn of the Day**      “When All the World Was Cursed”

LSB 346

1      When all the world was cursed  
            By Moses' condemnation,  
    Saint John the Baptist came  
            With words of consolation.  
    With true forerunner's zeal  
            The greater One he named,  
    And Him, as yet unknown,  
            As Savior he proclaimed.

- 2 Before he yet was born,  
He leaped in joyful meeting,  
Confessing Him as Lord  
Whose mother he was greeting.  
By Jordan's rolling stream,  
A new Elijah bold,  
He testified of Him  
Of whom the prophets told:
- 3 Behold the Lamb of God  
That bears the world's transgression,  
Whose sacrifice removes  
The devil's dread oppression.  
Behold the Lamb of God,  
Who takes away our sin,  
Who for our peace and joy  
Will full atonement win.
- 4 O grant, dear Lord of love,  
That we receive, rejoicing,  
The word proclaimed by John,  
Our true repentance voicing,  
That gladly we may walk  
Upon our Savior's way  
Until we live with Him  
In His eternal day.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Paul E. Kretzmann, 1883–1965, alt.  
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**Sermon**

“Excited Preparations”

Matthew 11:2-15

**Prayer**

LSB page 265

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

P For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

P For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

P For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

P For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

P For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

P For . . . [additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]. . . let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

P Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

### **Collect of the Day**

P Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## Collect for the Word

**P** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

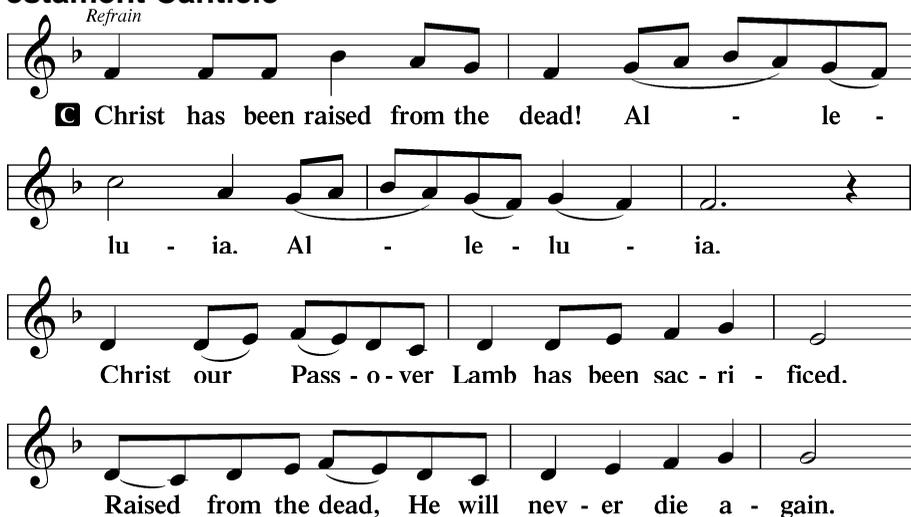
## Morning Prayer

LSB page 266

**C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.  
Amen.

## New Testament Cantic

*Refrain*



Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -  
lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Christ our Pass - o - ver Lamb has been sac - ri - ficed.  
Raised from the dead, He will nev - er die a - gain.



Death has no more do - min - ion o - ver Him.



*Refrain*  
Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -



lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Dy - ing, Christ dies to sin, once for all. Liv - ing, He



lives to God. Count your - selves as dead to



sin and a - live to God in Christ Je - sus, our Lord.



*Refrain*  
Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -



lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Blessing

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
bless and preserve you.

**C** **Amen.**

- 1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!  
“Christ is near,” we hear it say.  
“Cast away the works of darkness,  
All you children of the day!”
- 2 Startled at the solemn warning,  
Let the earthbound soul arise;  
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,  
Shines upon the morning skies.
- 3 See, the Lamb, so long expected,  
Comes with pardon down from heav’n.  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
One and all, to be forgiv’n;
- 4 So, when next He comes in glory  
And the world is wrapped in fear,  
He will shield us with His mercy  
And with words of love draw near.
- D5 Honor, glory, might, dominion  
To the Father and the Son  
With the ever-living Spirit  
While eternal ages run!

**Acknowledgments**

Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book

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# **THE SUNDAY HERALD**

## **December 12 - 18, 2022**

### **MONDAY**

*DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY  
NEWSLETTER*

AA 7:00pm

### **TUESDAY**

Church Council 7:00pm

TOPS 8:30am & 6:00pm

### **WEDNESDAY**

**Advent Midweek Worship** **7:00pm**

### **THURSDAY**

Prayer Group 3:00pm

Bells 6:30pm

Choir 7:30pm

MOM Group 7:00pm

### **FRIDAY**

Bulletin Assembly 10:00am

Packing Christmas Baskets 7:00pm

### **SATURDAY**

Scrapbook Workshop 9:00am

Distribute Christmas Baskets 9:00am

**Communion Worship** **5:30pm**

### **SUNDAY**

Adult Bible Class &  
Sunday School 9:00am

**Communion Worship** **10:00am**

### **BIBLE READINGS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 7:10-17

Epistle: Romans 1:1-7

Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

### **ABOUT THE COVER**

Isaiah presents a beautiful picture of the day when the Lord will make this world right. It is a sight to behold! In His ministry, Jesus literally opened blind eyes to see. At the same time. He was also opening the eyes of faith to see Him as the Messiah. Jesus is still restoring eyes to see aright through His Word. Even though today we see dimly, a day is coming when we shall see face to face (1 Corinthians 13:12).

### **VOTERS' MEETING**

Our annual voters' meeting is this Sunday, December 11 after the worship service. On the agenda is the election of the 2023 Church Council Officers, the approval of the 2023 Budget and the disposition of the bus. Please make every effort to attend this very important meeting.

**FOG (FAMILY OF GOD)**

Interested in helping in some way with the lunch bag project in 2023? Would you like to purchase the chips, or the water, or how about the cookies for the 50 lunch bags we provide FOG? We will notify you of our 2023 dates in January - if a particular date works for you please contact Roberta Hanka (586-457-8135). It takes all of us working together to make this work - Thank YOU!!

### **MOTOWN SOUP**

Sunday School and Ladies Guild will be selling Motown Soup! Payment is made by cash or check when you place your order. **Please make checks payable to Holy Cross Lutheran Church.** *The Last Order Deadline is SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11.* Visit our Motown Soup Display Table or call Linda 586-337-2573; Roberta 586-486-5645 or Laurel at 248-331-5945. Thank you.

### **THANKS TO COUNCIL**

Join us on January 8th in Bible Class as we thank our past and present Council Members with a cake (this will take place of the donuts) and bagels will be available. Hope to see you there!

### **SAVE THE DATE**

The Eisinger's are inviting Holy Cross members to an open house on New Year's Day from 2-6. Stop by for some homemade eggnog and a variety of apps. The address is 43681 Perignon in Sterling Heights.

### **BEHOLD! CHIRST IS OUR PEACE**

This year's Advent Midweek services are based on the theme "Behold." This word is everywhere in the Scriptures, calling on us to straighten up our heads and pay attention. We lift up the eyes of faith at the beginning of a new Church Year, remembering Christ's first advent among us and looking forward to His advent at the end of the world. Let us delight in His Word and "behold wondrous things out of your law" (Psalm 119:18).

Peace is found in the one sent by God to be the Savior. His name is Jesus, and He is God's own Son in human flesh. His death and resurrection paid for all sin and earned eternal life for all who believe in Him. Jesus forgives the sins of all who believe in Him. Jesus' love gives peace to all who trust in Him. Christmas is the time of peace and joy, of singing and laughing all because of Jesus This is the Good News of the Gospel and the true meaning of Christmas.

Advent Midweek services are Wednesdays at 7:00 pm: December 14—Zephaniah 3:14-20. Quiet communion following the worship service. Join us as we learn of the true meaning of Christmas.