

## WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS!

We are glad you could be with us today, especially if you are visiting with us for the first time. We look forward to meeting you and getting to know you. It is our hope that as you worship with us today our triune God will come to you through His Word and inspire you upwards in your life. Please stop by our Guest Welcome Center for more information. We pray that you will consider becoming a part of our Holy Cross family. **Both members & visitors please complete the connection card in the pew pockets or scan the QR code below.** You may place the card in the offering plate on your way out.

**A WORD ABOUT COMMUNION** The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Holy Cross on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, and all festival Sundays. Lutherans believe that our Lord's Body and Blood are truly present "in, with and under" the bread and wine in the Supper and is given to us for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. All communicants should have been baptized in the name of the Triune God and have faith in these words of Christ: "This is my Body given for you. This is my Blood shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." Instruction in this and the Lutheran Church takes place through First Communion, Confirmation, and membership classes or examination with the pastor. If you have not received instructions, contact the church office at your convenience. If you will not be receiving the Sacrament, you may remain in your pew or come forward for a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest as a sign that you will not be receiving. The common cup and individual cups are both offered. Non-alcoholic white wine is located in the center of the individual cups tray. **Gluten-free wafers are available, please request.**



### **SURVEY QUESTION**

What is your favorite Christmas Carole that you would like to sing during an Advent season?

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.

**ENTER FOR WORSHIP** Upon entering the sanctuary please close the door behind you and find a seat. After you are seated, please use this time to prepare yourself for worship.

**FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED** We are equipped with a personal hearing assistance system. If you would like a receiver for the service, please see an usher.

**WE CAN PRAY WITH YOU** If you are in need of someone to pray for you the Elders will be at the Chancel rail following the worship service.

**Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**November 19, 2023**  
**Lutheran Service Book, Divine 4, page 203**

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**Prelude**

**Welcome, Connection Card/Survey Announcements and  
Sharing of the Peace**

Please stand if you are able.

**Opening Hymn**

“Alabaré”

LSB 799

**Cantor Refrain**

Alabaré alabaré alabaré a mi Señor.  
Alabaré alabaré alabaré a mi Señor.

**All Refrain**    **Alabaré alabaré alabaré a mi Señor.**  
                  **Alabaré alabaré alabaré a mi Señor.**

**Cantor Verse 1**

1        John saw the number of all those redeemed,  
          And all were singing praises to the Lord.  
          Thousands were praying,  
          Ten thousands rejoicing,  
          And all were singing praises to the Lord.

**All Refrain**    **Alabaré alabaré alabaré a mi Señor.**  
                  **Alabaré alabaré alabaré a mi Señor.**

**Cantor Verse 2**

2        Worthy is Christ the Lamb who was slain,  
          Whose blood has set us free from ev'ry sin.  
          Power and riches,  
          And wisdom and strength  
          And honor and all blessing shall be His.

**All Refrain**    **Alabaré alabaré alabaré a mi Señor.**  
                  **Alabaré alabaré alabaré a mi Señor.**

### All Verse 3

**3 Sing with the people, the people of God,  
And join creation in a joyful hymn.  
Blessing and honor  
And glory and might  
To God and to the Lamb be without end.**

**All Refrain Alabaré alabaré alabaré a mi Señor.  
Alabaré alabaré alabaré a mi Señor.**

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### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C Amen.**

**P Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
C who made heaven and earth.**

**P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

**P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.**

Kneel if you are able.

Take a moment to confess in your heart what is on your mind.

**C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

**P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. C Amen.**

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### Introit

Psalm 143:2, 5–6, 10–11

**P** Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy!  
In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

**C** **Enter not into judgment with your servant,  
for no one living is righteous before you.**

**P** I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done;  
I ponder the work of your hands.

**C** **I stretch out my hands to you;  
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.**

**P** Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!  
Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!

**C** **For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life!  
In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!**

**ALL** **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.**

### Kyrie

(from Mark 10:47)

LSB page 204



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

### Gloria in Excelsis

(from Luke 2:14; John 1:29)

LSB page 204



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
 You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.  
 Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—  
 In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

Please be seated.

**Old Testament Reading**

Zephaniah 1:7–16

<sup>7</sup>Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is near; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. <sup>8</sup>And on the day of the Lord's sacrifice—"I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. <sup>9</sup>On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud. <sup>10</sup>"On that day," declares the Lord, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. <sup>11</sup>Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. <sup>12</sup>At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do ill.' <sup>13</sup>Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not

inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.” <sup>14</sup>The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. <sup>15</sup>A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, <sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

D This is the Word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** “For The Fruit of His Creation” Holy Cross Choir

**Epistle** 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup>But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup>For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. <sup>7</sup>For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

D This is the Word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand if you are able.

**Alleluia and Verse** LSB page 205



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**C** These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that  
 Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.  
**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

**D** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

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

<sup>14</sup>[Jesus said:] “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. <sup>15</sup>To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. <sup>17</sup>So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. <sup>18</sup>But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup>Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>22</sup>And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’ <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>24</sup>He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup>But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him and give it to

him who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

D This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

### Nicene Creed

LSB page 206

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Please be seated.

### Hymn of the Day

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

LSB 411

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus. **Refrain**



**Refrain** In Him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2 I want to see the brightness of God.  
I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,  
And show me the way to the Father. **Refrain**

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.  
I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
We shall know the joy of Jesus. **Refrain**

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## Sermon

**Offertory** "Jesus Loves Me" Sunday School Children

Please stand if you are able.

## Prayer of the Church

D Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord God, enter not into judgment with Your servants, for no one living is righteous before You. Have mercy on those haunted by guilt and shame, and faithfully convince them of Your grace and holiness for them in Christ Jesus.  
Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

D Father in heaven, You have made us children of the light and of the day. Bless our homes, especially parents as they teach their children Your ways, that Your people may walk as those armored in faith, love and salvation.  
Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

D Almighty God, give ear to our pleas on behalf of the afflicted [including \_\_\_\_\_]. For Your name's sake, preserve their life and grant them healing according to Your will. In Your righteousness, strengthen their faith through all trials and bring their souls out of trouble. Lord, in Your mercy,  
C **hear our prayer.**

D Holy God, You have not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Until the day of His coming in glory, grant that we may welcome Him at the altar, even as we are welcomed to Him, receiving His body and blood for our forgiveness. Lord, in Your mercy,  
C **hear our prayer.**

D God of life, Your Son died for us so that, whether awake or asleep, we might live with Him. Receive our thanks for Your kindness to all who have died in the faith. Comfort those who mourn with the consolation that all who die in Christ live with Him forever. In Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
C **Amen.**

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

### Preface

LSB page 208

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

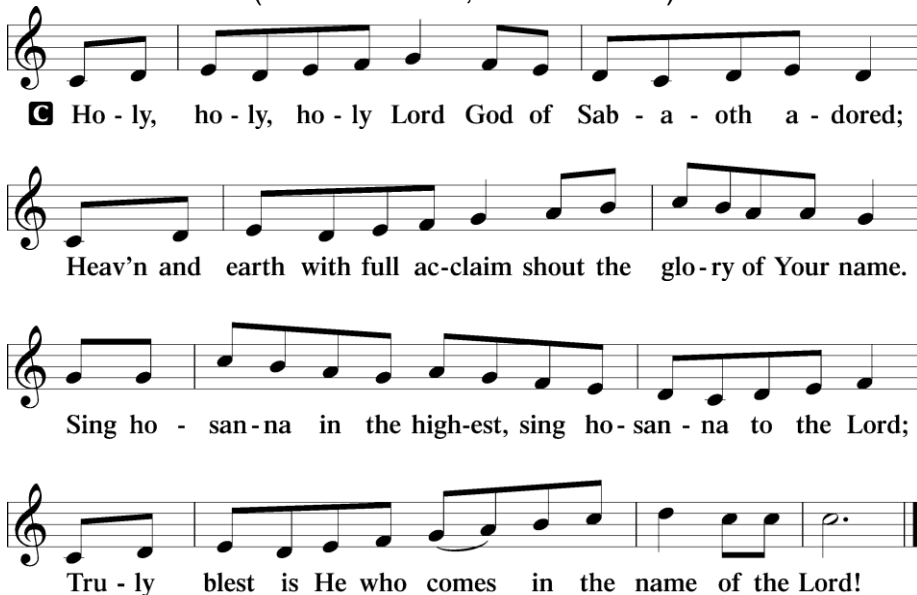
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

## Sanctus

(from Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9)

LSB 208



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;  
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.  
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;  
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB page 209

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## Lord's Prayer

(from Matthew 6:9-13)

**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.

## The Words of Our Lord

(From Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

(from John 20:19)

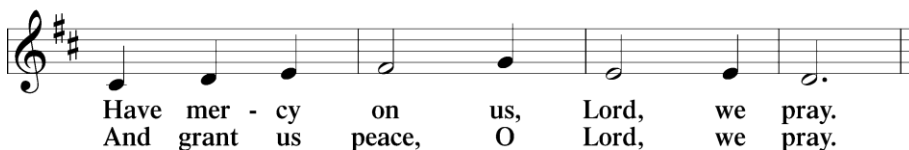
**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei ~ Lamb of God John 1:29

LSB page 210

**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Please be seated.

**Distribution Hymn**      “Do This In Remembrance of Me”      Holy Cross Choir

**Distribution Hymn**      “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”      LSB 643

- 1      Sent forth by God’s blessing,  
         Our true faith confessing,  
 The people of God from His dwelling take leave.  
         The Supper is ended.  
         O now be extended  
 The fruits of this service in all who believe.  
         The seed of His teaching,  
         Receptive souls reaching,  
 Shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
         His grace did invite us,  
         His love shall unite us  
 To work for God’s kingdom and answer His call.
  
- 2      With praise and thanksgiving  
         To God ever-living,  
 The tasks of our ev’ryday life we will face.  
         Our faith ever sharing,  
         In love ever caring,  
 Embracing His children of each tribe and race.  
         With Your feast You feed us,  
         With Your light now lead us;  
 Unite us as one in this life that we share.  
         Then may all the living  
         With praise and thanksgiving  
 Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

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Please stand if you are able.

### Nunc Dimittis

(from Luke 2:29-32)

LSB page 211



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

### Post-Communion Collect

LSB page 212

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**Benedicamus** (from Psalm 103:1)

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Benediction** (from Numbers 6:24-26)

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you His peace.

C **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn** "Take My Life and Let It Be"

LSB 784

1 Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2 Take my hands and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love;  
Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee,  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

3 Take my voice and let me sing  
Always, only for my King;  
Take my lips and let them be  
Filled with messages from Thee,  
Filled with messages from Thee.

4 Take my silver and my gold,  
Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect and use  
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose,  
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it Thine,  
It shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart, it is Thine own,  
It shall be Thy royal throne,  
It shall be Thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure store;  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee,  
Ever, only, all for Thee.

### **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book  
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# THE SUNDAY HERALD

November 18 & 19, 2023

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## MONDAY

OFFICE HOURS 9A – 3P

Stewardship Ministry 7:00pm

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## TUESDAY

OFFICE HOURS 9A – 3P

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## WEDNESDAY

Bulletin Assembly 10:00am

Thanksgiving Eve

Communion Worship 7:00pm

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## THURSDAY

OFFICE IS CLOSED

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## FRIDAY

OFFICE IS CLOSED

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## SATURDAY

Bible Study 4:30pm

Worship 5:30pm

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## SUNDAY

Bible Classes for all ages 9:00am

Communion Worship 10:00am

Young Adult Gathering 11:15am

Youth Group 6:00pm

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## BIBLE READINGS FOR CHRIST THE KING WEEKEND

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

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### THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Let us join together with choir and bells in giving thanks and praise to our gracious God at our annual **Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service: Wednesday, November 22, at 7:00 pm.**

### ADVENT DEVOTION BOOKS

The Advent devotion books are on the welcome center. Please help yourself, there are a variety of them to choose from. There are extras so please pass them on to your family and friends.

### WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to **CAROL DEHNKE** and **LAUREL CLEMONS**, our top two nominees for the 2024 Women of the

Year. Final voting will be from November 18 - 26. Ballots are available in your bulletin and by the wooden box in the narthex. Thank you all for participating in this process. Remember **everyone** can vote.

### ADVENT CELEBRATION/ CHRISTIAN CONCERT

Holy Cross Women's Ministry invites everyone to join us for an Advent Christian Concert on Saturday, December 2, 2023, at 5:30 pm. We will be entertained by the "After Blue" singers from St. John Lutheran Church, Fraser with an Afterglow following the concert. There is a sign-up sheet, in the Narthex, with an opportunity

for you to bring your favorite appetizer or dessert.

### **REMEMBER THE DATE** **SATURDAY DECEMBER 2ND**

On Saturday December 2nd we will be cleaning the pews in the sanctuary and decorating the church for Christmas.

Cleaning will start at 9:00 am and we should be done by 11:00 am. Murphy's Oil soap and rags will be provided. Please bring a bucket for the water and soap. Donuts and beverages will be provided before.

A submarine lunch and beverages will be provided at 12:00 pm. At 1:00 pm, or soon after lunch, we will start decorating the church for Christmas, and we should be done around 3:00 pm. As always, many hands make the job light, we encourage all members (young and old) to participate!

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL TOY DRIVE**

Sunday School will once again be collecting toys for Gifts for All God's Children. The toy drive will begin 11/12/23 and run to 12/10/23. Please bring all **UNWRAPPED** toys and place them in the box outside the Sunday School Office. Their greatest needs this year are...Legos, games for 8-year-olds and up, craft kits, basketballs and footballs (full size). If you have any questions, please contact Laurel Clemons.

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Just to let everyone know, the sign-up sheets for flowers will be on the bulletin board on the right side when you come

in the back door. Remember if you sign-up for flower donations you can take the bouquet home after the Sunday service. Thank you, Sharron & Sandi

### **LUTHERAN WITNESS**

The Lutheran Witness is the official periodical of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and is published 11 times a year. It provides Missouri Synod lay people with stories and information that complement congregational life, foster personal growth in faith, and help interpret the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective. The subscription also includes the Michigan In Touch supplement. In the past Holy Cross purchased a subscription for all member households. This year we are not able to do that, we will have 3 copies in the office for you to read here. **If you would like a copy of your own, please contact Becky, the cost is \$12.00/a year. Contact her by December 4. Thank you.**

### **SENIOR BIBLE STUDY**

A Bible study for senior members is available each week on Wednesday at Holy Cross. We meet in Haggerty Hall from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon. Our topic is "The Fruit of the Spirit". The facilitators are Pastor Eric, Deacon Tony, and Elder Steve.

### **NEW HOPE FOOD PANTRY**

The Food Pantry is in need of the following items: toothpaste, and bar soap. If you happen to be at a Dollar Store perhaps you can pick up an item or two off the needs list. Thank you!