

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 and a free gift. 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 This 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 instruction, 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. Non-alcoholic white wine is located in the center of the individual cups tray. **Gluten-free wafers are available, please request.**



SURVEY QUESTION

No survey question at this time.

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.

**The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2023
Lutheran Service Book, Divine 3, page 184**

Prelude

Holy Cross Music Ministry (4:00 pm)

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand if you are able.

Processional Hymn

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

LSB 379

1 O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels: **Refrain**

Refrain O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

2 Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

3 Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest: **Refrain**

4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

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 24:1, 3–5; Psalm 2:6–7

P The Lord said to me,
“You are my Son; today I have begotten you.

**C As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill.”**

P The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof,
the world and those who dwell therein.

**C Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?
And who shall stand in his holy place?**

P He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear deceitfully.

**C He will receive blessing from the Lord
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.**

**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 Veni Emmanuel

Cantor O Lord have mercy. O Christ have mercy.

ALL O Lord have mercy. O Christ have mercy.

Cantor O Lord, O Lord, have mercy. O Christ have mercy.

ALL O Lord, O Lord, have mercy. O Christ have mercy.

Arr. Michael Katopodes

Gloria

“Angels Sing and Earth Reply”

Angels, sing, and earth reply: “Glory be to God on high!”
God who flung the stars in space, God who formed the human race,
God the mind and God the cause,
God the source of nature’s laws,
God of wisdom, power, and love; God of gods, all gods above.
Angels, sing, and earth reply: “Glory be to God on high!”

Angels, sing, and earth reply: “Glory be to God on High”
God who saw Your creatures fall, loved them still, and loved them all,
Gave Your only Son to prove
What is mercy, what is love;
And the Spirit, given free, recreates Your family.
Angels, sing, and earth reply: “Glory be to God on high!”

Salutation and Collect of the Day

(2 Timothy 4:22)

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray.

O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

You may be seated.

Anthem

“Love Came Down at Christmas”

Holy Cross Handbells (4:00 pm)

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Anthem "Hodie Christus Natus Est" (Today Christ is Born)

Holy Cross Choir (4:00 pm)

Epistle

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand if you are able.

Gospel Procession "On This Day Earth Shall Ring"

(Ideo, Gloria in excelsis Deo means "Therefore [we sing], glory to God in the highest!")

1. Choir On this day earth shall ring With the song children sing
To the Lord, Christ our King, Born on earth to save us;
God in Him forgave us;

Refrain Choir Ideo-o-o, ideo-o-o, ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!

2. ALL His the doom, ours the mirth;
When He came down to earth,
Bethlehem saw His birth;
Ox and ass beside Him –
From the cold would hide Him. Refrain

Refrain All Ideo-o-o, ideo-o-o, ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!

3. ALL God's bright star, o'er His head,
Wise men three to Him led,
Kneel they low by His bed,
Lay their gifts before Him,
Praise Him and adore Him. Refrain

4. ALL On this day angels sing;
With their song earth shall ring,
Praising Christ, heaven's King,
Born on earth to save us;
Peace and love He gave us. Refrain

Choir

Amen! Alleluia!

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.



■ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this

child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

LSB page 191

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.

Hymn of the Day

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

LSB 368

1 Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains. **Refrain**

Refrain Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav’nly song? **Refrain**

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. **Refrain**

You may be seated.

Sermon

Please stand if you are able.

Offertory Special Music

“Make Room”

Vocal Duet

Prayer of the Church

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

Lord God Almighty, on this most holy night we come before You in awe at the wonder and majesty of the incarnation. The Savior of the nations has come, and with joy we greet our newborn King. Let the proclamation of His birth sound forth throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, You sent an angel to reveal to Joseph that the Child in Mary's womb was Your own, preserving their marriage and family. Preserve our homes also by Your Holy Word. Fill them with Your grace, that husbands and wives, parents and children may live in peace and love with one another. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, the One born in Bethlehem is the Son of David and the Lord of David, to whom every knee shall bow. Look upon those You have placed in authority, and grant that they would govern in wisdom and justice. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Giver and Preserver of life, Your Son came to save us from sin and its curse. Hear the pleas of all who call to You for mercy [especially _____]. Deliver them from affliction according to Your will, and work in them steadfast faith to cling to the life they have in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, You have given Your Son, born of Mary, to be the Savior of the world. Send Your Spirit and abide with us, that we may confess Him and remain in Your love until He comes again in glory; for He lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

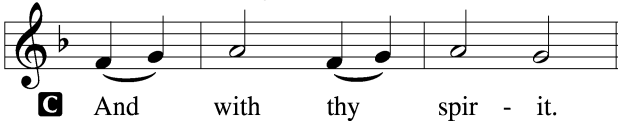
C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface

LSB page 194

P The Lord be with you. (2 Timothy 4:22)



P Lift up your hearts. (Colossians 3:1)



P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God. (Psalm 136)



P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. 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

1. O holy, holy, Lord, our God! For us and our salvation,
From heav'n above the Son is born Within His own creation.
Hosanna, blest is He Who comes, is born for you, for me.
Eternal King, He comes, To us salvation bringing.

Lord's Prayer (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 LSB page 197
(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 ~ The Peace of the Lord (John 20:19)

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

- 1 O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take The world's sins all away.
O Lamb of God be merciful, Upon us all we pray.
O Lamb of God be merciful, And take our sins away,
And grant us peace, O grant us peace, Your perfect peace, we pray.

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You may be seated.

Distribution Hymn

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

LSB 361

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to all the earth!

3 How silently, how silently
 The wondrous gift is giv'n!
 So God imparts to human hearts
 The blessings of His heav'n.
 No ear may hear His coming;
 But in this world of sin,
 Where meek souls will receive Him, still
 The dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
 Descend to us, we pray;
 Cast out our sin, and enter in,
 Be born in us today.
 We hear the Christmas angels
 The great glad tidings tell;
 O come to us, abide with us,
 Our Lord Immanuel!

Distribution Hymn

“O Holy Night”

1 O holy night! the stars are brightly shining;
 It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
 Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
 Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
 A thrill of hope- the weary world rejoices,
 For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
 Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
 O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
 O night, O holy night, O night divine!

2 Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the Wise Men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our Friend.
He knows our need— to our weakness is no stranger.
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!

3 Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

Distribution Hymn “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

LSB 367

1 Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth. **Refrain**

Refrain Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light. **Refrain**

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star. **Refrain**

4 Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear. **Refrain**

D5 All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the_ eternal Three in One. **Refrain**

Please stand if you are able.

Thanksgiving (Psalm 107:1)

LSB page 200

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C **and His mercy endureth forever.**

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.



☐ A - men.

Candle Lighting

The pastor takes the light from the Christ candle and gives it to the ushers.
They pass the light on to the congregation.

(As you light your candle, please tip yours into the candle you are lighting from. Keep yours straight up as the person next to you tips theirs into yours.)

Lights are dimmed by the ushers.

Service of Light

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
C **the light no darkness can overcome.**

P Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
C **and the day is almost over.**

P Let Your light scatter the darkness
C **and illumine Your Church.**

The Candle Light Hymn

“Silent Night”

LSB 363

1. Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar.
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior is born,
Christ, the Savior is born.

3. Silent night, holy night!
 Son of God, love's pure light.
 Radiant beams from Thy holy face
 With the dawn of redeeming grace.
 Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
 Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Blow out candles

Benedicamus (Psalm 103:1)

LSB page 202

P Let us bless the Lord..



☐ Thanks be to God.

Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26)

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you His peace.



☐ A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn "Joy to the World"

LSB 387

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
 Let earth receive her King;
 Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
 And heav'n and nature sing,
 And heav'n and nature sing,
 And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

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