

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 during Advent.

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.

Eve of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus
December 31, 2023
Lutheran Service Book, Divine 1, page 151

Prelude

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

Opening Hymn “Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love” LSB 900

- 1 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
 Name all other names above,
 Unto which must ev’ry knee
 Bow in deep humility.

- 2 Jesus! Name decreed of old,
 To the maiden mother told,
 Kneeling in her lowly cell,
 By the angel Gabriel.

- 3 Jesus! Name of priceless worth
 To the fallen of the earth
 For the promise that it gave,
 “Jesus shall His people save.”

- 4 Jesus! Name of mercy mild,
 Given to the holy Child
 When the cup of human woe
 First He tasted here below.

- 5 Jesus! Only name that’s giv’n
 Under all the mighty heav’n
 Whereby those to sin enslaved
 Burst their fetters and are saved.

6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
Human name of God above;
Pleading only this, we flee
Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

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.** (Matthew 28:19b)

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** (1John 1:8-9)

Kneel if you are able.

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

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. 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. (John 20:19-23)

C **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit

Psalm 40:6–8

P May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the Lord!"

**C Sacrifice and offering you have not desired, but you have
given me an open ear.**

Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.

P Then I said, "Behold, I have come;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me:

**C I desire to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart."**

**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 ~ Lord, Have Mercy

(Mark 10:47)

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P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

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

P The Lord be with you.



P Let us pray.

Lord God, You made Your beloved Son, our Savior, subject to the Law and caused Him to shed His blood on our behalf. Grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit that our hearts may be made pure from all sins; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Please be seated.

Old Testament Reading

Numbers 13:16-17a

¹⁶These were the names of the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Hoshea the son of Nun Joshua. ¹⁷Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan and said to them, "Go up into the Negeb and go up into the hill country,

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 4:1-6,11-12, 22-25

¹What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God,

and it was counted to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, ⁶just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

¹¹He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, ¹²and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

²²That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” ²³But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand if you are able.

Alleluia and Verse

(John 6:68)

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Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:20-22

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.



²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated

Hymn of the Day

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

LSB 549:1-4

- 1 All hail the pow’r of Jesus’ name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him Lord of all.
- 2 Crown Him, ye martyrs of our God,
Who from His altar call;
Extol the stem of Jesse’s rod
And crown Him Lord of all.
Extol the stem of Jesse’s rod
And crown Him Lord of all.

3 Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace
And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace
And crown Him Lord of all.

4 Hail Him, ye heirs of David's line,
Whom David Lord did call,
The God incarnate, man divine,
And crown Him Lord of all.
The God incarnate, man divine,
And crown Him Lord of all.

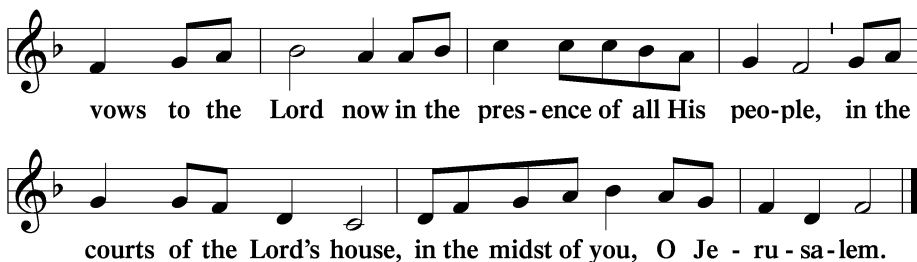
Sermon

Please stand if you are able.

Offertory

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What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Nicene Creed

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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.

Prayer of the Church

P Lord God, eternal Father and Giver of every good gift, we commit to Your mercy the year now ending. Forgive us our sins where we have done wrong, work in our hearts true repentance and faith, and redeem us from all the evil of this past year. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, hear our prayers for our nation and its government. Preserve our republic, we implore You. Protect those who serve in the line of danger for our safety, and give peace in our time. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, we give thanks to You for the many mercies and gifts You showered upon us this past year. You have given life, healed and comforted. You have provided for our spiritual and physical well-being. You take care of us every day. All this You have done, not because of any merit in us, but only out of Your love for us in Jesus, our Savior. Comfort and sustain Your children who suffer from sickness, need or affliction especially... Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, heavenly Father, abide among us in this new year with Your Holy Spirit, that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface

LSB page 160

P The Lord be with you.



☐ And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.



☐ We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



☐ 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, 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

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(Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1Corinthians 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."

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. (1Corinthians 11:26)

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** (Revelation 22:20)

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

Pax Domini ~ The Peace of the Lord (John 20:19)

LSB page 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



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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Please be seated.

Distribution Hymn "Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising" LSB 375:1-4,6

- 1 Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.
- 2 Christ, from heav'n to us descending
And in love our race befriending;
In our need His help extending,
Saved us from the wily foe.
- 3 Jacob's star in all its splendor
Beams with comfort sweet and tender,
Forcing Satan to surrender,
Breaking all the pow'rs of hell.
- 4 From the bondage that oppressed us,
From sin's fetters that possessed us,
From the grief that sore distressed us,
We, the captives, now are free.
- 6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,
From Your lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join Your choir above.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
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Distribution Hymn “Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year” LSB 896:1-4,6

- 1 Now greet the swiftly changing year
 With joy and penitence sincere.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
 Another year of grace.

- 2 Remember now the Son of God
 And how He shed His infant blood.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
 Another year of grace.

- 3 This Jesus came to end sin’s war;
 This Name of names for us He bore.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
 Another year of grace.

- 4 His love abundant far exceeds
 The volume of a whole year’s needs.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
 Another year of grace.

- 6 “All glory be to God on high,
 And peace on earth!” the angels cry.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
 Another year of grace.

Text: Cithara Sanctorum, 1636, Levoca; tr. Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008, alt. Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.
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Please stand if you are able.

Thank the Lord

LSB page 164



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

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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 A - men.

Benediction (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 peace.



Closing Hymn

“How Majestic Is Your Name”

LSB 388

Oh Lord our Lord how majestic is
Your name in all the earth
Oh Lord our Lord how majestic is
Your name in all the earth
Oh Lord we praise Your name
Oh Lord we magnify Your name
Prince of Peace Mighty God
Oh Lord God Almighty
(Repeat)

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