

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.

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. **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.** (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 25:4-5, 21-22

P To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame.

C Let not my enemies exult over me.

Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame.

P Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.

**C Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the
God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long.**

P May integrity and uprightness preserve me,
for I wait for you.

**C Redeem Israel, O God,
out of all his troubles.**

**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 ~ Lord, Have Mercy

(Mark 10:47)

LSB page 152

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.



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.



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



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



Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



P Let us pray.
Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Please be seated.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 23:5–8

⁵“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’

⁷“Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when they shall no longer say, ‘As the Lord lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,’ ⁸but ‘As the Lord lives who brought up and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.’ Then they shall dwell in their own land.”

D This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 13:11–14

¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and

jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

D 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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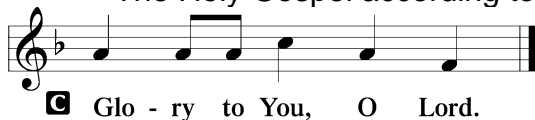
Alleluia and Verse musical notation. The first line of music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F#, a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F#, a quarter note G. The lyrics are: **C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

The second line of music continues in G major and 4/4 time. It begins with a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F#, a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F#, a quarter note G. The lyrics are: words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:1–9

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



Holy Gospel musical notation. The first line of music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F#, a quarter note G. The lyrics are: **C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

⁵“Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸Most of

the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

D This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day “Savior of the Nations, Come”

LSB 332:1-4

- 1 Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin’s Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav’n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.
- 2 Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman’s offspring, pure and fresh.
- 3 Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.
- 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began.

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Sermon

Please stand if you are able.

Offertory

“Emmanuel”

Emmanuel, Emmanuel
His name is called Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed in us;
His name is called Emmanuel. (Repeat)

Bob McGee c1976 C.A. Music (a div of Christian Artists Corp) ARR UBP

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

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

Gracious Lord, awaken Your saints from sleep and idleness as we enter another Church Year. Give boldness and faithfulness to our Synod and district presidents and pastor. Renew the faith and quicken the love of all Christians to cast off the works of darkness, put on Jesus Christ and live as children of the eternal day. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

D Lord of love, visit our homes and defend us from the temptation to walk in the works of darkness. Clothe us with the armor of light. Preserve the single in holiness, and lead husbands and wives to love one another and raise their children in the faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

D Almighty God protect our armed forces, taking them under Your care and bring peace to our world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

D Visit us in Your compassion, O Lord. Deliver the sick from their infirmity, the troubled from their afflictions, the grieving from their sorrow and the dying from their fear [especially _____]. May all who cry to You receive grace according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

D Merciful Lord, Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, entered Jerusalem to shouts and cheers of joy. Grant that we may be stirred by the Word and Sacraments to rejoice anew. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

D Holy God, You caused Your Son, the righteous Branch, to spring up for David. By Your grace, keep us joined as branches to Christ, that we might bear fruit until the day He returns in glory; for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface

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P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so 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, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. 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 ~ Holy, Holy, Holy (Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9) LSB page 161

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

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)

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P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



Agnus Dei ~ Lamb of God (John 1:29)

A musical score for the Agnus Dei in G major and 4/4 time, consisting of four staves. The lyrics are written below the notes.

C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please be seated.

Distribution Hymn “Taste and See”

(The congregation is invited to sing this refrain after the verses.)

Refrain ALL:

Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

O taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.

Text: Psalm 34; James E. Moore, Jr., b.1951, © 1983, GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727429

Distribution Hymn “The Advent of Our King”

LSB 331:1-5

- 1 The advent of our King
 Our prayers must now employ,
 And we must hymns of welcome sing
 In strains of holy joy.
- 2 The everlasting Son
 Incarnate deigns to be,
 Himself a servant's form puts on
 To set His servants free.
- 3 O Zion's daughter, rise
 To meet your lowly King,
 Nor let your faithless heart despise
 The peace He comes to bring.
- 4 As judge, on clouds of light,
 He soon will come again
 And His true members all unite
 With Him in heav'n to reign.



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 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

LSB 357:5-7

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. Refrain

Refrain Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Acknowledgments

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THE SUNDAY HERALD

December 2 & 3, 2023

MONDAY

TUESDAY

Elders Meeting 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY

Advent Service #2 7:00pm

THURSDAY

Prayer Group 3:00pm

Bells 6:30pm

Choir 7:30pm

FRIDAY

Bulletin Assembly 10:00am

SATURDAY

Men's Bible Study & Breakfast 8:00am

Women's Bible Study 9:30am

Bible Study 4:30pm

Communion Worship 5:30pm

SUNDAY

Bible Classes for all ages 9:00am

Worship 10:00am

Youth Group 6:00pm

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE 2ND WEEKEND IN ADVENT

Old Testament Reading: Malachi 4:1-6

Epistle: Romans 15:4-13

Holy Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

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.

HOLY CROSS WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to **CAROL DEHNKE** our 2024 Woman of the Year. And thank you ALL for participating in this year's nominations and election process. The Council of Lutheran Women's 2024 Luncheon will be in March. Reservations will begin sometime in January, watch your bulletin for more information.

NEW HOPE FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry is in need of the following items: non-perishable food and hygiene items. Thank you!

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.

OFFICE CLOSED

The office will be closed from Friday, December 22, 2023 thru Monday, January 1, 2024. If you have an emergency, please contact your Elder. You can also leave a message. Someone will be checking the messages. Thank you!

ALTAR FLOWERS

Just to let everyone know, the sign-up sheets for flowers will be on the HCLC bulletin board on the right side when you come in the back door. The cost is \$20.00 for each bouquet, you can buy 1 or both. When you purchase a bouquet, you can take it home after the Sunday service. Thank you, Sharron & Sandi

INVITE FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS TO CHURCH FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS!

The Evangelism committee has yard signs for you to use! These signs are an excellent (and easy!) way to invite your neighbors and everyone who drives by your house. Pick up your sign at the welcome center.

NEW HOPE FOOD PANTRY

Plans are underway for our annual Christmas distribution. Our production line to fill 40 baskets is on Friday, December 15 at 7:00 pm. Children are welcome to help and have fun. Return on Saturday, December 16 at 10:00 am to help load the food boxes into the car of our guests. MEN – we could especially use your help! Thank you all!

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

There will be a worship service on Sunday, **December 24th at 10:00 am**, celebrating the 4th Sunday in Advent. There will be no Bible Class. Our **Christmas Eve** candle-light communion worship services are at **4:00 and 7:00 pm**. **Christmas Day** communion worship service at **9:00 am**. **Saturday, December 30, 2023**, worship at **5:30 pm**, no Bible Class. **Sunday, December 31, 2023**, communion worship at **10:00 am** no Bible Class.

VOTERS' MEETING

The date of our annual voters' meeting Sunday, December 31 after the worship service. On the agenda is the election of the 2024 Church Council Officers and the approval of the 2024 Budget. Please make every effort to attend this very important meeting.

FAMILY FRIENDLY NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY!

Join us 12/31 from 8PM-12:30AM to ring in 2024! Holy Cross will be hosting a family friendly party that will be fun for all ages. There will be food and games in Haggerty Hall, an open game room in the basement, then meet with us in the Sanctuary at 12:00am for a moment of silence and prayers for the New Year! Bring a snack food to share (pizza and drinks will be provided) as well as family and friends to enjoy in an evening of fun and fellowship! Please sign up in the Narthex. If you have any questions, see Pastor or Laurel Clemons.

LUTHERAN WITNESS

The Lutheran Witness is the official periodical of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and is published 11 times a year. 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.**