

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 as it is passed later in the service.



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 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. 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

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.

**Second Sunday in Advent
(Populus Zion)
December 10, 2023
Lutheran Service Book
Service of Prayer and Preaching, page 260**

Populus Zion ~ meaning “People of Zion, behold the Lord comes to save the nations”. Isaiah Ch. 30

Prelude

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

Please stand if you are able.

Opening Hymn “In This Advent”

- 1 In this Advent, brothers, sisters,
 Let us pause and so prepare
 That we may greet Christ, our Savior,
 Here in worship and in prayer.
 He came once, fulfilling promise,
 And He shall come back again.
 Daily comes He, Word Incarnate,
 In our hearts and minds to reign.

- 2 Brethren, heed the gracious warning
 Of the day of Christ’s return.
 Stay awake and watchful ever,
 For His advent to discern.
 Keep yourself alert and ready;
 Without notice shall He come
 Then to usher all the faithful
 Into His eternal home.

3 Brethren, look up, hope in Jesus;
All His promises are sure.
Bear the fruit that fits repentance;
Live in love and so endure.
With baptismal joy and power,
Straighten paths, your head upraise.
Hope in Him each day and ever,
With one voice to sing His praise.

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Opening Versicles

LSB page 260

P This is the day which the Lord has made;

C let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24)

P From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C the name of the Lord is to be praised. (Psalm 113:3)

P Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

C Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.

P Prepare the way of the Lord.

C Make His paths straight.

P Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down
righteousness.

C Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.

(Psalm 50:2-3a; Isaiah 40:30; 45:8)

P From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C the name of the Lord is to be praised. (Psalm 113:3)

**C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Old Testament Canticale

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” LSB 338

- 1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
 Born to set Thy people free;
 From our fears and sins release us;
 Let us find our rest in Thee.
 Israel’s strength and consolation,
 Hope of all the earth Thou art,
 Dear desire of ev’ry nation,
 Joy of ev’ry longing heart.

- 2 Born Thy people to deliver;
 Born a child and yet a king!
 Born to reign in us forever,
 Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
 By Thine own eternal Spirit
 Rule in all our hearts alone;
 By Thine all-sufficient merit
 Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Please be seated

Readings From Holy Scripture

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 4:1–6

¹For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ²But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts. ⁴Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and just decrees that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. ⁵Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶And he will turn the hearts of fathers to

their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem “Creator of the Stars of Night” Holy Cross Choir and Handbells

Epistle

Romans 15:4–13

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God’s truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.” ¹⁰And again it is said, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.” ¹¹And again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him.” ¹²And again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.” ¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand if you are able.

Anthem “Rejoice, Rejoice” Holy Cross Handbells

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

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

²⁵[Jesus said:] “There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” ²⁹And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CATECHISM

Ten Commandments

LSB page 264

C **You shall have no other gods.
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.**

**You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or
maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to
your neighbor.**

Apostles' Creed

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

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived
by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into
heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of
the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer The Introduction

LSB page 323

P Our Father who art in heaven. What does this mean?

**C With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our
true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all
boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask
their dear father.**

The First Petition

P Hallowed be Your name. What does this mean?

C God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

P How is God's name kept holy?

C God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

The Second Petition

P Thy kingdom come. What does this mean?

C The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

P How does God's kingdom come?

C God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

The Third Petition

P Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. What does this mean?

C The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

P How is God's will done?

C God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

The Fourth Petition

P Give us this day our daily bread. What does this mean?

C **God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.**

P What is meant by daily bread?

C **Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.**

The Fifth Petition

P And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. What does this mean?

C **We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.**

The Sixth Petition

P And lead us not into temptation. What does this mean?

C **God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other**

great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

The Seventh Petition

P But deliver us from evil. What does this mean?

C We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

The Conclusion

P For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen. What does this mean?

C This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means “yes, yes, it shall be so.”

Please be seated.

Hymn of the Day

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

LSB 515

1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing,
And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising
And soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
At midnight comes the cry.

- 2 The watchers on the mountain
 Proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Go forth as He approaches
 With alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
 The gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
 The Bridegroom is at hand.
- 3 The saints, who here in patience
 Their cross and suff'rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever
 When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
 The Lamb they shall behold;
In triumph cast before Him
 Their diadems of gold.
- 4 Our hope and expectation,
 O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, O Sun so longed for,
 O'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
 We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption
 That sets Your people free!

Sermon

Please stand if you are able.

Offertory “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

1 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Prayer

LSB page 265

P In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

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

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Collect for Peace

LSB page 251

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Morning Prayer

LSB page 266

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

New Testament Canticle

“Magnificat”

Holy Cross Choir

Blessing

(from Psalm 103:1)

LSB page 267

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

"Of the Father's Love Begotten "

LSB 384

1 Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.

- 2 Oh, that birth forever blessed,
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.
- 3 This is He whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.
- 4 O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing.
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.
- 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

Acknowledgments

Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book

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THE SUNDAY HERALD

December 9 & 10, 2023

MONDAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		FRIDAY Bulletin Assembly 10:00am Packing of Christmas baskets 7:00pm
TUESDAY Church Council Meeting 7:00pm		SATURDAY Scrapbook Workshop 9:00am Distribution of baskets 10:00am Bible Study 4:30pm Worship 5:30pm
WEDNESDAY Advent Service #3 7:00pm		SUNDAY Bible Classes for all ages 9:00am Communion Worship 10:00am Youth Group 6:00pm
THURSDAY Prayer Group 3:00pm Bells 6:30pm Choir 7:30pm		

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE 3RD WEEKEND IN ADVENT

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

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.

THANK YOU!

To all our members and friends who participated on Saturday, December 2nd to clean and decorate our church for the Christmas season. Your help is greatly appreciated to make our facility inside and out look so wonderful. May God continue to bless all of you not only during this season but all the year. "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6.

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.

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 is 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 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.

2023 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Please fill out the GREEN paper in your bulletin if you want your contribution statement sent to you electronically (via email). We need this form filled out every year just to make sure that there have been no changes. By switching to email delivery, you can receive your statement more quickly and we can save postage costs for the church. If you have any questions, please contact Denise Vandenberghe or the church office. This is a good time to give us any updates on your phone number and/or address. Thank you!

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

A copy of the December Newsletter is available on the Welcome Center table and on the Website. Thank you.