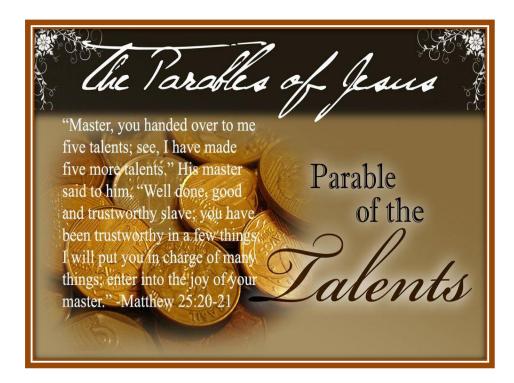
Holy Cross Lutheran Church Divine Service Four

The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost November 15, 2020





The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2020

8:00 and 10:30 AM

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Missouri Synod) 9770 Foothills Canyon Blvd. Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Sunday Worship Services	8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Bible Classes and Sunday School	9:25 a.m.
Rev. Bruce Skelton, Pastor, Office	303-683-1300
Kristen Foss, Director, Early Learning Cen	ter303-683-1311
Fax	303-470-0165

Reaching lost souls with the Gospel:
Nourishing and equipping the saints for life and ministry!

Prayer for Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Dear heavenly Father, we come before You with grateful hearts for the faith You, through Your Word, have created and continue to sustain in our hearts. Thank You for the incomparable blessing that comes to us through faith in Your Word, which is given to us "that by believing we may have life in His name." Through the Holy Spirit we can believe that the Jesus proclaimed in Your Word did die on the cross for us, that He did rise victorious from the grave, and that by believing in Him real life, eternal life, is ours to look forward to as a gift from You. May our hearts be ever open to Your Word, which You use to bring us the message of Your everlasting love. We bow before You with thankful hearts for the sure foundation of Your Word as the basis for our faith. In the name of Jesus, help us to ever trust in Your life-giving Word. Amen.



Confession and Absolution

836 O God of Light



Stand

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

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- P In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Exhortation

Psalm 124:8: Psalm 130:3-4: Luke 18:13

- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- who made heaven and earth.
- P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- 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.

Confession of Sins

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

Absolution [John 20:19–23]

- 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



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

Enter not into judgment with your | servant,* for no one living is righteous be- | fore you.

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that | you have done;*

I ponder the work of your hands.

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

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

For your name's sake, O LORD, pre- | serve my life!* In your righteousness bring my soul out of | trouble!

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



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

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P The Lord be with you.
- **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.

Sit

Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 1:7-16

Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. 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. On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud. "On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Ouarter. a loud crash from the hills. Wail. O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. 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." 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." 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. 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, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Gradual



These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.*
They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.

Blessèd are those whose strength is | in you,* in whose heart are the highways to | Zion.

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

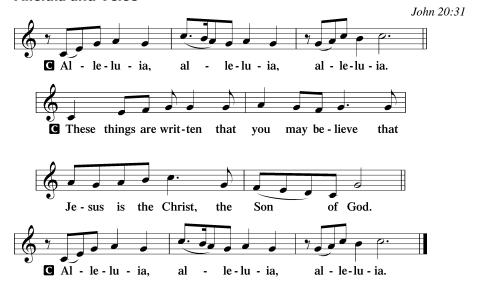
Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. 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. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

411 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

- The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
- G Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 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.' 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.' 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.' 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.' 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, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 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? 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. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 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. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

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,

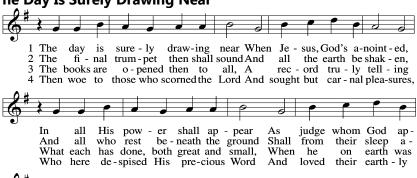
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,

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 \(\frac{1}{2} \) of the world to come. Amen.

Sit









flames shall rav - age earth As might - y, bound-less pow'r, Be known as they have been In judg - e's stern com - mand To Scrip - ture long has warned us. changed at His com-mand - ing. thoughts and words and ac - tions. Sa - tan be de - liv - ered.

- My Savior paid the debt I owe And for my sin was smitten; Within the Book of Life I know My name has now been written. I will not doubt, for I am free, And Satan cannot threaten me; There is no condemnation!
- 6 May Christ our intercessor be And through His blood and merit Read from His book that we are free With all who life inherit. Then we shall see Him face to face, With all His saints in that blest place Which He has purchased for us.

Sermon

"God's Investment"

Text: Matthew 25: 14-30

Stand

Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayer:

- **P** Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.

Sit

Offering

There is an offering plate in the back of the sanctuary where you can deposit your offerings as you leave.





Service of the Sacrament

444

Please read our Statement on Holy Communion on the inside cover of the bulletin before communing with us.

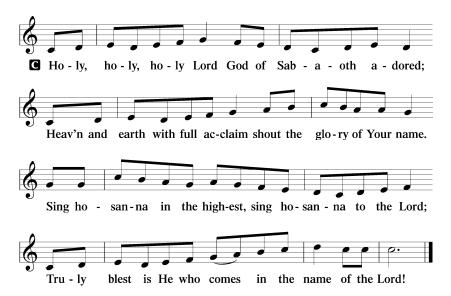
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Stand

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136

- P The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **W**e lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- 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 saying:



Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

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

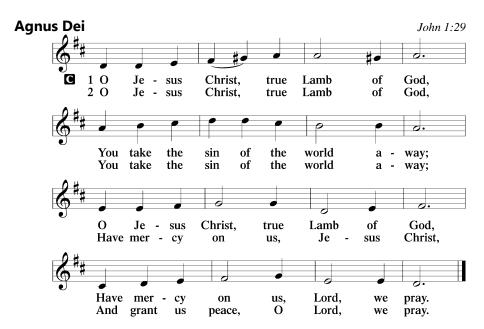
Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20: 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

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

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.



Sit

Personal prayer before Communing

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen



Distribution

Personal prayer of thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32



Post-Communion Collect

A 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 Psalm 103:1

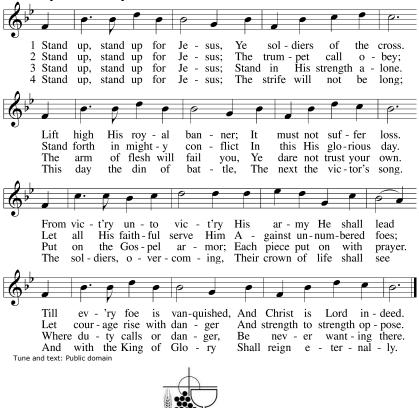
A Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Benediction

- P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
- C Amen.

660 Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus





Soli Deo Gloria!

(To God alone be the glory.)

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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Announcements



Assisting Elders: 8 a.m. – Steve White 10:30 a.m. – Curt Engle

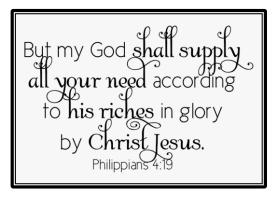


Inside Workday and Christmas Tree Decorating

Clean the sanctuary
and narthex for the
Christmas Holiday Season
and decorate the Christmas trees!

Saturday, November 28, 2020 at 9 a.m.

Bringing extra vacuum cleaners would be helpful!





Our semi-annual voters' assembly is scheduled for the second Sunday of December. Due to the COVID restrictions, we have had to adapt by taking a new approach to information sharing and decision making. This year we will be conducting a series of

Zoom meetings and a small group meeting at the church for involvement and feedback. These meetings are scheduled as follows:

- November 14, 2020 at 10:00 am virtually over Zoom
- November 17, 2020 at 6:30 pm virtually over Zoom
- November 22, 2020 at 9:30 am in person between services

We want to encourage you, as members of HCLC, to provide your input and feedback. Please consider attending one of the above informational meetings where members of the council will be present to answer questions.

With our mortgage retired and our aging building needing repairs/replacements, the Council decided it would be prudent and responsible to be **proactive instead of reactive** by properly funding future repairs. With that goal in mind, we commissioned an independent Reserve Study at the beginning of 2020. This involved a comprehensive evaluation of the different components that make up HCLC - the building itself, the exterior, and the interior. The reserve study provided valuable information and a path for the future of our facility, through a 30 year timeline for repairs and/or replacements. This assessment indicated that HCLC would need to set aside a monthly amount to fund the anticipated need.

After much discussion, we decided that we have three budget options, which are available on the table in the narthex.

- funding the unrestricted building reserve at 100%, which is \$9,200 per month, evaluating any shortfall at the end of the year
- 2. funding the unrestricted building reserve at 50%, which is \$4,600 per month, and deal with any issue that may come
- 3. not funding the reserve, putting any remaining positive balance into the building reserve at the end of the year

The Voter's Meeting will be held on December 13, 2020 at 9:30 am between services.



Congregational Christmas Giving "Blessings at Christmas"

This Christmas we again have the opportunity to support "Blessings at Christmas" through Bethesda Lutheran Communities Ministry headquartered in down-town Littleton. This project is sponsored by "Women of the Cross."

Gift-giving this year is purchasing Gift Cards in any amount determined by your Heart. Suggested stores for easiest shopping: Target, Walmart, JC Penney and Barnes and Noble.

Place your "Gift Card" in the slotted Christmas-wrapped box. This will be located on your right side as you depart the Sanctuary. (Cards will be collected after second service.) We will receive your gifts <u>beginning Sunday, November 1 through the deadline of Sunday, December 6.</u>

Should you wish to make a cash donation or by check, make your check to: LWML - Women of the Cross - Memo: For Bethesda gift cards, and put in the slotted Christmas-wrapped box.



Bethesda Lutheran Communities will purchase meaningful and useful gifts using the donated gift cards for those living in Bethesda's home situations. Bethesda will wrap and place the gifts under the Christmas trees.

Thank you for your generosity in making someone's Christmas special! Women of the Cross

The 2020 Lutheran High School Auction will be a global event!



The 21st Annual Lutheran High School auction is moving to 100% online, with no in-person event due to the decrease in gathering size limitations to 100 people. The Auction has always been a highly social event of celebration of Lutheran High School, and we feel it would be difficult to try and create that

atmosphere with a quarter of our normal attendance.

Cheryl Cattau will be in contact with anyone who purchased a ticket for the event about reimbursement.

We still need your participation on the night of Friday, November 20! We are still encouraging people to host a gathering in their home! Sign up here: <u>LuHi Auction host form</u>

For people who do not want to host or attend with a group, you can help as well! Everyone can participate in the evening by bidding online, donating, and tuning into the livestream that evening. Here is what you need to do:

- 1. Go to LuHi Auction 2020
- 2. Click the "sign in" button in the right hand corner of the welcome page
- Pick how you would like to sign in....email, facebook or google
- 4. Create a password
- 5. Enter login information
- 6. Add a credit card in the secured link
- 7. You're all set!
- 8. You will receive a text confirmation that will allow you to link directly from your device
- 9. Begin browsing items, bidding, or giving!

Bidding can begin as soon as items get listed (some already are!). Please tune into the livestream that evening at 7:30 p.m. - it will involve Mr. Zoeller. More on that later...

Thanks for adjusting with us! Even though we'll miss the social aspect of our annual auction this year, we can still rally together to make the night a huge success!

Thank you!

Kristin Gehrke & Cheryl Cattau - Auction Coordinators

Petitions and Prayers: We are confident that God hears and answers our prayers because of Christ, "our righteousness."



Health concerns:

Dear Lord Jesus, Your promises are ever before our eyes. Bring healing to those who are ill if it be Your will for their lives. Stay with them in this time of infirmity, blessing them with Your peace. Thank You that we can pray in Your name. Amen.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- Joyce Hansen cancer
- Theresa Kingham cancer
- Kevin Koessel (Karlee Shavlik's brother) cancer
- Julie Ann Zamora multiple health issues

Prayer of intercession:

*Holy God, we offer a prayer of thanksgiving that because You turned a deaf ear to Your Son as He hung on the cross, He can turn a gracious ear to us. Jesus suffered the depths of woe so that we could have the height of forgiveness. We pray in the name of Jesus who gives us reason to praise and thank You. Amen.



Find Pastor Skelton's Bible Study based on First Samuel posted on facebook.com/holycrosshighlandsranch and click on videos to see the Bible Study and worship services.

Update: Margaret Bloder's new Phone number is 303-933-9967.

"Life Quotes" from Lutherans for Life November 15, 2020

"To be sure, our God Father does not give the vocation of a large family to everyone. (And, of course, any quantity of family and offspring He bestows is a great benefit.) But we need not despise proliferation the way the world does. Indeed, we may appreciate and assist our brothers and sisters who engage in this holy (and delightful!) calling. And we may also raise our young ones to cherish procreation and adoption more than any personal preferences or material possessions. The blessings of children always outweigh even the burdens!"

Rev. Michael W. Salemink, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org



Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Missouri Synod) 9770 Foothills Canyon Blvd. Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

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Reaching lost souls with the Gospel:

Nourishing and equipping the saints for life and ministry!



Check out
The Lutheran Hour
Sunday mornings at
6 a.m. on 850 KOA Radio

go to www.lhm.org and click on "Listen Now" anytime.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church





Holy Cross Lutheran is on Facebook. Check us out and Like us at facebook.com/HolyCrossHighlandsRanch.

If you are going to believe in everything you read, then start with your Bible.