Holy Cross Lutheran Church

The First Sunday in Advent Divine Service Three November 29, 2020





The First Sunday in Advent

November 29, 2020

8:00 and 10:30 AM

Prayer for the First Sunday in Advent

Lord God, we praise You that You comforted Your people with the promise of a Redeemer. We praise You that in the fullness of time You sent Your Son as that Redeemer. We praise You that You give promise that You will send Him to us again to judge the world in righteousness. Open our hearts to receive our Redeemer now as He comes to us in Word and Sacrament. Open our eyes of faith in an awareness of His presence in our lives by His grace. Make Advent a blessing to us as we welcome our King in faith and love. We lift our hearts to welcome Him anew. Fill us with gladness as He comes to us. Amen.



The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body

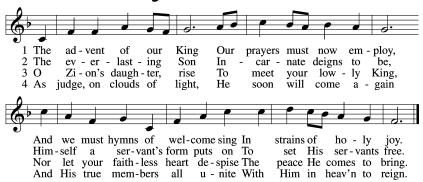
and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (1 Cor. 11:17-34), and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked to speak with the Pastor prior to communing with us for the first time. We thank you for respecting our belief and practice regarding the Lord's Supper.



Confession and Absolution

331 The Advent of Our King



- Before the dawning day
 Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
 The sinful self be put away,
 The new self now put on.
- △ 6 All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free, With Father, Spirit, ever one Through all eternity.

Tune and text: Public domain

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

Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5

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

- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **G** who made heaven and earth.
- P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

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

Confession of Sins

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

Absolution [John 20:19–23]

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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



Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;* righteous and having sal- | vation.

To you, O LORD,*
I lift up my soul.

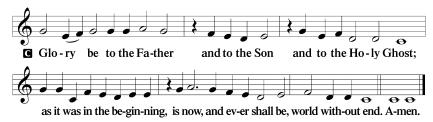
O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put to shame;* let not my enemies exult | over me.

Indeed, none who wait for you shall be | put to shame;* they shall be ashamed who are wantonly | treacherous.

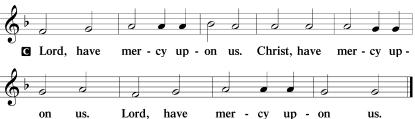
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit; as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Behold, your king is com- ing to you;* righteous and having sal- vation.

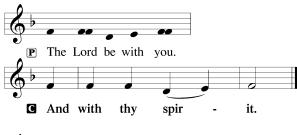
Gloria Patri







Salutation and Collect of the Day





P 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.



Sit

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf. and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. But now, O LORD, you are our Father;

we are the clay, and you are our potter;

we are all the work of your hand.

Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

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

Gradual



Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.*

Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;*

righteous and having sal- | vation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.*

From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:3–9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Stand

Alleluia



Holy Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.



[Jesus said:] "In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning— lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.







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,

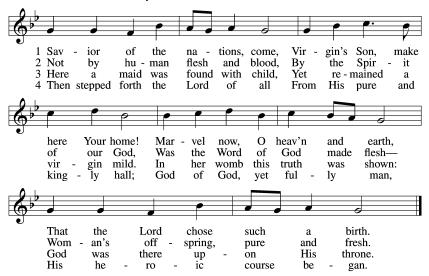
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,

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

→ of the world to come. Amen.

332 Savior of the Nations, Come



- God the Father was His source,
 Back to God He ran His course.
 Into hell His road went down,
 Back then to His throne and crown.
- For You are the Father's Son
 Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
 By Your mighty pow'r make whole
 All our ills of flesh and soul.
- 7 From the manger newborn light Shines in glory through the night. Darkness there no more resides; In this light faith now abides.
- △ 8 Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king, Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.

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Sermon

"Begin With Remembering"

Text: See the Epistle Reading

Offertory Psalm 51:10–12





Offering

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

Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayer:

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



Service of the Sacrament

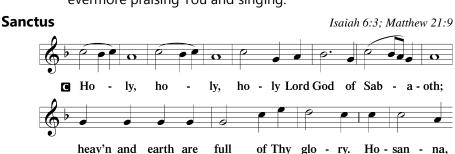
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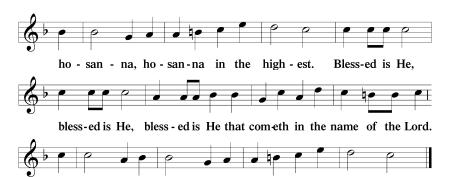
Please read our Statement on Holy Communion on the inside cover of the bulletin before communing with us.



Proper Preface

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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:





Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

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.



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."







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.

Stand

334 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



- Sin's debt, that fearful burden, Cannot His love erase;
 Your guilt the Lord will pardon And cover by His grace.
 He comes, for you procuring The peace of sin forgiv'n,
 His children thus securing Eternal life in heav'n.
- He comes to judge the nations,

 A terror to His foes,
 A light of consolations
 And blessèd hope to those

 Who love the Lord's appearing.

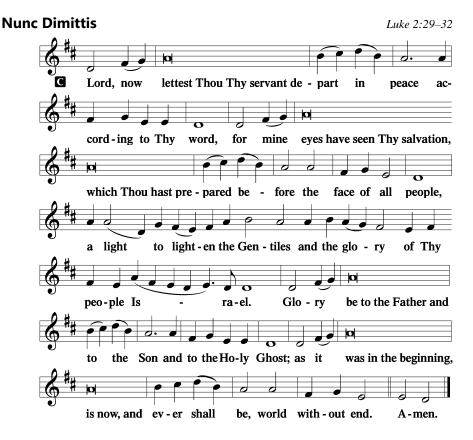
 O glorious Sun, now come,

 Send forth Your beams so cheering,

 And guide us safely home.

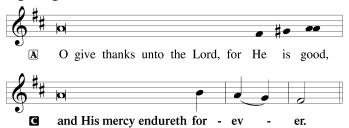
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Stand



Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1



Post-Communion Collect

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.



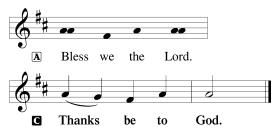
Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

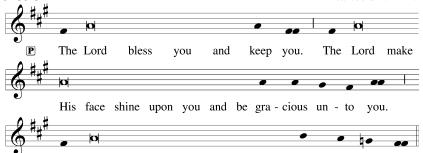


Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

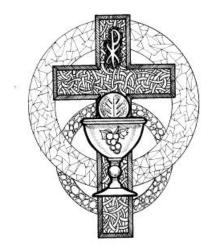


Benediction Numbers 6:24–26



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.





Soli Deo Gloria!

(To God alone be the glory.)

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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336 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



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Join us this Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. for our First Wednesday in Advent Worship Service.

Under the Covid-19 circumstances we will NOT be having a potluck supper before the service.

Announcements



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



Our semi-annual voters' assembly is scheduled for the second Sunday of December.

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

This information is printed out and located on the table in the narthex.

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

The Season of Advent



The Season of Advent, which begins today, November 29, is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ: both His coming in the incarnation at Christmas and His second coming at the

end of the world as King and Judge. The Fourth Sunday in Advent this year is December 20. The chief emphasis of Advent is on preparation, preparation that is penitential, anticipatory, and hopeful in spirit. The color of the paraments during Advent is blue, emphasizing hope and anticipation.

Common in Lutheran churches today is the use of an Advent wreath, a wreath of evergreen branches with four candles equal distances from one another. The Advent wreath is used to mark the four weeks of Advent, with one candle being lighted for the first week, two candles lighted for the second week, and so on. The blue paraments and the Advent wreath will be removed after the late service on Sunday, December 20, as they belong to the season preparatory for Christmas.

(The above information was taken from **The Altar Guild Manual** by Lee A. Maxwell and was authorized by the Commission on Worship of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.)



If you wish to beautify the Lord's sanctuary this Christmas season with a beautiful 6-inch poinsettia, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex by Sunday, December 13. The cost is \$10 per plant. If you wish to purchase one in

honor of a special event or in memory of a loved one, please note that next to your name.

Please make checks payable to Holy Cross, note "poinsettia" in the memo section, and place in the offering plate.

Plants can be taken home after the service on Christmas Day or after one of the services on Sunday, December 27.



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

Petitions and Prayers: When we pray, Jesus appears "in the presence of God for us."



Health concerns:

Lord Jesus, lift the spirits and strengthen the faith of those people who are ill, helping them to look beyond this present affliction. Remind them that You are near, even in this time of pain and suffering. Heal them if it be Your will; if not, give them the strength to endure in faith. We pray in Your name, our only Lord and Savior. 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:

A Prayer for the Advent Season

*O most merciful Father, the season of Advent prepares us for the celebration of Your Son's birth and reminds us of His second coming on the clouds in glory. Awaken our hearts from their slumber, enliven our faith to prepare for His return, and grant us Your Spirit to be about the mission of the church until we are called home in glory. We pray this in Jesus' name. 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.

"Life Quotes" from Lutherans for Life November 29, 2020

"Christians engage in adopting not only because we desire to raise children but also—and above all—because the Most High desires their survival and salvation. We adopt because we have been so adopted. We adopt because little ones need homes. We adopt because we have homes and families to share. Life issues mean more than just political debates. Life issues involve more than just personal choices or someone else's problems. Life issues are always people and Gospel."

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



"Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Matthew 24:44

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!



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.



The magic of Christmas is not in the presents, but in His presence.

