Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Divine Service Four
Second Sunday in Advent
December 6, 2020





Second Sunday in Advent

December 6, 2020

8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Prayer for the Second Sunday in Advent

O Eternal God, we come before You with expectant hearts. Your words of promise in Zechariah, "See, your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation" stir us to believe that Jesus will come again. He will come in spite of, and to take away, the load of sin, guilt, sorrow, and doubt that we insist on carrying around. We give You praise and thanks that He comes neither in judgment nor in condemnation. Rather, Jesus comes with forgiveness for our sins so that we may be God's dear children and enjoy the bliss of heaven forever. Keep us safe until that day of Jesus' second coming! 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

820 My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker



Text and tune: 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.

Amen.

Exhortation

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

- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **G** 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.

Stand



Service of the Word

Introit



Restore us, O God;*

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,

you who lead Joseph | like a flock!*

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.

You brought a vine out of Egypt;*
it took deep root and filled the land.

Restore us, O | God of hosts;*

let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

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.

Restore us, | O God;*

let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



■ Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Hymn of Praise

During Advent the Gloria in Excelsis is omitted.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.

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.

Sit

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40:1–11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Behold your God!"
Behold, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

- **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: 2 Peter 3:8-14

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

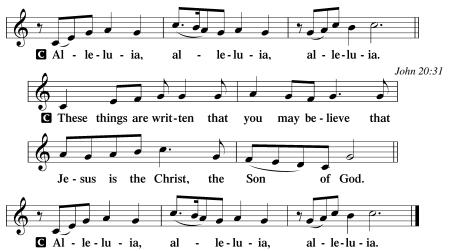
Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

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

Stand





Holy Gospel: Mark 1:1–8

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.
- **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

- **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.

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.

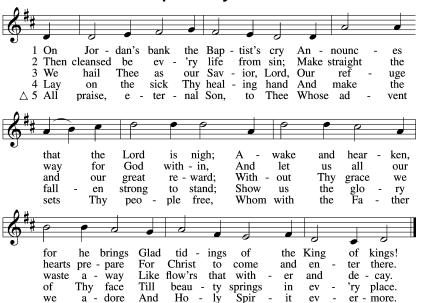
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

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.

Sit

344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

"Comforting His People"

Text: See the Old Testament Reading

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

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

444

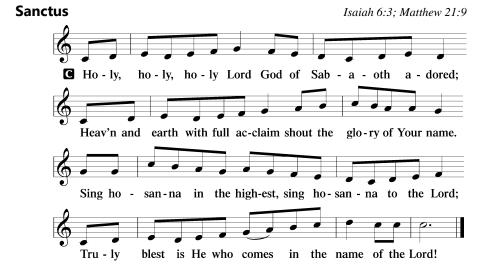
Stand

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.
- **G** We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

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 singing:



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 boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

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

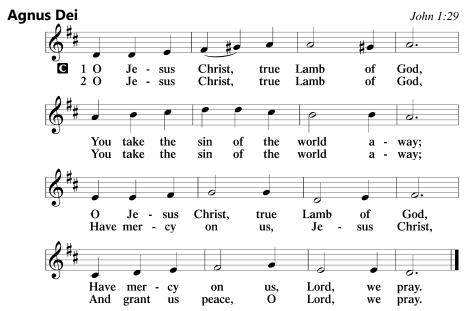
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My
→ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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.
- 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.

347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People



Tune and text: Public domain

Stand



Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32



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.

C Amen.

Benedicamus Psalm 103:1

- P Let us bless the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Benediction

- 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.
- Amen.

343 Prepare the Royal Highway



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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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Announcements



Assisting Elders: 8 a.m. – Bob Stabo 10:30 a.m. – Gary Bartels



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

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



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.



Thank you to the following members who helped spruce up the church and decorate for Christmas!

Fred and Tina Boehne and their grandkids, Robbie and Lily, Chad Otto, Lynne Rodefeld, Rachel and Robyn Ruetz, Robyn's mom, Scott and Barbara Schlapkohl, Pastor Skelton, Bob Stabo, Shirley Tuell, Jane Wheatley, Steve and Becky White



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.

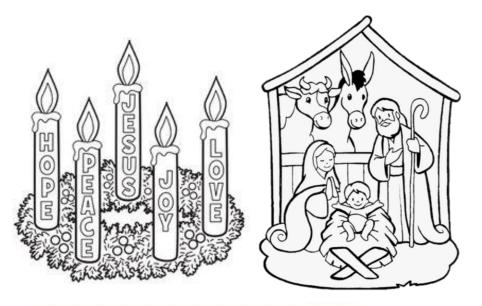
The Voter's Meeting will be held on December 13, 2020 at 9:30 am between services.



Chrismons

The Christmas tree is decorated with Chrismons and small white lights. Chrismons are ornaments whose designs are monograms of and symbols for our Lord Jesus Christ. Because these designs have been used by His followers since biblical times, they are the heritage of all Christians and serve to remind us of the One we follow. All Chrismons are made in combinations of white and gold to symbolize the purity and majesty of the Son of God and the Son of Man.

- The star represents Jesus who said, "I am ... the bright and morning star."
- The Latin cross symbolizes the cross on which our Lord died for our sins.
- ❖ The Chi Rho (XP) is the oldest known monogram for Christ and was commonly used in the early church. "X" and "P" are the first two letters of the Greek word for "Christ."
- ❖ The **Greek cross** was much used by early Greek artists. The extensions are of equal length.
- The triquetra represents the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- The triangle represents the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- The open book represents the Bible, the written Word of God.
- The orb with cross symbolizes our Lord Jesus' dominion over the earth.
- The shell with three drops of water signifies Baptism in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- The chalice represents the Lord's Supper, the Sacrament of the Altar.
- The descending dove symbolizes the Holy Spirit.
- The lamb is a scriptural symbol for Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
- The butterfly represents our Lord's resurrection, assuring all believers of eternal life.
- The crown symbolizes the victory Jesus won for all on the cross. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords.



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R	Е	R	Α	Р	Ε	R	P	N	K	0	0	Е	Α
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STAR TRAVEL VIRGIN WAIT WREATH MAGI MANGER MARY NAZARETH NEW

ADVENT AGE ANGEL **BETHLEHEM CANDLES CHRISTMAS** CHURCH DAVID DONKEY HAIL **HEROD** HOPE ISAIAH **JESSE JESUS JOSEPH** JOY KING LORD LOVE SHEEP SHEPHERD SKY SONG **PEACE** PRAYER **PREPARE**

SAVE

Petitions and Prayers: When we come to God in prayer through Jesus' intercessory name, we have assurance that, in confidence, "we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in (our) time of need."



Health concerns:

God of everlasting power, enable those people with illnesses to bear them with a measure of forbearance. Stay with them, granting them Your peace. Bless the efforts of the doctors and nurses involved in caring for them. We pray in the name of Your Son who helps us keep our eyes of faith focused on our eternal home. 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

*Lord Jesus Christ, we remember that at Your first advent You came as a lowly baby. How eagerly we anticipate celebrating that breakthrough day when You, the God made flesh, entered human history. Grant us, saints who live between Your first and second advents, an even greater anticipation for Your Second Coming, the Day of the Lord. Amen.

"Life Quotes" from Lutherans for Life December 6, 2020

"This Christmas, let us continue to pray for mothers who are afraid and aren't sure where to turn when they discover they are unexpectedly pregnant. Let us pray that, like Mary, they may find the courage to bring life into the world."

Right to Life of Michigan
A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org



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



'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'

Mark 1:3

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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

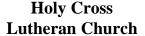
Sunday Worship Services	8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Bible Classes and Sunday School	9:25 a.m.
Rev. Bruce Skelton, Pastor, Office	303-683-1300
Kristen Foss, Director, Early Learning Cer	nter303-683-1311
Fax	303-470-0165

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



Xmas is Christmas without Christ.

Don't X Him out!