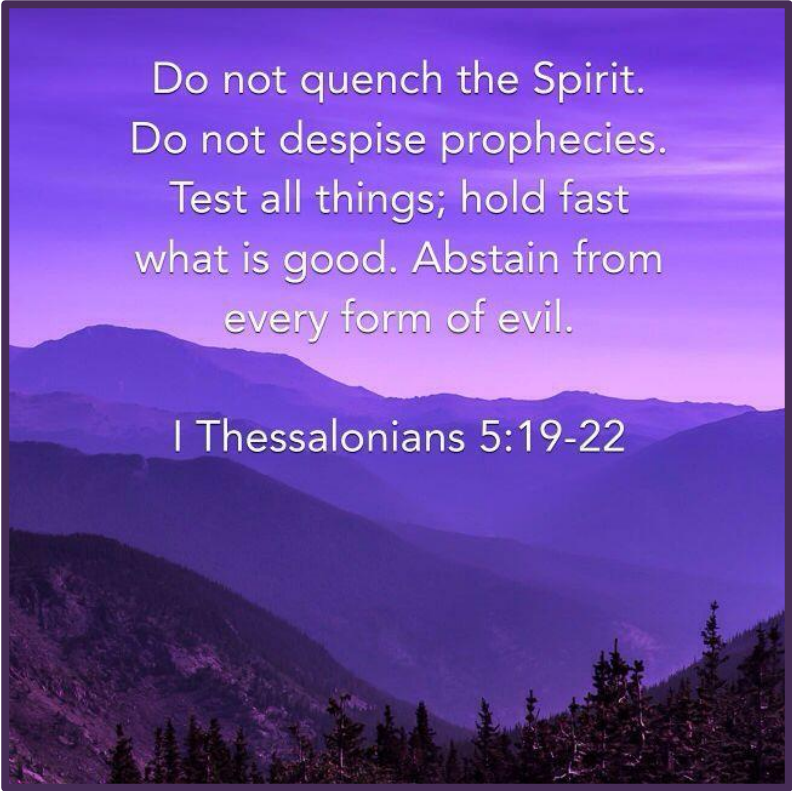


Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Divine Service Four

The Third Sunday in Advent

December 13, 2020



Do not quench the Spirit.
Do not despise prophecies.
Test all things; hold fast
what is good. Abstain from
every form of evil.

I Thessalonians 5:19-22



The Third Sunday in Advent

December 13, 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 Center.....303-683-1311

Fax..... 303-470-0165

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

Prayer for the Third Sunday in Advent

O God, we who were condemned to live in terror of the inevitable arrival of temporal and eternal death have been saved because of the sacrifice of Your Son, our Savior Jesus. Your own Son, the Lamb of God, promised by the prophets, awaited by the anxious, was born of a virgin in Bethlehem. Your own Son, the Lamb of God, was sent to save the entire human race. His coming brings deliverance, changing hell into heaven, fear into faith, and sadness into salvation. Beginning in the manger of a Judean stable, Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and ascension have given us eternal life. His blood on the door of our hearts says to Satan that he can do nothing there. The devil's work is done. During this Advent season, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may perceive the full meaning of Jesus' sacrifice. Amen.



Confession and Absolution

338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;
2 Born Thy peo-ple to de-liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!

From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev-er, Now Thy gra-cious king-dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;

Dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo-rious throne.

Text and tune: Public domain

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,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, and call upon Him in prayer and praise, 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

- G** **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.
- G** **Amen.**

Stand



Service of the Word

Introit



Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,*
and grant us your sal- | vation.

**Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,*
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his saints; but let them not turn back to | folly.**

Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,*
that glory may dwell | in our land.

**Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,*
and our land will yield its | increase.**

Righteousness will go be- | fore him*
and make his foot- | steps a way.

**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.**

Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,*
and grant us your sal- | vation.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



G 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.

G **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations. . . .

For I the LORD love justice;
I hate robbery and wrong;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their offspring shall be known among the nations,
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge them,
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful
headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C 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 Thessalonians 5:16–24


Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

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. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

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


Stand

Alleluia and Verse




C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.


John 20:31



C These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel: John 1:6–8, 19–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

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

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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



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.

Sit

345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
 2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
 3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
 4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
 Δ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the

near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
 earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
 par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
 world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
 Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -

works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"
 sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
 with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
 liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

"Test Everything"

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24



621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence And with fear and
 2 King of kings yet born of Mar - y, As of old on
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van - guard
 4 At His feet the six - winged ser - aph, Cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
 earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,
 on the way As the Light of Light, de - scend - ing
 sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence



For with bless - ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de -
 In the bod - y and the blood, He will give to all the
 From the realms of end - less day, Comes the pow'rs of hell to
 As with cease-less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



scend - ing Comes our hom - age to de - mand.
 faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.
 van - quish As the dark-ness clears a - way.
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text and tune: Public domain



Offering

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

Stand

Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayer:

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

Lord's Prayer

- C** Our Father who art in heaven,
 hallowed be Thy name,
 Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Collect

P Almighty and merciful God, we have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for our many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. We thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep us in faith until we inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord

C Amen.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

P Let us bless the Lord.

C 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.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.


C Amen.



Soli Deo Gloria!

(To God alone be the glory.)

349 Hark the Glad Sound



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es

throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Tune and text: Public domain

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, December 16,
at 7 p.m. for our third and final Wednesday
evening 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 **TODAY**, 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.



Julie Ann Zamora needs a ride to and from church on Sunday mornings and Wednesdays (during Advent and Lent) from Wind Crest. If you are able to help out, please call her at 720-863-8688.



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 Rodefelf, Rachel and Robyn Ruetz, Robyn's mom, Scott and Barbara Schlapkohl, Pastor Skelton, Bob Stabo, Shirley Tuell, Jane Wheatley, Steve and Becky White



The LWML is having "Mite Box Sunday" TODAY as we celebrate LWML Sunday. The large Mite Box in the narthex is to gather free will offerings to support the mission projects they have selected to provide for this year.

***Portals of Prayer for
January-March 2021 are out!***

Pick up your copy from the table in the narthex. We have digest size copies if you need larger print. These are a great resource to use in your daily devotions!



Petitions and Prayers: Jesus answers only prayers based on His Word. He answers all prayers prompted by His Word working in us.



Health concerns:

Heavenly Father, as You sent Your Son to be with us in times of illness and pain, we beseech You to bring healing to those who are ill as best suits Your will. Bless the efforts of their doctors, surgeons, and health care workers to facilitate their return to health. Keep Your holy angels around them in their times of worry and pain. 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:

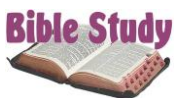
A Prayer for the Third Sunday in Advent

**Lord God, Jesus' advent into this world is what makes our advent, our entrance into Your kingdom of grace possible. Our entrance into Your kingdom happened in our baptism: You put Your name on us and claimed us for Your kingdom; Christ's work of redemption is now ours. Amen.*

“Life Quotes” from Lutherans for Life December 13, 2020

“Will you be without loved ones this holiday season? Will you be struggling with illness or discouragement? Will you feel the pressure to make the holiday season great? You are not alone. You are not on your own. Read John 10, a great chapter about a Good Shepherd. Listen to His voice comfort and strengthen you.”

*Rev. John Boeder, Martin Luther College
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.



***Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,
give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.***

1 Thessalonians 5:16

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**Check out
The Lutheran Hour
Sunday mornings at
6 a.m. on 850 KOA Radio
or
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 world needs
a stable influence.**