

# **Holy Cross Lutheran Church**

**The Third Wednesday in Advent**

**Evening Prayer**

**December 16, 2020**





## The Third Wednesday in Advent

December 16, 2020

7 p.m.

### 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 Wednesday 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.



## Service of Light

### 351 Creator of the Stars of Night

1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,  
2 Thou, griev - ing that the an - cient curse  
3 Thou cam'st the Bride - groom of the bride,  
4 At whose dread name, ma - jes - tic now,

Thy peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing Light:  
Should doom to death a u - ni - verse,  
As drew the world to e - ven - tide,  
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow;

O Christ, Re - deem - er, save us all  
Hast found the heal - ing, full of grace,  
The spot - less Vic - tim all di - vine  
All things ce - les - tial Thee shall own,

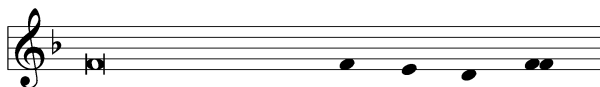
And hear Thy ser - vants when they call.  
To cure and save our ru - ined race.  
Pro - ceed - ing from a vir - gin shrine.  
And things ter - res - trial, Lord a - lone.

- 5 O Thou, whose coming is with dread  
To judge the living and the dead,  
Preserve us from the ancient foe  
While still we dwell on earth below.

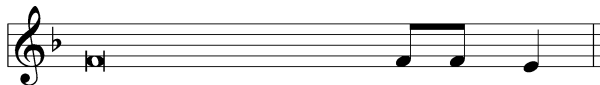
- △ 6 To God the Father and the Son  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,  
Praise, honor, might, and glory be  
From age to age eternally. Amen.

## Versicles

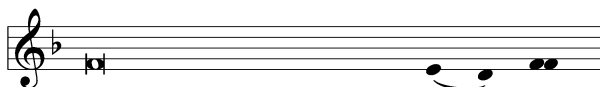
*John 8:12; John 1:5; Luke 24:29; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 2 Corinthians 4:6*



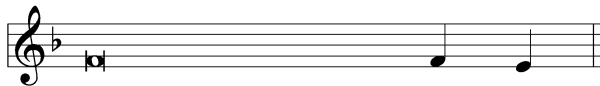
**L** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,



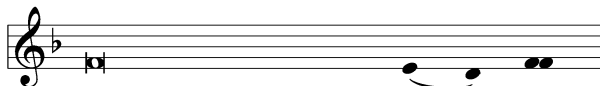
**C** the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



**L** Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve - ning,



**C** and the day is almost o - ver.



**L** Let Your light scatter the dark - ness



**C** and il - lu - mine Your Church.

## Phos Hilaron



**L** Joy - ous light of glo - ry:



**C** of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,



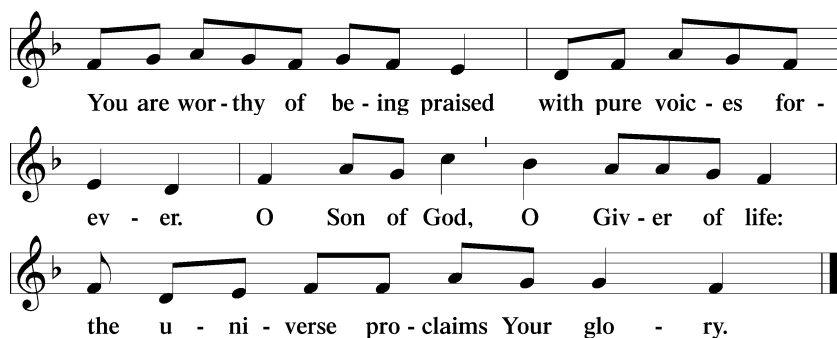
bles - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the



set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.



We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:



## Thanksgiving for Light

- L** Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*



## Psalmody

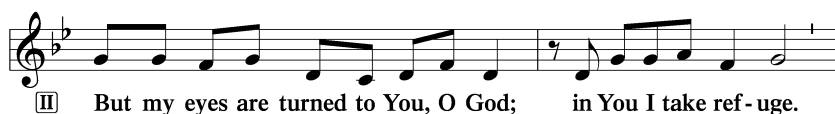
### Psalm 141

*Psalm 141:1-4, 8*

**C** *Sung by congregation*

I, II *Sung by Cantor*





## Psalm Prayer

**L** Let us pray.

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

**C** Amen.

## Readings

### 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** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Reading: 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** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Reading: Luke 1:76–79**

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
in the forgiveness of their sins,  
because of the tender mercy of our God,  
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high  
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of  
death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

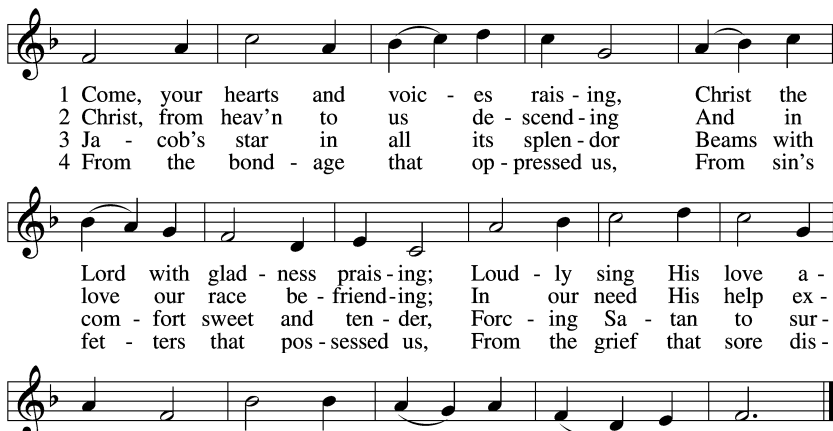


## Final Reading Response

Hebrews 1:1-2a

- L** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.
- G** But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

### 375 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising



1 Come, your hearts and voices rais - ing, Christ the  
2 Christ, from heav'n to us de - scend - ing And in  
3 Ja - cob's star in all its splen - dor Beams with  
4 From the bond - age that op - pressed us, From sin's

Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; Loud - ly sing His love a -  
love our race be - friend - ing; In our need His help ex -  
com - fort sweet and ten - der, For - ing Sa - tan to sur -  
fet - ters that pos - sessed us, From the grief that sore dis -

maz - ing, Wor - thy folk of Chris - ten - dom.  
tend - ing, Saved us from the wi - ly foe.  
ren - der, Break - ing all the pow'rs of hell.  
tressed us, We, the cap - tives, now are free.

- 5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing  
When by faith we grasp this blessing,  
And to You we come confessing  
That Your love has set us free.
- 6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,  
From Your lowly manger cheer us,  
Gently lead us and be near us  
Till we join Your choir above.

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## Sermon

### “The Benedictus: The Advent Task”

Text: Luke 1:76-79

Stand



## Canticle

### Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

*Refrain*

My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spir - it re -  
joic - es in God, my Sav - ior. My soul mag-ni-fies the  
Lord, and my spir - it re - joic - es in God, my Sav - ior.

1 For \_\_\_\_\_ He has re - - - - - garded  
2 For the Mighty One has done great things to . . . . . me,

- 3 He has shown strength with His . . . . . arm;  
4 He has filled the hungry with good . . . . . things,  
5 Glo - ry be to the Father and to the . . . . . Son

1 the lowliness of . . . . . His hand-maiden.  
2 and holy . . . . . is His name;

- 3 He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
4 and the rich He has sent emp - - - - - ty a - way.  
5 and to the . . . . . Ho - ly Spirit;

1 For be - hold, from this . . . . . day  
2 and His mercy is on those who . . . . . fear Him

- 3 He has cast down the mighty from their . . . . . thrones  
4 He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy  
5 as it was in the be - - - - - ginning,

1 all generations will . . . . . call me blessèd.  
2 from generation to . . . . . gen - er - ation. *Refrain*

- 3 and has exalt - - - - - ed the lowly.  
4 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ever.  
5 is now, and will be forever. . . . . A - - - - - men. *Refrain*



## Offering

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



## Prayer

### Litany

*The congregation's response may begin just as the leader's petition ends so that the word "Lord" is sung simultaneously by both leader and congregation.*



**L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For our Synodical President Matthew Harrison, our District President Roger Schlechte, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For President Donald Trump, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

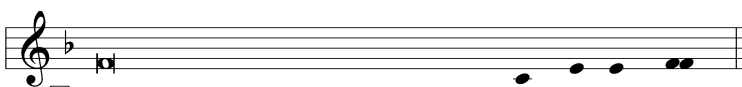
**P** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

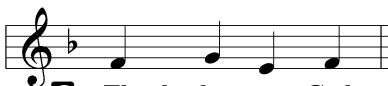
**P** For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

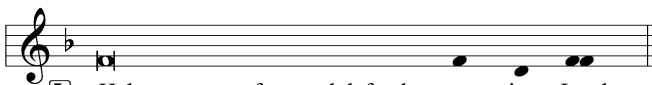
*The prayers then continue:*



**L** For the faithful who have gone  
before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

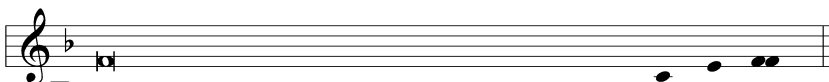


**C** Thanks be to God.



**L** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

*Silence for individual prayer may follow.*



**L** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:



**C** To You, O Lord.

## Collect For Peace

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

**C** Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

**L** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

**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.

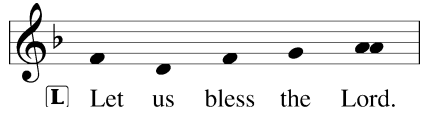
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

*Stand*

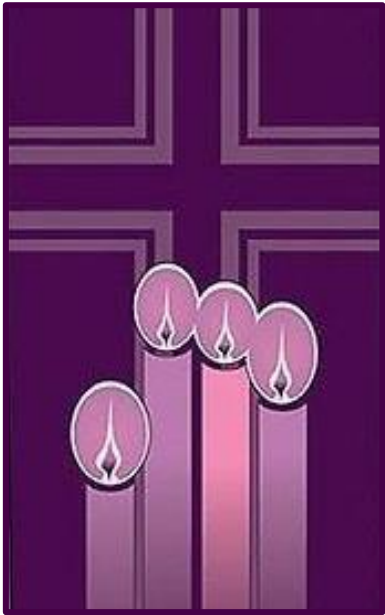
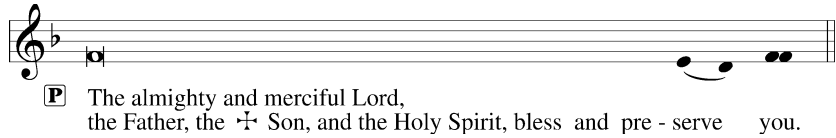


# Benedicamus

[Psalm 103:1]

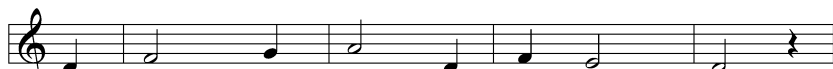


# Benediction

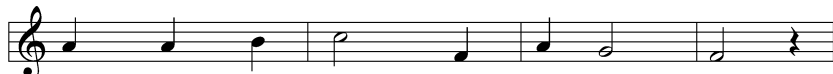


***Soli Deo Gloria!***  
*(To God alone be the glory.)*

## 355 O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide



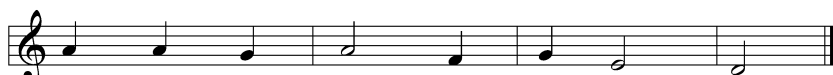
1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide;  
 2 O Fa - ther, light from heav - en send;  
 3 O earth, in flow'r - ing bud be seen;  
 4 O Fount of hope, how long, how long?



Come down, come down with might - y stride;  
 As morn - ing dew, O Son, de - scend.  
 Clothe hill and dale in garb of green.  
 When will You come with com - fort strong?



Un - lock the gates, the doors break down;  
 Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring;  
 Bring forth, O earth, a blos - som rare,  
 O come, O come, Your throne fore - go;



Un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.  
 To Ja - cob's line rain down the King.  
 Our Sav - ior, sprung from mead - ow fair.  
 Con - sole us in our vale of woe.

5 O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,  
 When will our hearts behold Your dawn?  
 O Sun, arise; without Your light  
 We grope in gloom and dark of night.

6 Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;  
 Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.  
 O come, lead us with mighty hand  
 From exile to our promised land.

7 There shall we all our praises bring  
 And sing to You, our Savior King;  
 There shall we laud You and adore  
 Forever and forevermore.



### **Acknowledgments**

Evening Prayer from Lutheran Service Book

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