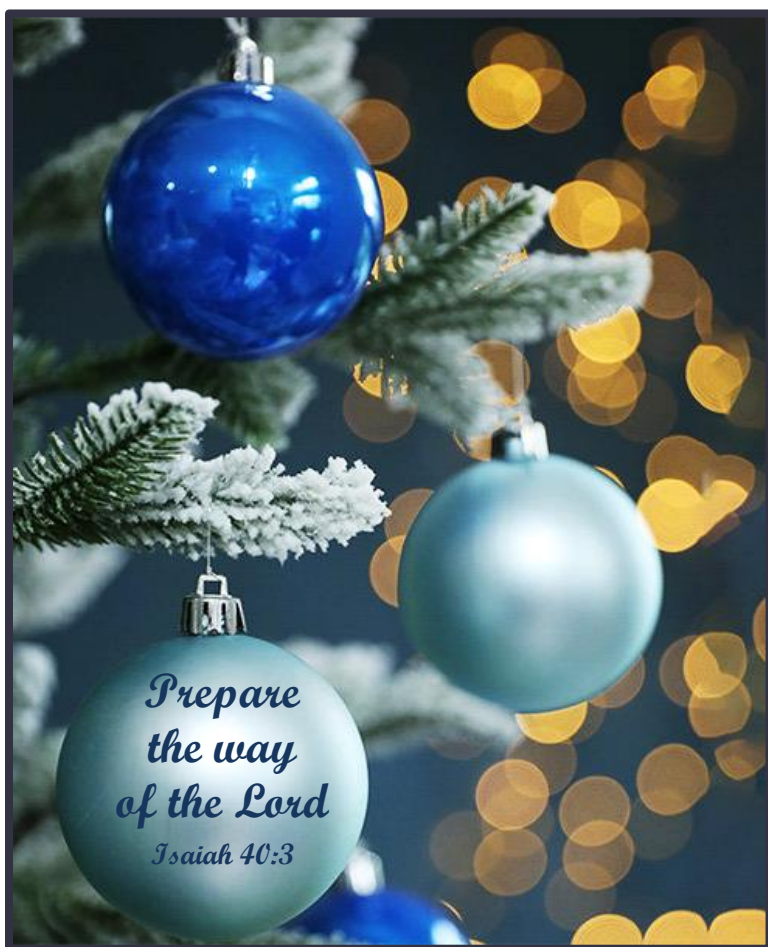


Holy Cross Lutheran Church

The Second Wednesday in Advent

Evening Prayer

December 8, 2021





The Second Wednesday in Advent

December 8, 2021

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

Fax..... 303-470-0165

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

Prayer for the Second Wednesday 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.



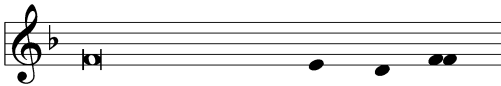
Service of Light

344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

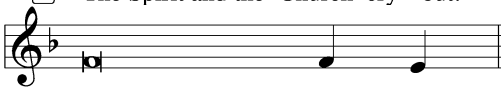
Stand

Versicles

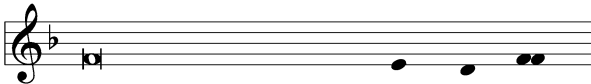
John 8:12; John 1:5; Luke 24:29; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 2 Corinthians 4:6



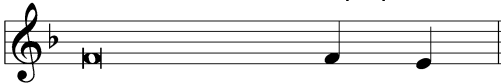
L The Spirit and the Church cry out:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.



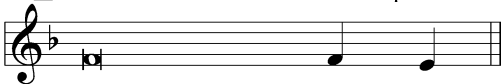
L All those who await His ap - pear - ance pray:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.



L The whole cre - a - tion pleads:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.

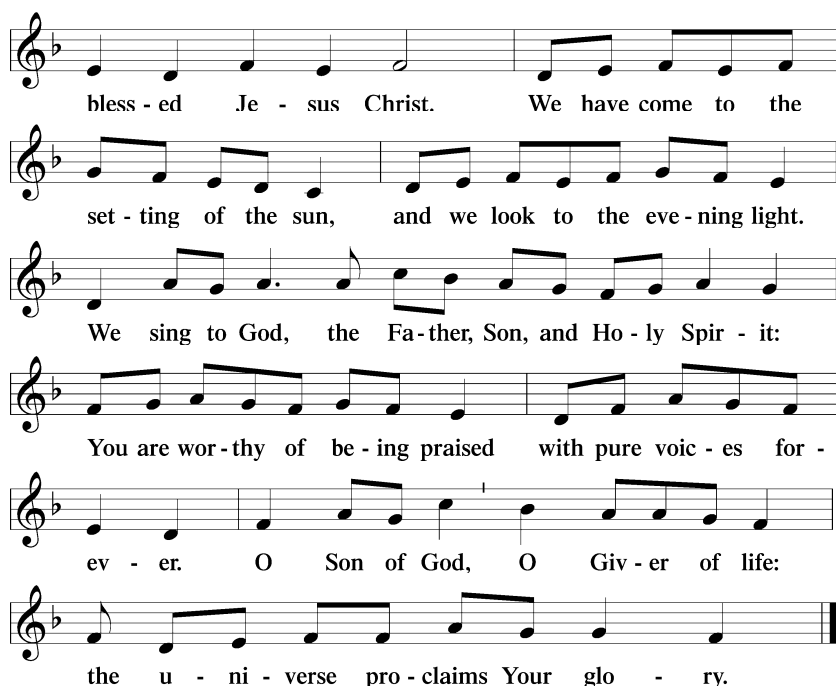
Phos Hilaron



L Joy - ous light of glo - ry:



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



Thanksgiving for Light

P Blessed 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.

G Amen.

Sit

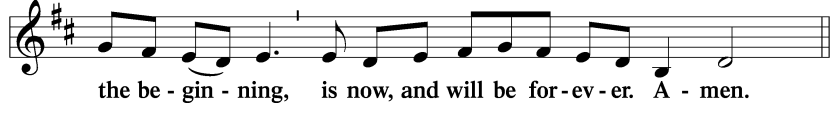
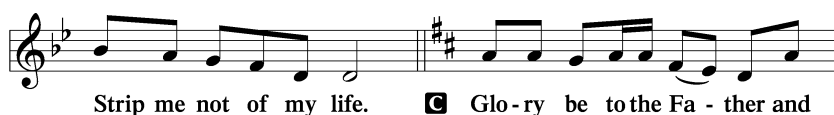
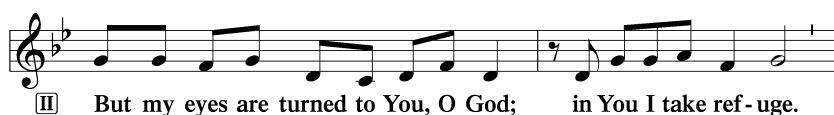


Psalmody

Psalm 141

Psalm 141:1-4, 8

G Sung by congregation
 I, II Sung by Cantor





Psalm Prayer

P 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 40:3–4

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.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle: Philippians 1:2–11

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

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I

am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Holy Gospel: Luke 3:1–14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

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

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall become straight,
and the rough places shall become level ways,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell

you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

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.

Sit

334 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Sermon

"Prepare the Way of the Lord"

Text: Isaiah 40:3-4

Stand



Canticle

Magnificat

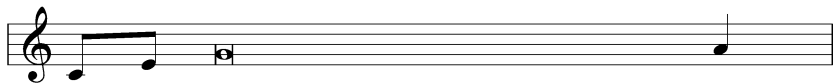
Luke 1:46-55

Refrain

G 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



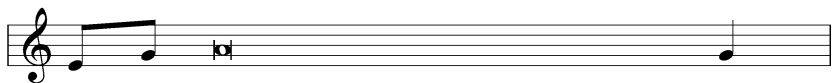
Lord, and my spir - it re - joic - es in God, my Sav - ior.



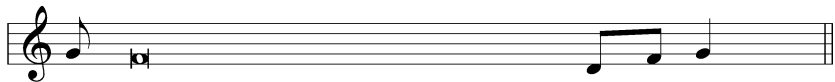
- 1 For _____ He has re - - - - - garded
- 2 For the Mighty One has done great things to me,
- 3 He has shown strength with His arm;
- 4 He has filled the hungry with good things,
- 5 Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son



- 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*

Sit

Offering



Prayer

Stand

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 all public servants 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.**

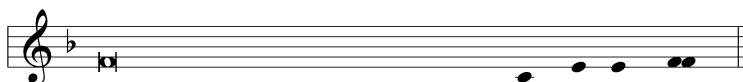
P For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

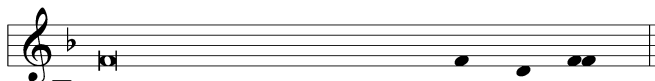
The prayers then continue:



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

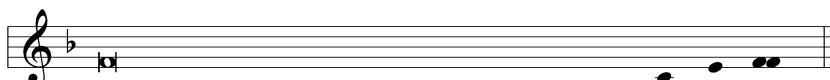


C Al - le - lu - ia.



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 A - men.

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 and Benediction

[Psalm 103:1]

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C **Amen.**

513 The Clouds of Judgment Gather



Soli Deo Gloria!

(To God alone be the glory.)

Acknowledgments

Evening Prayer from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2021 Concordia Publishing House.