

# **Holy Cross Lutheran Church**

**(Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)**

## **Divine Service Four**

**The Third Sunday in Advent**

**December 12, 2021**

*God Is  
With  
You*





## **The Third Sunday in Advent**

**December 12, 2021**

**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

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

*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

**C** 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.



## Service of the Word

### Introit

*Psalm 146:5–8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*



Rejoice in the Lord | always;\*  
again I will say, | Rejoice.

**Blessèd is he whose help is the God of | Jacob,\*  
whose hope is in the | LORD his God,**

who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is | in them,\*  
who keeps faith for- | ever;

**who executes justice for | the oppressed,\*  
who gives food to the | hungry.**

The LORD sets the prisoners free;  
the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind.\*  
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the | righteous.

**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.**

Rejoice in the Lord | always;\*  
again I will say, | Rejoice.

## Kyrie

Mark 10:47



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

## Gloria in Excelsis

**Omitted during Advent**

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **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.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

### Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 3:14–20

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter of Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;  
he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall never again fear evil.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
"Fear not, O Zion;

let not your hands grow weak.

The LORD your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;

he will rejoice over you with gladness;

he will quiet you by his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing.

I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,

so that you will no longer suffer reproach.  
 Behold, at that time I will deal  
 with all your oppressors.  
 And I will save the lame  
 and gather the outcast,  
 and I will change their shame into praise  
 and renown in all the earth.  
 At that time I will bring you in,  
 at the time when I gather you together;  
 for I will make you renowned and praised  
 among all the peoples of the earth,  
 when I restore your fortunes  
 before your eyes," says the LORD.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*



**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: Philippians 4:4–7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Alleluia and Verse



*John 20:31*



## Holy Gospel: Luke 7:18–28

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

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

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.”

I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John.  
Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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



## Apostles' Creed

**G** 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

### Sermon

**“God Is With You”**

Text: Zephaniah 3:14-20



## 347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

*Stand*

### Prayer of the Church

*Sit*

### Offering

#### Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9–13*

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**G** **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** Lord Jesus Christ, giver and perfecter of our faith, we thank and praise You for continuing among us the preaching of Your Gospel for our instruction and edification. Send Your blessing upon the Word, which has been spoken to us, and by Your Holy Spirit increase our saving knowledge of You, that day by day we may be strengthened in the divine truth and remain steadfast in Your grace. Give us strength to fight the good fight and by faith to overcome all the temptations of Satan, the flesh, and the world so that we may finally receive the salvation of our souls; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** **Amen.**

## Benedicamus and Benediction

*Psalm 103:1*

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

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

*Numbers 6:24-26*

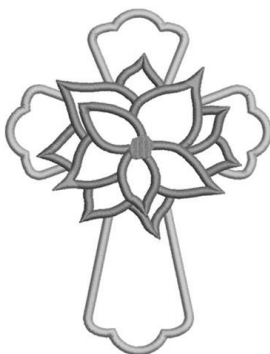
**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

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.**

## 349 Hark the Glad Sound



***Soli Deo Gloria!***

*(To God alone be the glory.)*

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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## Announcements



Assisting Elders:

8 a.m. – Andy Olson

10:30 a.m. – Curt Oliver



## Advent Worship Schedule

|                 |                  |   |
|-----------------|------------------|---|
| Wed., Dec. 15   | 6 p.m.<br>7 p.m. | Soup dinner<br>Advent Worship Service                       |
| Friday, Dec. 24 | 7 p.m.           | Christmas Eve Worship Service<br>(NO Christmas Day Service) |

The Soup Dinners are sponsored by the Elders and will be held in the downstairs fellowship room. Those attending are asked to bring a salad, bread, or dessert to share.



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 12. 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 either of the services on Sunday, December 26.



Pick up your Lutheran Hour Ministries Advent devotions from the table by the mailboxes in the narthex.

### ***Portals of Prayer for January-March 2022 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!*



**The Voters' Assembly** will be held on December 12, between services at 9 a.m. Please plan to attend as this is an **extremely important** meeting concerning the future of HCLC.

With the loss of our ELC, the Council and the Ad Hoc committee have been dealing with some challenging realities and possible options. Below are items for the meeting:

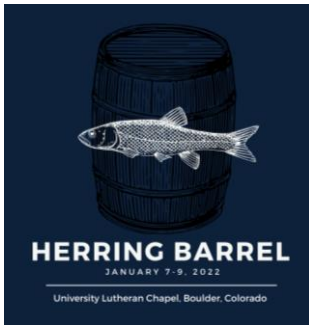
- a. The approval of the 2022 budget
- b. Options and recommendations concerning the building:
  - i. These options include leaving the space vacant, for use by church only; attempting to resurrect our own ELC; leasing and/or renting the space.
  - ii. Approval of a Building Use Policy
- c. The real need for volunteers to serve our congregation and consequences of not having help – possible going to one Sunday service.

A packet for previewing all reports and recommendations will be available on December 5.

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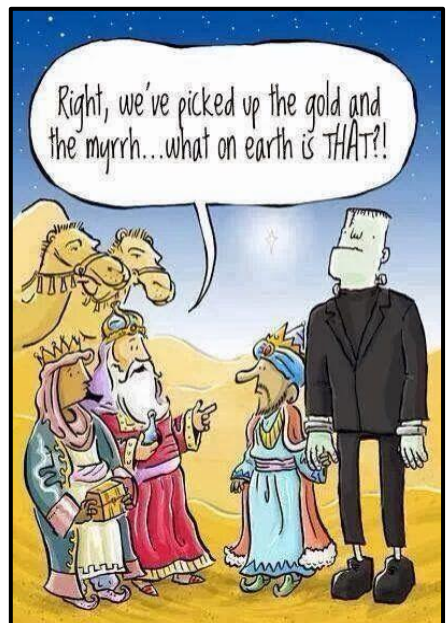
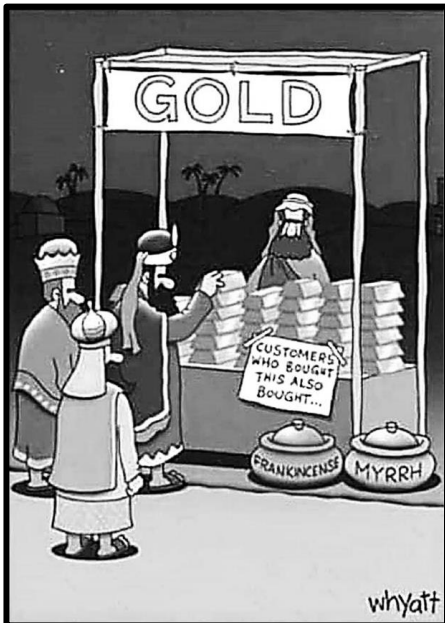
Free Christmas gift ideas! Give forgiveness, hope, tolerance, kindness, joy, service, mercy, charity.

## Herring Barrel 2022



All Lutherans ages 18-30 are invited to University Lutheran Chapel in Boulder, Colorado, January 7-9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Herring Barrel! The Herring Barrel is an opportunity for young Lutherans to meet other young Lutherans, hear speakers address relevant topics, and enjoy worship and fellowship together. This year, we will

feature Rev. Hans Fiene and Joy Pullmann. They will speak on "The Fatherhood of God" and "What Really Makes Women Happy", respectively. Registration is required for attendance and there is a cost of \$35. Limited spaces are available for free housing; this is being given out on a first-come-first-serve basis. For more information or to register, visit [www.universitylutheranchapel.com](http://www.universitylutheranchapel.com) or email Rev. Preus at [markpreus@gmail.com](mailto:markpreus@gmail.com) with any questions.





Mustard Seed

Daily Devotions

Lutheran Women in Mission

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## Comfort from the Psalms An Unchanging God

*Your word, O Lord, is eternal;  
it stands firm in the heavens.  
Your faithfulness continues through all generation.*

Psalm 119:89–90a

Isn't it amazing how many things have changed in our lifetimes? Travel that may have taken our grandparents days or weeks can now be done in hours. We can be almost anywhere in the world within minutes, thanks to the Internet. Things don't even look the same as they did when we were growing up. Televisions, appliances, and the car in the driveway have all undergone dramatic changes.

Change doesn't always come easily to us. We may yearn for a slower pace, a simpler lifestyle, or an uncomplicated telephone!! We sometimes ask, "Why can't things just stay the same?" But change is inevitable!

With all that is changing around us, how wonderful it is to know that God's Word is the same for all time. What He said yesterday still stands today. His promises to love us, grant us peace, and never leave us are still in effect. God hasn't changed His plan of salvation for us, and it won't be any different tomorrow.

*"... the grass withers and the flowers fall,  
but the word of the Lord stands forever."*

1 Peter 1:24b–25a

*Loving Father, I am grateful that Your unchanging Word and love are always there to give me strength. Help me to cling to it in all of life's situations. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

*Mustard Seed: Comfort from the Psalms. Authors: Marcia Gomulka and Myrna Lou Meyer. 17/30 ©2009 Lutheran Women's Missionary League, [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org).*

**Petitions and Prayers:** We pray because God has commanded us to pray.



**Health concerns:**

*Lord Jesus, great is Your love and great is Your mercy. Grant those who are sick hearts that trust in Your promise never to leave them nor forsake them. Whether or not removing their suffering and restoring their health is Your will for their lives now, keep them in Your grace and strengthen their faith. Amen.*

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- Sandy Olson (daughter of Jerry and Shirley Tuell) recovering from surgery as a result of a car accident
- Angela (single mother in Illinois) friend of Helen Tabris who is waiting to get on the heart transplant list.
- Jamie and young daughter Jade (Jamie is missing and has mental health issues)
- Sonja Bowles – Cancer
- Julie Ann Zamora – on-going 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 12, 2021**

“The birth of Christ is the ultimate solution to the loneliness that began in the Garden of Eden. Jesus came because God cares about lonely people, and so should we. Find opportunities to give lonely people gifts—not merely physical items, but the gift of your time, presence, and encouragement. May the glorious Gospel that is preached to you in the birth of Jesus be the gospel that you preach to yourself and your family this month.”

*Paul David Tripp, pastor, author, conference speaker  
A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*



*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,  
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

*John 1:14*

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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](http://www.lhm.org) and click on**

**"Listen Now" anytime.**

**Holy Cross  
Lutheran Church**



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[facebook.com/HolyCrossHighlandsRanch](https://facebook.com/HolyCrossHighlandsRanch).

