


Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)

Divine Service One

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 19, 2021



Blessed are you among
women, and blessed is
the fruit of your womb!

Luke 1:42



The Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 19, 2021

8:00 and 10:30 AM

Prayer for the Fourth Sunday in Advent

Almighty God and Father, thank You for reminding us of how much You care for Your people. The Christmas message says that although we can never become like You, You have become one of us: in love, Jesus took our place and carried our sorrows and sins. May we, through the work of the Holy Spirit, learn to see Your grace wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. Grant that our eyes of faith see Emmanuel who was born to lift up those burdened with sorrows, carry those crushed by sin, and befriend those who are deserted and alone. Let us ever remember that Jesus is the Savior of sinners; He comforts all those who trust in Him. We pray this in His precious name. 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

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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

1 John 1:8–9

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. 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

1 Samuel 2:1b, 2, 5b–7; antiphon: Luke 1:46b–47



My soul magni- | fies the Lord,*
and my spirit rejoices in God my | Savior.

My mouth derides my | enemies,*
because I rejoice in your sal- | vation.

There is none holy | like the LORD,*
there is none besides you; there is no rock | like our God.

The barren has borne | seven,*
but she who has many children | is forlorn.

The LORD kills and | brings to life;*
he brings down to Sheol and | raises up.

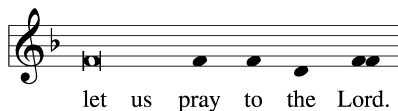
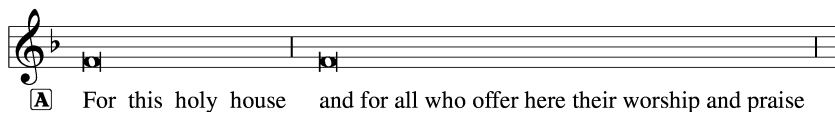
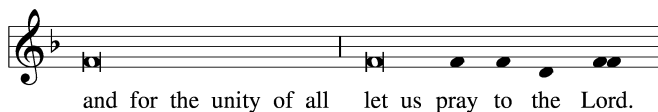
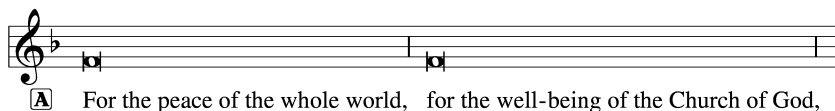
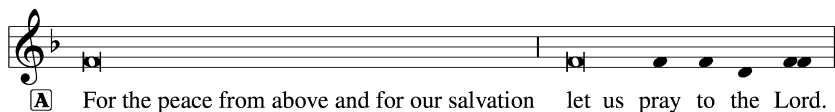
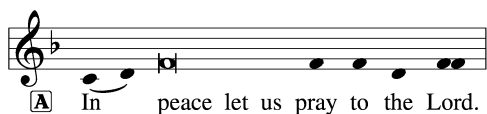
The LORD makes poor and | makes rich;*
he brings low and | he exalts.

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.

My soul magni- | fies the Lord,*
and my spirit rejoices in God my | Savior.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



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

C A - men.

This Is the Feast

Omitted during Advent

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.
 Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading: Micah 5:2–5a

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
 who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
 from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to be ruler in Israel,
 whose origin is from of old,
 from ancient days.
 Therefore he shall give them up until the time
 when she who is in labor has given birth;

then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of
the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.
And he shall be their peace.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G **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: Hebrews 10:5–10

When Christ came into the world, he said,
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body have you prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68



Holy Gospel: Luke 1:39–56

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



In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me
blessed;

for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent empty away.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

354 Arise, O Christian People

Sermon

"Blessed Are You"

Text: Luke 1:39-56

Stand



Nicene Creed

C 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.
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.

Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayer:

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

Sit

Offering

Stand



Offertory

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.



Service of the Sacrament




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



Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



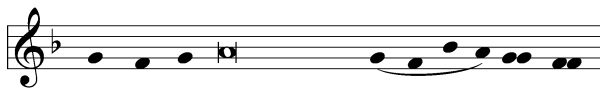
The Lord be with you.
And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us 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.



The Words of Our Lord

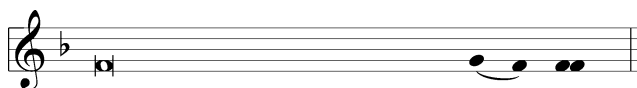
Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

- 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

John 20:19



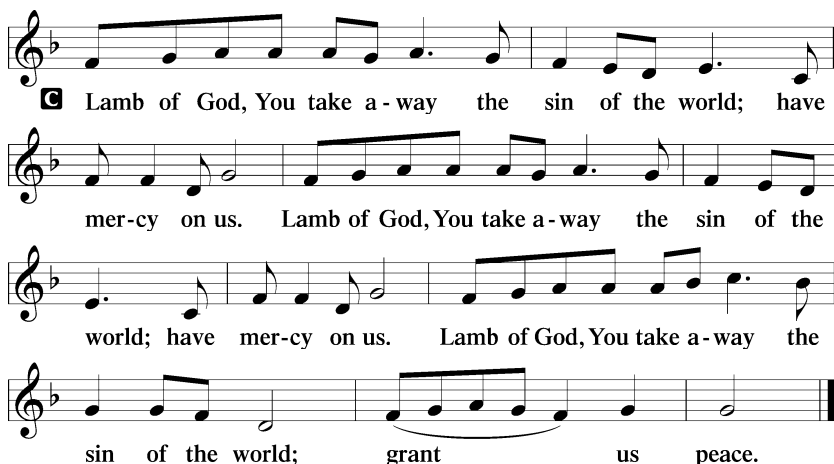
P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



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.

356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

353 Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

Stand

Thank the Lord

[Psalm 105:1–3, 42–43]; [1 Chronicles 16:8–10]

C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.

He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy

with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

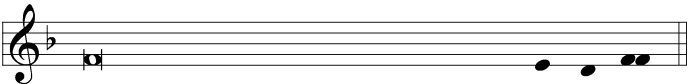
P Let us pray.

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.



Benediction

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.



935 Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord



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

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book
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Announcements



Assisting Elders:

8 a.m. – Andy Olson

10:30 a.m. – Curt Oliver



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Celebrate with us
Friday, December 24, at 7 p.m.



Thank you to the following members for gracing our chancel with poinsettias this Christmas: the Covert family (Marcus, Kelsey, Keegan, and Fiona) Warren Denny and Pat Gil; the Doak Family (Trey, Emily, Jasmine, Isaac, and Josiah), Jerry and Shirley Tuell; Jane Wheatley; Steve and Becky White.

Offering Envelope



The 2022 Offering Envelopes are available on the table in the narthex. If you didn't find yours or would like to request envelopes, please contact Dave Shavlik.



On the table by the mailboxes in the narthex there are Christmas cards for our shut-ins for you to sign. Please sign them today as we will be mailing them out tomorrow morning.

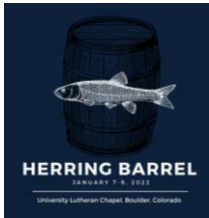


The December 2021/January 2022 newsletter has been emailed to you. If you haven't received it, please call the office to update your email address. If you would like a printed copy, grab one from the table by the front door.

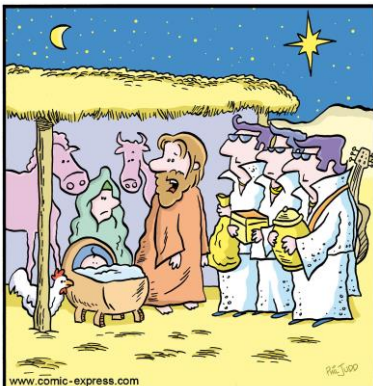
Portals of Prayer for January-March 2022 are out!

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!

Herring Barrel 2022



All Lutherans ages 18-30 are invited to University Lutheran Chapel in Boulder, Colorado, January 7-9th, 2022 for the 4th 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 or email Rev. Preus at markpreus@gmail.com with any questions.



SORRY FOLKS, WE'RE BOOKED SOLID ... GOD HIMSELF COULDN'T GET A ROOM HERE TONIGHT

Petitions and Prayers: We pray in response to God's loving invitation, "Call upon Me..." and "Ask, and it shall be given you."



Health concerns:

Dear Jesus, Great Physician of body and soul, hear our prayer for those who are sick. Be for them the grace sufficient for them in this time of suffering. Remind them that in their weakness Your power is being brought to perfection. If it be Your will, bring healing to these people, even as we anticipate the ultimate healing in the joys of heaven. 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 Fourth Sunday in Advent

**Heavenly Father, we offer a prayer of thanksgiving that Jesus is the Root and Offspring of David. Jesus is the Anointed One – the Christ – whom You had promised through Your holy prophets. Jesus, the stem of Jesse, has fulfilled and will fulfill their prophecies to the letter. We await the final fulfilling of those prophecies with eager expectation. Amen.*

**“Life Quotes” from Lutherans for Life
December 19, 2021**

“In carols of Christmas, you’ll sometimes hear more than gladness that the Child is born on Christmas. You’ll hear of deliverance: ‘Born that man no more may die. Born to raise the sons of earth ...’ There is much to ponder before, during, and after Christmas. Let the meaning of Christmas fill our hearts with anticipation, wonder, and thanksgiving for many days! For death’s days are numbered because of a birth—the birth of the Key of David.”

*James M. Kushiner, Fellowship of St. James
A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



***I have come into the world as light, so that whoever
believes in me may not remain in darkness.***

John 12:46

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!***



**Check out
The Lutheran Hour
Sunday mornings at
6 a.m. on 850 KOA Radio or
or and click on "Listen Now"
anvtime.**

Holy Cross Lutheran Church



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

Merry Mas!

**It's just not the
same without
CHRIST huh?**

