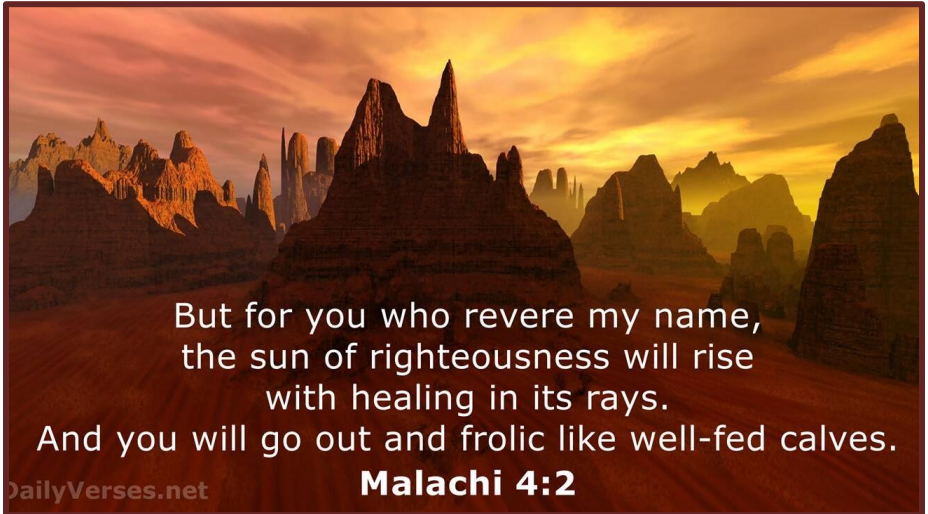


Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Divine Service Four

The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

November 13, 2022





The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

November 13, 2022

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 Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

O almighty God, help us to repent of our sins and thus trust Jesus as our Savior; may we never believe that we are good enough to enter heaven on our own merits. Help us as we study Your written Word, to find in the Old Testament the Messiah described in vivid detail and to see in the New Testament that Jesus fits that description perfectly. Jesus lived a perfectly sinless life, died as Your offering for sin, rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and rules over all things from the position of honor at Your right hand. Grant that we, as Jesus' sheep, trust the Good News that "Jesus is the Messiah." We pray in His name. Amen.



Confession and Absolution

873 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

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 121:1–2, 5, 7–8; antiphon: Luke 21:33



Heaven and earth will | pass away,*
but my words will not | pass away.

I lift up my eyes | to the hills.*
From where does my | help come?

My help comes | from the LORD,*
who made | heaven and earth.

The LORD is your | keeper;*
the LORD is your shade on your | right hand.

The LORD will keep you from all | evil;*
he will | keep your life.

The LORD will keep your going out and your | coming in*
from this time forth and for- | evermore.

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.

Heaven and earth will | pass away,*
but my words will not | pass away.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



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

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord, almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may live and abide forever in Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Malachi 4:1–6

“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and just decrees that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

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

- C Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5



These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.*

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

**Blessèd are those whose strength is | in you,*
in whose heart are the highways to | Zion.**

Epistle: 2 Thessalonians 3:1–13

Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



John 20:31



Holy Gospel: Luke 21:5–28

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

While some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, [Jesus] said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." And they asked him, "Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?" And he said, "See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is at hand!' Do not go after them. And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once."

Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. This will be your opportunity to bear witness. Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives.

"But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

"And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding

of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

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



508 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near

Sermon

“The Sun of Righteousness”

Text: Malachi 4:1-6

348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

Stand

Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayer:

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

Sit

Offering

(Please add your name to the red fellowship book and pass it to your fellow worshippers.)

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.

Closing Collect

P Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

G Amen.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

P Let us bless the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

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.

G Amen.

513 The Clouds of Judgment Gather



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. – Steve White
10:30 a.m. – Curt Oliver



Please join us on Sunday, December 4, between services (9-10:30 a.m.) for a Cookie Exchange! Bring 3 dozen cookies split into four cookies per ziplock bag (9 bags). This gives you the opportunity to experience different varieties. So... bring 9 bags – take 9 bags home.

LET THERE BE LIGHTS!



You have probably noticed the lights in the sanctuary going off and on. No, this is not on purpose; No, you are not having sight issues; and, No, the building is not haunted. It's that the system is old and needs to be replaced. With the help of a generous gift and the Trustees Committee, this will happen soon. A new light system and new lights have been ordered.

God continues to bless us and our mission. In the wonderful words of the Apostle John: *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* (John 1:5)



The LWML is having "Mite Box Sunday" TODAY and the second Sunday of every month. On these Sundays they have the big Mite Box in the narthex to gather free will offerings to support the mission projects they have selected to provide for this year.



Please check the **Sunday Greeter schedule**, posted on the bulletin board, to find out when you're scheduled to serve. Thank you!

CANTO DEO

Chamber Choir Advent Service of Lessons & Carols



The season of Advent comes gently into our hearts as the days grow shorter, nights seem darker, and the year begins its slow descent into winter. Our Advent Service of Lessons & Carols helps us to focus our gaze forward in hope, mingling ancient and modern carols with words of comfort, peace, and expectation. Join us and let your spirit be renewed; pause, breathe deeply, and reflect on the journey in this world and in the world to come.

This service features well-loved works by Sir David Willcocks, Morten Lauridsen, Philip Stopford, and others. Listen for the comfort in Elizabeth Poston's Jesus Christ the Apple Tree or let your spirit soar with Willcocks' Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending. We hope you will join us for this very special, contemplative service, and make it an annual tradition of your own.

Tickets are NOT required for this event.

**Saturday,
November 26, 2022
7:00PM**

Holy Ghost Church
1900 California St.
Denver, CO 80202

**Sunday,
November 27, 2022
3:00PM**

Bethany Lutheran Church
4500 E. Hampden Ave
Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113



Congregational Christmas Giving

"Blessings at Christmas"

This Christmas we again have the opportunity to support "Blessings at Christmas" through AbleLight (formerly Bethesda Lutheran Communities) Ministry headquartered in down-town Littleton. This project is sponsored by "Women of the Cross."

Gift-giving this year is purchasing Gift Cards in any amount determined by your Heart. Suggested gift cards for easiest shopping: Walmart or VISA cards.

Place your "Gift Card" in the slotted Christmas-wrapped box. This will be located on your right side as you depart the Sanctuary. (Cards will be collected after second service.) We will receive your gifts *beginning Sunday, November 6 through the deadline of Sunday, November 27.*

Should you wish to make a cash donation or by check, make your check to: LWML - Women of the Cross - Memo: For AbleLight Christmas Blessings, and put in the slotted Christmas-wrapped box.



AbleLight will purchase meaningful and useful gifts using the donated gift cards for those living in AbleLight's home situations. AbleLight will wrap and place the gifts under the Christmas trees.

Thank you for your generosity in making someone's Christmas special! Women of the Cross

Petitions and Prayers: Through His Son Jesus Christ, our Intercessor, High Priest, and Friend, God promises to hear us, answer us, and help us when we pray.



Health concerns:

Dear Jesus, You are the Great Physician. You took our flesh upon Yourself: You know our weaknesses because You bore them on the cross. We pray that You would deliver those with illnesses and afflictions. Likewise, enable them to believe that Your grace is sufficient for them in all circumstances. Thank You that we can look to You for hope and healing. Amen.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- Harlan (Lisa Oliver's father) recovering from pneumonia
- Devon Hanson (grandson of Connie and Terry Mitchell) – mental health issues
- Roger Frank (brother of Connie Mitchell) cancer
- Mary (relative of Tabris') pray for protection and wisdom for her family concerning special needs.
- Angela (single mother in Illinois) friend of Helen Tabris should officially be on heart transplant list soon
- Jamie (is missing and has mental health issues) and young daughter Jade (is being adopted by family in Colorado)
- Frank Koessel – hospitalized with an infection

Prayer of intercession:

**Lord, I am weary and burdened by the brokenness of this world and my own sin struggles in my heart. Father, there is no lasting peace apart from You! You alone are my steadiness in uncertain times. Thank You that I can trust in Your unchanging character and find rest for my soul. Impress the blessed balm of Your peace on my heart today. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

“Life Quotes” from Lutherans for Life November 13, 2022

“Respect for God’s chain of authority holds true with the police, legislators, governors, presidents, and judges who have been placed over me. Some I may have chosen willingly, while others I may have voted against or had no say in. Still, we believe God has given them their authority. I may feel a responsibility to oppose their plans or how they perceive and execute justice, but even then, I owe them respect and honor.”

*Pastor Dan Guagenti, Holy Cross Lutheran Church,
Shelbyville, Kentucky
A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



***Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,
that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.***

Hebrews 4:16

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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"
anytime.**

**Holy Cross
Lutheran Church**



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



***Use "Sonscreen"
to prevent "sinburn"***

