

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)

Divine Service Four

The Second Sunday in Advent

December 4, 2022





The Second Sunday in Advent

December 4, 2022

8:00 and 10:30 AM

Prayer for the Second Sunday 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.



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

346 When All the World Was Cursed

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, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, 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 105:4–8; antiphon: Isaiah 40:3b



In the wilderness prepare the way | of the LORD;*
make straight in the desert a highway | for our God.

Seek the LORD | and his strength;*
seek his presence con- | tinually!

Remember the wondrous works that | he has done,*
his miracles, and the judgments he | uttered,

O offspring of Abraham, his | servant,*
children of Jacob, his | chosen ones!

He is the | LORD our God;*,
his judgments are in | all the earth.

He remembers his covenant for- | ever,*
the word that he commanded,
for a thousand gener- | ations.

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.

In the wilderness prepare the way | of the LORD;*
make straight in the desert a highway | for our God.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



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

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 11:1–10

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;

and a little child shall lead them.
 The cow and the bear shall graze;
 their young shall lie down together;
 and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
 and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.
 They shall not hurt or destroy
 in all my holy mountain;
 for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
 as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

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: Romans 15:4–13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to

the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,
and sing to your name."

And again it is said,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

And again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples extol him."

And again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse will come,
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;
in him will the Gentiles hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



John 20:31



Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:1–12

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

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

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;

make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume 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.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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





Nicene Creed

**☩ 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.**

344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Sermon

"One More Powerful Than I"

Text: Matthew 3:1-12

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.)



Service of the Sacrament



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



Stand

Preface

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

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

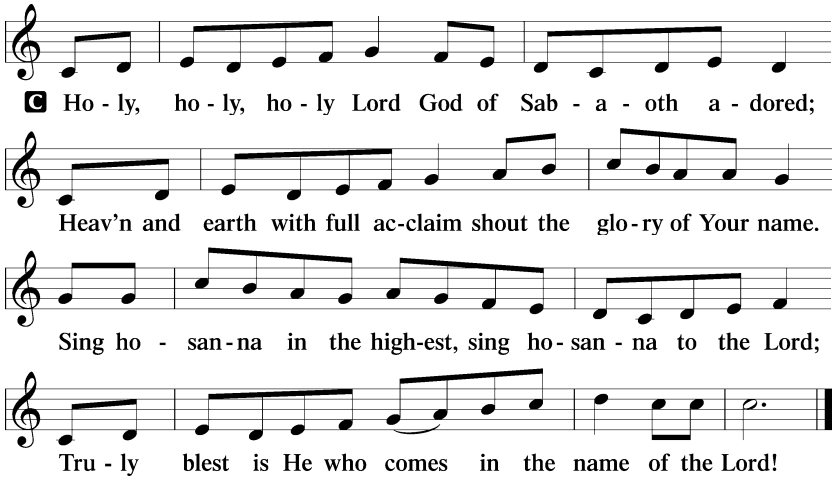
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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



G Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!



Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

**☩ 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

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
☩ Amen.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29


1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

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.

342 What Hope! An Eden Prophesied

347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32

1 O Lord, now let to Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in lead the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

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.

G Amen.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
C 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.
C Amen.

936 Sing Praise to the God of Israel



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



The Cookie Exchange is this morning, Sunday, December 4, between services.



MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR ADVENT CALENDAR!


We will be holding an Advent Celebration on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, starting at 6:00 PM with a Lasagna Dinner, hosted by the Fellowship Committee. A Christmas Carol Hymn Sing will follow at 7:00 PM and the evening will end with an Advent Worship Service at 7:15 PM.

The lasagna will be provided by the Fellowship Committee members and congregation members will be asked to bring a salad, bread, or a dessert. Coffee and tea will be available. In order to plan how much lasagna to make, please indicate your interest in attending on the sheet in the narthex.

**JOIN US FOR FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, AND THE WORD.
BRING A FRIEND!**



The Semi - Annual Voters' Assembly is scheduled for Sunday, December 11, between services. The main order of business is the 2023 Budget, as well as updates from the Boards. The agenda and accompanying packet of reports will be available on December 4 in the narthex. Please plan to attend.

 *Lord God, through your Word came the seasons of nature and the seasons of life, a time for everything under heaven. We thank you for granting **Larry Byers** Your peace at the close of his days, filling his last hours with the certainty of eternal life with You - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Keep Larry's son **Steve Byers** safe until he joins Larry in singing your praises in the heavenly realms. Amen.*



*Dear Jesus, in choosing death over life in our place, You gave us eternal life. We entreat You to grace **Karlee and Dave Shavlik** and their family with your peace as they mourn the passing of Karlee's father **Frank Koessel** on Friday, November 25. May those who loved Frank know Your solace in their loss and grief. Comfort Karlee, Dave, Kristen, Andrew, Ryan and Jessenia with the beautiful truth that they will be reunited with their loved one in heaven one day.*



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



Choir is starting up again! Jonathan will contact the current choir members. If you would like to join the choir, please contact Jonathan Hodel at 408-410-0656.



The Lutheran Chorale Christmas Concert

Welcome Joyous Season!

Sunday, December 4, 2022 -- 2:30pm

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

**11453 E Wesley Ave,
Aurora, CO 80014**

and

Sunday, December 4, 2022 -- 6:30pm

St. Philip Lutheran Church

**7531 S Kendall Blvd,
Littleton, CO 80128**

Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus with favorite carols and anthems that are sure to delight!

CANTO DEO 2022

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Get in the true spirit of Christmas with this choral concert with full orchestra. Canto Deo sings many favorite Christmas carols and music from around the world. This annual concert will be full of fun for the family with sing a-longs and music that will bring the heart of Christmas to the listener. The program this year celebrates favorites from composers and arrangers including Mack Wilberg, John Rutter, Dan Forrest, and many others. Don't forget to bring children so they can conduct the orchestra at the end of the concert!

Saturday, December 17, 2022, at 1:00 PM

St Frances Cabrini Catholic Parish
6673 W Chatfield Ave, Littleton, CO 80128

Sunday, December 18, 2022, at 3:00 PM

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

Monday, December 19, 2022, at 3:00 PM

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

Complimentary tickets can be obtained from
Tom Kingham or online at CantoDeo.org.

Petitions and Prayers: God desires that we continually set aside a quiet time and private place to talk with our Father in prayer.



Health concerns:

Gracious Father, grant these people healing as best suits Your will for their lives. Help them to pray, "If it be Your will," and so let them place themselves in Your care forever. You have shown Your love to all who suffer by sending Jesus, who bore all for us in His life and death. We pray in His name. Amen.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- Kathy Harrington's sister, Barbara, in Hospice
- 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)

Prayer of intercession:

Come, Lord Jesus, and shine the light only You can bring to the world. In this season of anticipation, strengthen us to await Your coming. Work in us hearts that are repentant and eager to receive You as You graciously come to us. Help us by Your Spirit to be bearers of Your light in this holy season, that others may know the joy of Your coming. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

**"Life Quotes" from Lutherans for Life
December 4, 2022**

"Christmas is also a time to contemplate the gift of mortal LIFE through the miracle of birth. Christmas is the gift of LOVE that moms and dads shower on their children by saying yes to life—sometimes under very difficult circumstances. Regardless of the challenges, God has a perfect plan for each life that He brings into the world, and His will for them is to out-sparkle and out-shine any ornament."

*Bradley Mattes, president of Life Issues Institute
A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



"After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

Mark 1:7-8

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"

anytime.

**Holy Cross
Lutheran Church**



Holy Cross Lutheran is on Facebook.

Check us out and Like us at

facebook.com/HolyCrossHighlandsRanch.



**The most important
part of Christmas is
the first 6 letters.**