

# **Holy Cross Lutheran Church**

**Divine Service Four**

**The Third Sunday in Advent**

**December 11, 2022**





## **The Third Sunday in Advent**

**December 11, 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 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

### 515 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

*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 71:14–18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*



Rejoice in the Lord | always;<sup>\*</sup>  
again I will say, | Rejoice.

**I will hope con- | tinually<sup>\*</sup>**  
**and will praise you yet | more and more.**

My mouth will tell of your righteous acts,  
of your deeds of salvation | all the day,<sup>\*</sup>  
for their number is past my | knowledge.

**With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD | I will come;<sup>\*</sup>**  
**I will remind them of your righteousness, | yours alone.**

O God, from my youth you have | taught me,<sup>\*</sup>  
and I still proclaim your | wondrous deeds.

**So even to old age and gray hairs,**  
**O God, do not for- | sake me,<sup>\*</sup>**  
**until I proclaim your might to another generation,**  
**your power to all | those to come.**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son<sup>\*</sup>**  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,<sup>\*</sup>**  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Rejoice in the Lord | always;<sup>\*</sup>  
again I will say, | Rejoice.

## Kyrie

Mark 10:47



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

## Gloria in Excelsis

During Advent, the Gloria in Excelsis is omitted.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**G** 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.

**G** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 35:1–10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;  
it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
"Be strong; fear not!  
Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you."

And a highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;  
the unclean shall not pass over it.  
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;  
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.  
No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*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: James 5:7–11

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Alleluia and Verse



**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*John 20:31*



**C** These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:2–15

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

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

When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is

to come, or shall we look for another?" And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

As they went away, 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 wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 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."

Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

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

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



## Apostles' Creed

**C** 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**

**“Are You the One?”**

Text: Matthew 11:2-15

## **354 Arise, O Christian People**

*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 worshipers.)*



## 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** Almighty and merciful God, we have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for our many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. We thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep us in faith until we inherit eternal salvation; 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 𐀀 give you peace.

**G** 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. – Steve White

10:30 a.m. – Curt Oliver



**The Semi - Annual Voters' Assembly is scheduled for TODAY, Sunday, December 11, between services. The main order of business is**

**the 2023 Budget, as well as updates from the Boards.**



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.



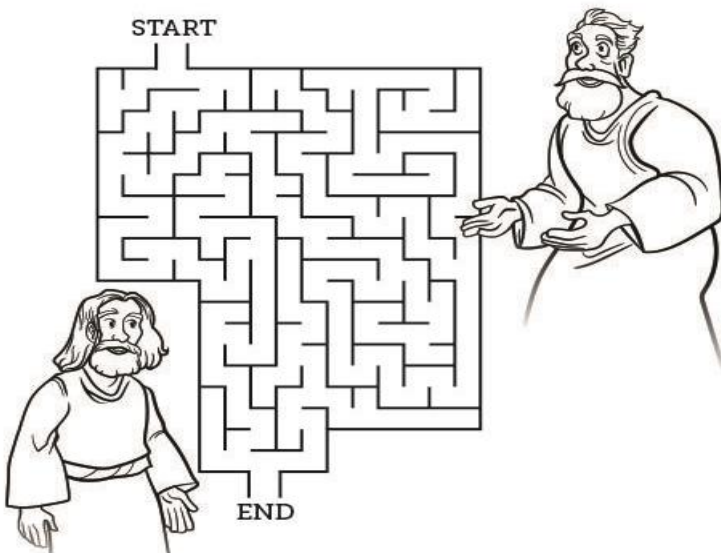
The LWML is having "Mite Box Sunday" TODAY and the second Sunday of every month. On these Sundays they have the big Mite Box in the narthex to gather free will offerings to support the mission projects they have selected to provide for this year.

***Portals of Prayer for  
January-March 2023 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!*

**JESUS AND  
JOHN THE BAPTIST**

Help the Disciple get to Jesus



# 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 7:00 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](http://CantoDeo.org).

# The Gifts that Jesus Brings

The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Matthew 11:5 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 11:2-11 (NIV).



P	F	R	A	I	S	E	D	X	P	X	G	W	O	B
R	K	P	R	I	S	O	N	T	T	U	P	O	X	O
E	S	J	E	F	N	I	B	S	U	Q	D	O	O	A
A	D	O	F	K	O	I	I	S	B	C	N	E	O	D
C	U	H	N	G	I	R	H	E	Y	U	L	U	A	R
H	W	N	S	R	H	M	E	F	D	R	Z	N	F	D
E	A	M	F	C	C	C	A	D	L	E	Z	E	T	N
D	L	M	K	R	C	E	X	L	M	D	E	W	C	I
V	K	J	A	S	D	F	L	L	C	S	W	S	Q	S
H	B	E	S	B	B	I	E	E	D	H	E	A	R	T
E	H	L	U	I	L	A	M	E	P	H	O	N	N	I
A	Y	Z	I	P	G	W	H	I	P	R	B	P	X	N
R	O	N	C	N	H	H	M	I	M	G	O	Q	A	E
D	Y	D	X	Q	D	I	T	A	H	I	Y	S	M	J
A	O	Y	K	B	B	P	H	F	L	F	E	H	Y	E

BLIND  
GOOD  
RAISED  
NEWS

LAME  
PREACHED  
SEE  
CURED

HEARD  
POOR  
LEPROSY  
SIGHT

DEAF  
CHRIST  
PRISON  
WALK

HEAR  
DEAD  
JOHN  
HEAR

**Petitions and Prayers:** We confidently call upon God through prayer by first knowing and confessing that we are unworthy to be heard by Him.



**Health concerns:**

*Lord Jesus, lift the spirits and strengthen the faith of those people who are ill, helping them to look beyond this present affliction. Remind them that You are near, even in this time of pain and suffering. Heal them if it be Your will; if not, give them the strength to endure in faith. We pray in Your name, our only Lord and Savior. 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:**

*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 11, 2022**

“As sure as Christmas will come again on December 25, our Lord will come again. As we look forward to the Last Day, let's dress for the occasion, putting on godliness and repentance. Let's celebrate everything He did the first time He came to assure us of our home of righteousness. Let's be spiritually awake and alert for His coming again, knowing that we will enjoy God's perfect paradise, our eternal home.”

*Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
Redwood Falls, Minnesota*

*A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*



***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.***

***Romans 15:13***

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



**Are you part  
of the Inn  
crowd, or are  
you one of the  
Stable few**

