

# Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)

## The Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Day

December 25, 2022





**December 25, 2022**

**8 AM 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  
Kristen Foss, Director, Early Learning Center.....303-683-1311  
Fax.....303-470-0165

***Reaching lost souls with the Gospel:  
Nourishing and equipping the saints for life and ministry!***

### **Prayer for the Nativity of Our Lord**

Precious Savior, the evening concert of angels announcing Your birth has now given way to the day the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it! Lord God, like the angels may we announce the message of peace between God and all people. Like the shepherds may we glorify You for all that we have seen and heard. Like Mary may we ponder this day's events in our hearts. As we worship You this Christmas, let our eyes see through the manger to the cross and the empty tomb. We come to You today trusting that You are seated at the right hand of God, hearing and answering our prayers. Amen.



## Confession and Absolution

### 387 Joy to the World

*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  $\text{✝}$  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

*Psalm 98:1–4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6*



For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given,\*  
and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,

**and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,\*  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.**

Oh sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done | marvelous things!\*  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have worked salva- | tion for him.

**The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;\*  
he has revealed his righteousness  
in the sight of the | nations.**

He has remembered his steadfast love  
and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.\*  
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.

**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;\*  
break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!**

**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.**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given;\*,  
 and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,  
**and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,\*,**  
**Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.**



## Lord, Have Mercy

*Kyrie*

*The St. James Christmas Service*

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have  
 mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy up - on\_\_ us. Christ, have  
 mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer - cy up-on\_\_ us. God the  
 Lord, the Sav-ior gave us, Je-sus Christ is born to save us; Lord, have  
 mer - cy up-on\_\_ us. Lord, have mer - cy up-on\_\_ us. \_\_\_\_\_





## Glory Be To God On High

*Gloria [paraphrase]*

*The St. James Christmas Service*

**Joyously**



Glo - ry be to God on high,  
Je - sus Christ, we now de - clare  
Prai - ses to the Ho - ly One,



To all peo - ple, peace on earth, An - gels, shep - herds  
Lamb of God and Lord of Love. Grant us mer - cy,  
Prai - ses sing in high - est heav'n; To the Fath - er



draw - ing nigh, Join to ce - le - brate His birth.  
hear our prayer, Give us grace from heav'en a - bove.  
and the Son and the Ho - ly Spi - rit giv'n.



Glo - - - - - ri - a



1. in ex - cel - sis De - o! 2. in ex - cel - sis De o!

## Salutation and Collect of the Day



**P** The Lord be with you.



**G** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



*Sit*

### **Old Testament Reading: Psalm 96**

Oh sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth!  
Sing to the LORD, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.  
Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples!  
For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be feared above all gods.  
For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,  
but the LORD made the heavens.  
Splendor and majesty are before him;  
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!  
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts!  
Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;  
tremble before him, all the earth!

Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!  
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity."

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
let the field exult, and everything in it!  
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy  
before the LORD, for he comes,

for he comes to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world in righteousness,  
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### 370 What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are  
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to  
sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let  
shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the  
Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

### Epistle: Titus 2:11–14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.



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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Alleluia and Verse

*John 6:68*



## Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

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



In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord

appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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



*Sit*

## 382 We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth



### Sermon

#### "Singing a New Song"

Text: Psalm 96

## 383 A Great and Mighty Wonder

*Stand*



### 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  $\text{✝}$  everlasting. Amen.

### 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.)*

*Stand*

## Offertory

*Psalm 116:12–13, 17–19*



**C** 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.



## 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.**

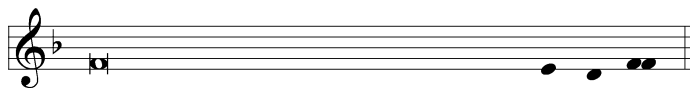
## Closing Collect

- P** 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.



## 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.



## 367 Angels from the Realms of Glory



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



***Thank you*** to the following members for gracing our chancel with poinsettias this Christmas: Warren Denny and Pat Gil; the Heger family; Jerry and Shirley Tuell; Jane Wheatley; Steve and Becky White.

## Offering Envelope



The 2023 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.

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



|          |              |
|----------|--------------|
| NATIVITY | HAY          |
| MARY     | BETHLEHEM    |
| JOSEPH   | JOURNEY      |
| JESUS    | ANGEL        |
| MANGER   | WISE         |
| SHEPHERD | FRANKINCENSE |
| STAR     | MYRRH        |
| DAVID    | SHEEP        |
| INN      | CAMEL        |
| DONKEY   |              |



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

## ***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!*

**Petitions and Prayers:** Through His Word you are assured that God hears your prayer, even when you can't find the right words to express what is in your heart.



### **Health concerns:**

*Heavenly Father, as You sent Your Son to be with us in times of illness and pain, we beseech You to bring healing to those who are ill as best suits Your will. Bless the efforts of their doctors, surgeons, and health care workers to facilitate their return to health. Keep Your holy angels around them in their times of worry and pain. 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 Christmas Day*

*\*Lord Jesus, You came to dwell among us in meekness and gentleness. You have taken on flesh and blood to unite us with You as our brother and our Lord. We praise You for Your coming. May the joy of this day fill our hearts, minds, and souls all of our earthly days until we, through Your work for us, are welcomed to Your glorious home in Your kingdom. In Your name we pray. Amen.*

### **“Life Quotes” from Lutherans for Life December 25, 2022**

**“There is no more clear-pointed, rest-giving demonstration of the love of God for you than the gift of His Son.”**

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





**She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus,  
for he will save his people from their sins.**

***Matthew 1:21***

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***Reaching lost souls with the Gospel:***

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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.

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



**The Son of God became the Son  
of man so that the sons of men  
might become the Sons of God.**