

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Divine Service Four

The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 12, 2023

Oil in Your Lamp.

Be ready!

Matthew 25:1-13





The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 12, 2023

9:00 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.

Church Office.....303-683-1300

Rev. Bruce Skelton, Pastor, Cell.....303-908-3339

Fax..... 303-470-0165

Reaching lost souls with the Gospel:

Nourishing and equipping the saints for life and ministry!

Prayer for the Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Dear heavenly Father, we come before You with grateful hearts for the faith You, through Your Word, have created and continue to sustain in our hearts. Thank You for the incomparable blessing that comes to us through faith in Your Word, which is given to us "that by believing we may have life in His name." Through the Holy Spirit we can believe that the Jesus proclaimed in Your Word did die on the cross for us, that He did rise victorious from the grave, and that by believing in Him real life, eternal life, is ours to look forward to as a gift from You. May our hearts be ever open to Your Word, which You use to bring us the message of Your everlasting love. We bow before You with thankful hearts for the sure foundation of Your Word as the basis for our faith. In the name of Jesus, help us to ever trust in Your life-giving Word. Amen.



Confession and Absolution

514 The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us

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.

Stand



Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 84:1, 9–12; antiphon: v. 3



Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow
a nest for herself, where she may | lay her young,*
at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King | and my God.

How lovely is your | dwelling place,*

O | LORD of hosts!

Behold our shield, | O God;*
look on the face of your a- | noointed!

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand | elsewhere.*

**I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house
of my God than dwell in the tents of | wickedness.**

For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
the LORD bestows favor and | honor.*

No good thing does he withhold
from those who walk up- | rightly.

O | LORD of hosts,*

blessèd is the one who | trusts in you!

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.

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow
 a nest for herself, where she may | lay her young,*
 at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King | and my God.

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-shiped 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.

Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home
 His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the
 redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast;
 through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns
 with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Amos 5:18–24

Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why would you have the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, and not light,
as if a man fled from a lion,
and a bear met him,
or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall,
and a serpent bit him.
Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

"I hate, I despise your feasts,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain
offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the peace offerings of your fattened animals,
I will not look upon them.
Take away from me the noise of your songs;
to the melody of your harps I will not listen.
But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

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 tribu- | lation.*
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: 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again,

even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



John 20:31



Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:1–13

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil

with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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.**

516 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

Sermon

"Oil in Your Lamp"

Text: Matthew 25:1-13

334 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

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:

- 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.

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.

337 The Night Will Soon Be Ending



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. – Scott Schlopko
10:30 a.m. – Andy Olson

BEST CHILI CONTEST LUNCH and TURKEY BINGO!



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023

9 AM: Sunday School

10 AM: Single Worship Service

11-11:45 AM: Best Chili Contest
Lunch and Voting

11:45-1 PM: Bingo – with Prizes

Season of Harvest Celebration

The food we have been collecting for the past month will be donated to the Help and Hope Center Food Pantry in Castle Rock serving Douglas and Elbert counties. You can deposit your donations on the table in the narthex.

Help & Hope CENTER 

Help and Hope Center
1638 Park Street
Castle Rock, CO 80109
303-688-1114
<https://www.helpandhopecenter.org>



Please join us on Sunday, December 10, 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.



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.



Join us as the LuHi Music Department presents, "Heaven's Peace: A LuHi Christmas" featuring the Wind Ensemble, the LuHi choirs, and BluHi Jazz. The evening will

feature performances from these groups but will also provide opportunities for you to sing along on some of your favorite Christmas hymns including a candlelight version of "Silent Night". The evening shares the Christmas story through scripture readings and meditations. It is a great opportunity to hear the greatest story ever told and to take the opportunity to share this spectacular story with someone in your life that needs to hear it.

A LuHi Christmas will be held on December 4th and 5th at Lutheran High School in Parker, CO. More information and complimentary tickets can be found at lhsparker.org/performingarts.



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



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 5 through the deadline of Sunday, December 3.*

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



Benefit Auction

Dear Friend of Lutheran High School,



The 24th Annual Colorado Lutheran High School Association Benefit Auction is coming up on November 17! It is a wonderful evening to celebrate and support the ministry of Lutheran High School.

There are several ways you can support this event:

- 1) **Sponsor the event!** Sponsoring the auction is a great way to get your name or business logo to our guests' fingertips through the event's website and mobile bidding platform. Download a [sponsorship form](#) to view our sponsorship levels or [secure your sponsorship online](#).
- 2) **Donate goods or services** like gift cards, baskets, stays at vacation homes, concert or sporting event tickets, golf foursomes, and more to include in our silent or live auction. Please download an [auction item donation form](#) to include with your item. Items can be dropped off at the front office or mailed to the school.
- 3) **Attend the event!** Tickets are available now at the [event website](#). It is going to be a spectacular event... you won't want to miss out!

If you have questions about the auction or are interested in supporting the auction in one of these ways, please reach out to Carolyn Ristow, Auction Coordinator, at carolyn.ristow@lhsparker.org or (303) 841-5551 ext 245.

Thank you!
Carolyn Ristow

+++++



What do you call
a sleepwalking nun?

A roam'n Catholic

The Lutheran Chorale Christmas Concerts



Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.
Covenant Living of Colorado,
9153 Yarrow Street, Westminster, CO 80021

Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
Concordia Lutheran Church,
13371 W. Alameda Pkwy, Lakewood, CO 80228

Give Me Oil In My Lamp

Therefore keep watch, because you do not know
the day or the hour. Matthew 25:13 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 25:1-13 (NIV)



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

FOOLISH
MIDNIGHT
BRIDEGROOM
DOOR

MEET
WEDDING
LAMPS
ASLEEP

DROWSY
TRIMMED
WISE
HEAVEN

VIRGINS
RANG
WATCH
OIL

BANQUET
KINGDOM
COME
WOKE



LWML Women of the Cross has enrolled in the King Soopers/City Market Community Rewards Program. To use the program simply visit the link

<https://www.kingsoopers.com/i/community/community-rewards>.

Follow the easy steps provided.

Any transactions moving forward using the Shopper's Card number associated with your digital account will be applied to the program, at no added cost to you. King Soopers donates annually to participating organizations based on your percentage of spending as it relates to the total spending associated with all participating King Soopers Community Rewards organizations.



STORE LOCATION:

6512 S. Broadway
Littleton, CO 80121

STORE HOURS:

Tuesday through Saturday;
9am – 5pm

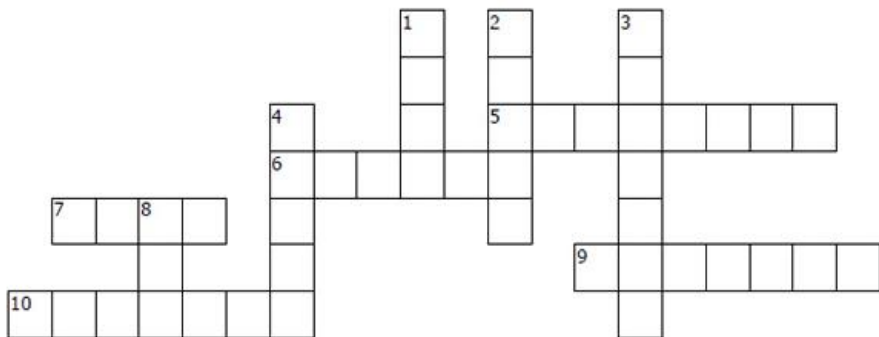
STORE PHONE: 720-446-1877

Renewed Treasures is an outreach of Love INC (Love In the Name of Christ), supporting their mission by offering quality resale goods to serve our community and share Christ's love. For over ten years, Renewed Treasures is proud to offer very affordable products in a clean, well-cared for setting in addition to setting an example of stewarding our material resources and our earth. Shop, donate or volunteer. Check them out at <https://loveinlitleton.org/renewed-treasures/>.

Give Me Oil In My Lamp

Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. Matthew 25:13 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 25:1-13 (NIV)



ACROSS

5. 12 o'clock at night
6. Not awake
7. A swinging or sliding cover over the place where someone usually enters a room
9. Ceremony in which a man and a woman are married.
10. Someone who does not use good judgment is _____.

DOWN

1. Someone who has good judgment and makes good decisions is _____.
2. Devices used to produce light
3. A feast or meal held in recognition of some person or occasion
4. To observe or look at something
8. A liquid that is often used to make fuel.

MIDNIGHT	LAMPS	WATCH	OIL	FOOLISH
ASLEEP	DOOR	BANQUET	WISE	WEDDING

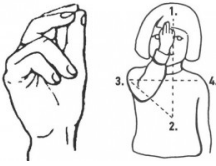


Man says... Show me
and I'll trust you.

God says... Trust me
and I'll show you.

Psalm 126:6

The Sign of the Cross



"Pastor, I don't know how to pray; there isn't a single word that comes to my head." Alice's son lay dying. Dread and tears were the only things that came easily to her right now.

"Alice," the pastor answered, "what you need then is a wordless prayer. When you don't know what to pray, make the sign of the cross."

Her eyes opened as wide as her grief-swollen lids would allow. "I've never really done that. I don't think I know how."

The Pastor's hand traced a cross in the air, touching his forehead, heart and shoulders. "The person who makes the sign of the cross is simply saying, 'I am God's child. My baptism makes that sure. Whatever happens, I will rest securely knowing my heavenly Father is watching over me. Even if I cannot pray, Christ my Savior is interceding for me, and the Holy Spirit will keep me safe by His grace.'"

"But isn't that a Catholic thing?" Alice asked.

"No," said the Pastor, "it comes from a time before there were Lutherans and Catholics. People have been doing this in the church since at least the second century. Some people think it was even done during the time of the apostles."

Alice looked puzzled. "Then why don't Lutherans do it?"

The Pastor laughed. "They do! At every service I make the sign of the cross over the congregation at the Invocation and Benediction. It's even in the *Small Catechism*. Luther taught that, in the morning, when you rise up, make the sign of the holy cross and say, 'In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.' That reminds us that, in spite of our sin, God will hear our prayers because Jesus has died for us."

Alice stood, and made the sign of the cross. Then, she reached over and signed the cross in the air above her son. "He is baptized, too, Pastor. The promise is for both him and for me. His Father will take care of him."

The Pastor laughed again, but this time to hold back tears. "Alice, you are very wise."

Petitions and Prayers: Prayer is continuously looking to God and relying on His strength.



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:

- **Dave McCrosky's mother** has suffered a stroke. Pray for healing.
- **John Kingham**, brother of **Tom Kingham**, is recovering from open heart surgery this past week. Pray for healing.
- **Kathy**, daughter of **Helen** and **Joe Tabris**, is recovering from surgery. Pray for healing and restored faith.
- **McKinley Ford**, daughter of Erica and Andy Olson, is having doctor appointments trying to figure out the cause of a low white blood count and a resolution.
- **Paula Mayer** is recovering from surgery for broken arm. Pray for healing and renewed strength.
- **Devon** Hanson (grandson of **Connie and Terry Mitchell**) – mental health issues
- **Dillon** (grandson of **Connie and Terry Mitchell** - 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** –waiting for heart transplant
- **Jamie** (is missing and has mental health issues) and young daughter **Jade** who has been adopted by family. Pray for the family's salvation.

“Life Quotes” from Lutherans for Life November 12, 2023

“What could be more joyful and rewarding than to share with everyone the best news they will ever hear: Jesus has saved you from sin and death and won eternal life for you as a free gift of His love. Let's roll up our sleeves and begin today with the prayer, ‘Lord, help me be an eager worker in Your kingdom.’”

*Daily Devotions, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, Michigan
A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



***May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you!
May those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"***

Psalm 70:4

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Missouri Synod)

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Rev. Bruce Skelton, Pastor, cell.....303-908-3339

Website.....www.hclchr.org

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
click on "Listen Now" anytime.**

**Holy Cross
Lutheran Church**



**Ready or not,
here I come!
-Jesus**