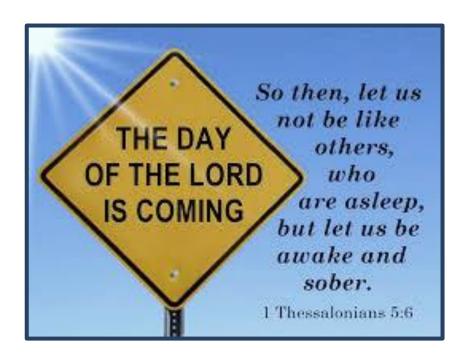
Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)

Divine Service One

The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost November 19, 2023





The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 19, 2023

8:00 and 10:30 AM

Prayer for the Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

O God, You are an eternal Spirit that we mere men cannot quantify or measure. We cannot escape from You. You are always close by but at the same time far away. No distance is so remote that You would not be there. Nor can we conceal ourselves from You, for in that very spot where we are minded to hide, there too is Your all-seeing eye. You fill heaven and earth with Your presence. Let us, with Luther, realize that You do not descend from heaven, but are and remain there, and at the same time, You are and remain here on earth. According to Your natural being You are everywhere present; yet according to Your spiritual being You are to be found only where You are known: where Your Word, Spirit, faith, and worship are. May we be comforted by Your gracious presence that tolerates no human restrictions and limitations whatsoever. Through the work of Your Son keep our souls in endless peace. 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

914 Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten

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.
- Amen.

Exhortation

1 John 1:8-9

- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- 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.
- 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.

C Amen.



Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 143:2, 5-6, 10-11; antiphon: v. 1



Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for | mercy!* In your faithfulness answer me, in your | righteousness!

Enter not into judgment with your | servant,* for no one living is righteous be- | fore you.

I remember the days of old;
I meditate on all that | you have done;*
I ponder the work | of your hands.

I stretch out my | hands to you;*
my soul thirsts for you like a | parched land.

Teach me to do your will, for you | are my God!*

Let your good Spirit lead me on | level ground!

For your name's sake, O LORD, pre- | serve my life!*
In your righteousness bring my soul out of | trouble!

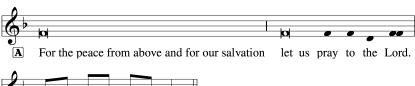
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit; as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!*

In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

Kyrie Mark 10:47









For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,







For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise







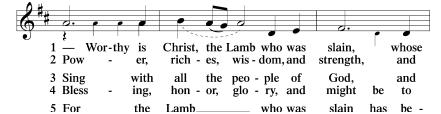
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-cious Lord.

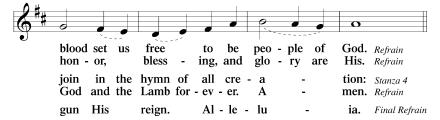


This Is the Feast

Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9



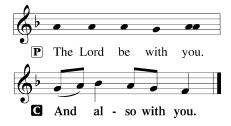








Salutation and Collect of the Day



P Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 1:7-16

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice— "I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud "On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. Wail. O inhabitants of the Mortar!

For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.'

Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste.

Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them."

The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the mighty man cries aloud there.
A day of wrath is that day,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- 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 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68



Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

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



[Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward. bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward. saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



508 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near

Sermon

"The Day of the Lord"

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Stand



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 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.

Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayer:

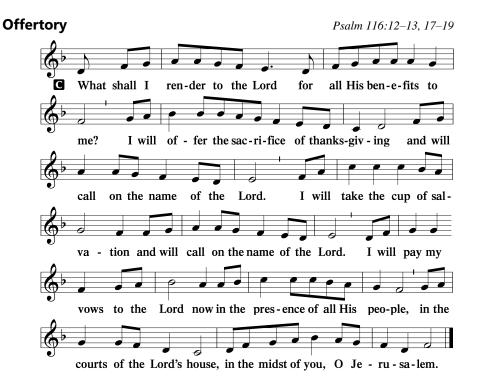
- P Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.

Sit

Offering

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

Stand





Service of the Sacrament

+++

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

+++

Preface

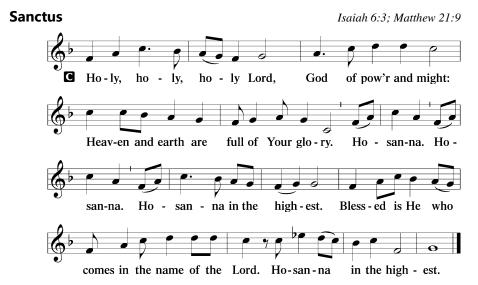
2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



Proper Preface

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will

and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your onlybegotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer Matthew 6:9–13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

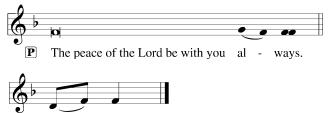
C

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."

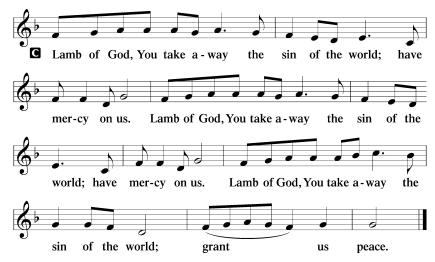
Pax Domini John 20:19



men.



Agnus Dei John 1:29



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

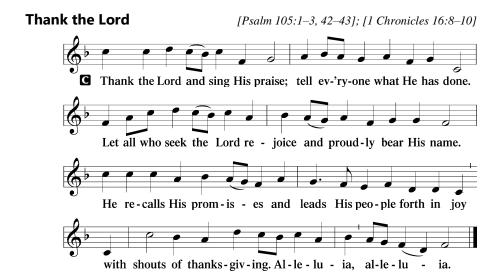
Personal prayer of thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament

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.

663 Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray

783 Take My Life and Let It Be

Stand



Post-Communion Collect

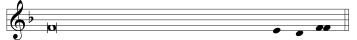
P Let us pray.

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.



Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26



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.



659 Lord of Our Life



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



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.



We will be setting up the Christmas tree and decorating the church for the holidays on December 2 at 9 a.m.

All are welcome!



If you wish to beautify the Lord's sanctuary this Christmas season with a beautiful 6-inch poinsettia, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex by Sunday, December 10. The cost is \$10 per plant. If you wish to purchase one in honor of a special event

or in memory of a loved one, please note that next to your name.

Please make checks payable to Holy Cross, note "poinsettia" in the memo section, and place in the offering plate.

Plants can be taken home after either of the services on Sunday, December 31.



Thank you – each and every one – for your provisions and participation in our Harvest Celebration culminating with the Chile Cook-off and Turkey Bingo. The Help and Hope organization expressed their gratitude for your

generosity with the food drive.

We will once again have a cookie exchange on December 10 and host a pot-luck prior to the Christmas Carole Sing-along and Advent Service on December 13. Watch for details.

With sincere gratitude, The Fellowship Committee



The Semi - Annual Voters' Assembly is scheduled for Sunday, December 10, between services. The main order of business is the 2024 Budget, as well as updates from the

Boards. The agenda and accompanying packet of reports will be available on Sunday, November 26, in the narthex. Please plan to attend.



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 https://lhsparker.org/performingarts.



MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR ADVENT CALENDAR!

We will be holding an Advent Celebration on Wednesday, December 13, 2023. At 11:30 a.m. we will have an Advent Worship Service followed by a lunch provided by the Fellowship Committee. At 6 p.m. there will be a potluck. The Fellowship Committee will provide pasta dishes and the congregation is asked to bring salad, bread or a dessert. A Christmas Carole Sing-along will follow at 6:45 p.m. and the evening will conclude with an Advent Worship Service at 7 p.m.

In order to plan how much pasta to make, please indicate your interest in attending on the sheet on the snack table.

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



Pick up your Lutheran Hour Ministries Advent devotions from the table by the mailboxes in the narthex.



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

FREE CONCERTS



Welcome Joyous Season!

Christmas Concerts

Sunday, December 3, 2023 2:30 pm

Covenant Living of Colorado 9153 Yarrow St. Westminster, CO

Sunday, December 3, 2023 6:30 pm

Concordia Lutheran Church 13371 W. Alameda Pkwy. Lakewood, CO







We are not selling tickets but appreciate your free will offerings. Visit www.thelutheranchorale.org for more information.



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 <u>beginning Sunday</u>, <u>November 5 through the deadline of Sunday</u>, <u>December 3</u>.

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 Jesus who justified us by His death and resurrection, we are assured that God will hear us and will "freely give us all things."



Health concerns:

Lord Jesus, great is Your love and great is Your mercy. Grant those who are sick hearts that trust in Your promise never to leave them nor forsake them. Whether or not removing their suffering and restoring their health is Your will for their lives now, keep them in Your grace and strengthen their faith. Amen.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- Mike Kurtz, Keith Rodefeld's brother-in-law, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Pray for peace, comfort and healing according to God's will.
- Dave McCrosky's mother has suffered a stroke. Pray for healing.
- **John Kingham**, brother of **Tom Kingham**, is recovering from open heart surgery. 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.
- 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 19, 2023

"For it can be easy on Thanksgiving to be thankful for the things, thankful for what we are and have, but thankfulness in faith cries out to God, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on me!' and falls on its face at Jesus' feet, giving thanks to Christ."

Rev. Cody Cooper, Guest Speaker on "The Lutheran Hour" A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org



He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

Psalm 91:1

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
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





This Thanksgiving will you be thankful or just full?

