

# Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)

## Divine Service One

**The Last Sunday of the Church Year**

**November 26, 2023**



*Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.*

*Matthew 25:33*



## The Last Sunday of the Church Year

November 26, 2023

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.  
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 Last Sunday of the Church Year

Lord Jesus, as another church year comes to a close, set our hearts on things above, not on earthly things. Forgive us for allowing the din of our daily activities to drown out Your command: "Keep watch because you do not know the day your Lord will come." We rejoice that by the Spirit's grace we can eagerly look forward to You, dear Jesus, as Savior as well as Judge. Truly, we Christians welcome the Last Day and lift up our heads, for our redemption draws near. Yet always remind us that You are also a righteous judge who will condemn unbelief. Excite us and Christians everywhere to reach out with the Gospel and rescue unbelievers before that great and awesome Day. Gracious Savior, enable us to live holy and godly lives so that we look forward to the Day of the Lord. Amen.



## Confession and Absolution

### 532 The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns

*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

*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.

**C** Amen.



## Service of the Word

### Introit

*Psalm 39:4–5a, 7–8, 12; antiphon: 2 Peter 3:13 NIV*



In keeping with his promise we are looking  
forward to a new heaven and a | new earth,\*  
the home of | righteousness.

**O LORD, make me know my end  
and what is the measure | of my days;\***  
**let me know how fleeting | I am!**

Behold, you have made my days a few | handbreadths,\*  
and my lifetime is as nothing be- | fore you.

**And now, O Lord, for what | do I wait?\***  
**My hope | is in you.**

Deliver me from all my trans- | gressions.\*  
Do not make me the scorn | of the fool!

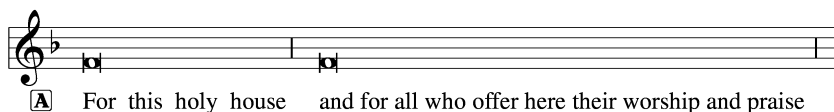
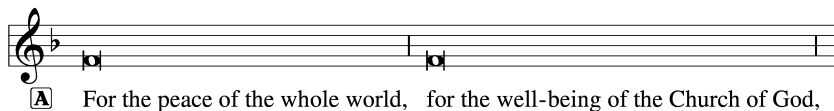
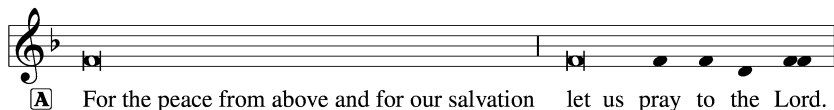
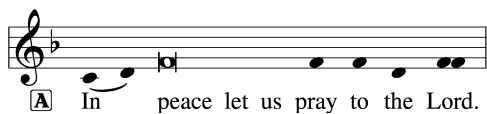
**Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry;**  
**hold not your peace | at my tears!\***  
**For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my | fathers.**

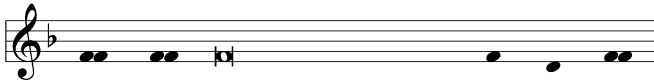
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

In keeping with his promise we are looking  
forward to a new heaven and a | new earth,\*  
the home of | righteousness.

# Kyrie

Mark 10:47





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



**C** A - men.

## Gloria in Excelsis

*Luke 2:14; John 1:29*



**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



**C** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a - lone are the Ho - ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day



**P** The Lord be with you.



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

**P** Let us pray.

Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24

"For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will





then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

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

**G** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Alleluia and Verse

*John 6:68*

**G** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staff, with a 'G' in a box at the beginning. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics, ending with a double bar line.

## Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:31–46

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

**G** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

The musical notation is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staff, with a 'G' in a box at the beginning. The staff ends with a double bar line.

[Jesus said:] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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



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

*Sit*

## 525 Crown Him with Many Crowns

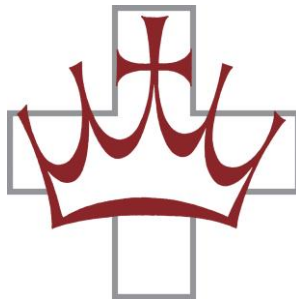
### Sermon

#### "Sheep and Goats"

Text: Matthew 25:31-46

## 348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

*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 worshippers.)*

*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.**



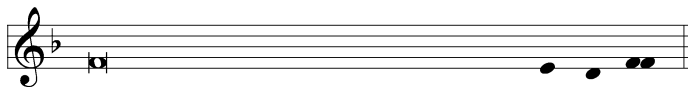
## Closing Collect

- P** O holy and most merciful God, You have taught us the way of Your commandments. We implore You to pour out Your grace into our hearts. Cause it to bear fruit in us that, being ever mindful of Your mercies and Your laws, we may always be directed to Your will and daily increase in love toward You and one another. Enable us to resist all evil and to live a godly life. Help us to follow the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to walk in His steps until we shall possess the kingdom that has been prepared for us in heaven; 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.



## 336 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



***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 Schlapkohl  
10:30 a.m. – Andy Olson



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!**



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.



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.



Pick up your Lutheran Hour Ministries Advent devotions from the table by the picture wall in the narthex. Large print are available.



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.



## **MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR ADVENT CALENDAR!**

**Wednesday, December 13, 2023**

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 11:30 am | Advent Worship Service  |
| 12:30 pm | Lunch provided by the Fellowship Committee  |
| 6 pm     | Potluck (Fellowship will provide pasta dishes and the congregation is asked to bring salad, bread or a dessert) |
| 6:45 pm  | Christmas Carol Sing-a-long   |
| 7 pm     | Advent Worship Service  |

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!**

***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***



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.

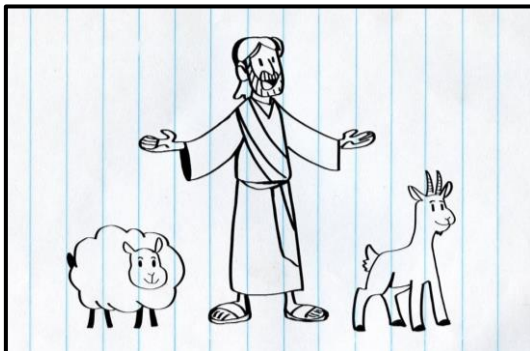
**A LuHi Christmas will be held on December 4th and 5th at Lutheran High School in Parker, CO.** More information and complimentary tickets can be found at [lhsparker.org/performingarts](http://lhsparker.org/performingarts).

### **"Life Quotes" from Lutherans for Life November 26, 2023**

"Being For Life is right in line with God's plan of creation! YOU are the missing element that is needed! Don't be satisfied to sit back and wait because now is the time! Don't stop praying as you ponder your next step. Ask God for His guidance and be ready for more than you asked for, as we have a loving and merciful God who loves life. Please consider being a part of a life-affirming ministry in your congregation. Help protect lives and serve God in this special calling."

*Virginia Flo, Lutherans For Life*

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







## **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*

# 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



## The Lutheran Chorale



We are not selling tickets but appreciate your free will offerings.  
Visit [www.thelutheranchorale.org](http://www.thelutheranchorale.org) for more information.

**Petitions and Prayers:** Our heavenly Father understands that we are often too weak to pray and do not know how to pray “as we ought.”



### **Health concerns:**

*Dear Jesus, Great Physician of body and soul, hear our prayer for those who are sick. Be for them the grace sufficient for them in this time of suffering. Remind them that in their weakness Your power is being brought to perfection. If it be Your will, bring healing to these people, even as we anticipate the ultimate healing in the joys of heaven. Amen.*

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- **Leisa Burns**, **Theresa Kingham's** sister, is recovering from breast cancer surgery. Pray for healing and strength.
- **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.
- **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
- **Kathy**, daughter of **Helen** and **Joe Tabris**, is recovering from surgery. Pray for healing and restored faith.
- **Mary** (relative of **Tabris's**) 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.

***O Lord, I call upon you; hasten to me!  
Give ear to my voice when I call to you!  
Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,  
and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!***

***Psalms 141:1-2***



***Sing to the Lord, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.***

***Psalms 96:2***

## **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.

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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**



Holy Cross Lutheran is on Facebook.  
Check us out and Like us at  
[facebook.com/HolyCrossHighlandsRanch](https://facebook.com/HolyCrossHighlandsRanch).



**Faith is not a result  
of works; works are  
the result of faith!**