

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)

Vespers

The Advent of Our Lord

December 13, 2023





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7 PM

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 Advent of Our Lord

Lord God, we praise You that You comforted Your people with the promise of a Redeemer. We praise You that in the fullness of time You sent Your Son as that Redeemer. We praise You that You give promise that You will send Him to us again to judge the world in righteousness. Open our hearts to receive our Redeemer now as He comes to us in Word and Sacrament. Open our eyes of faith in an awareness of His presence in our lives by His grace. Make Advent a blessing to us as we welcome our King in faith and love. We lift our hearts to welcome Him anew. Fill us with gladness as He comes to us. Amen.



We begin with a Christmas Hymn Sing of Advent and Christmas hymns. We will take requests of hymns 331-393 from the hymnal.

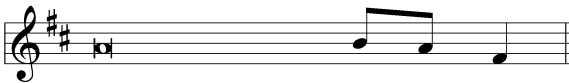


347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

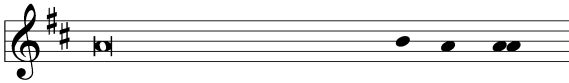
Advent Versicles



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



C Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.



Psalmody

Psalm 72:1–7



Give the king your justice, | O God,*
and your righteousness to the | royal son!

**May he judge your people with | righteousness,*
and your poor with | justice!**

Let the mountains bear prosperity for the | people,*
and the hills, in | righteousness!

**May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the children of the | needy,*
and crush the op- | pressor!**

May they fear you while the | sun endures,*
and as long as the moon, throughout all gener- | ations!

**May he be like rain that falls on the | mown grass,*
like showers that wa- | ter the earth!**

In his days may the righteous | flourish,*
and peace abound, till the moon | be no more!

Sit



Readings

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40:1–11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,

and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Behold your God!"
Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;

he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle: 2 Peter 3:8–14

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:1–8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

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

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,
the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,"'

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Responsory

Jeremiah 23:5a, 6



- L** 1 Behold, the days
are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise
up for David a righ-teous Branch.
2 In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will
dwell se - cure - ly.
3 Glory be to the
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.



G This is the name
by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righ-teous-ness.

Sit

343 Prepare the Royal Highway

Sermon

"A Waiting Church"

Text: 2 Peter 3:8-14

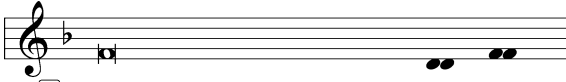


Canticle

Stand

Antiphon

Psalm 141:2



L Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



C and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



934 My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord



1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it
2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -
3 His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scat - ters
4 He feeds the hun - gry as His own; The wealth - y



leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -
maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like
those of proud in - tent And casts them down from high es -
leave with emp - ty hands. He gives His help to Is - ra -



gard, And I am blest for time to come.
light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.
tate, Then gives the low His nour - ish - ment.
el; His gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.

Sit

Offering

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



Prayer

Stand

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

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.

Collects

Introduction to Collects

Psalm 102:1



L O Lord, hear my prayer.



C And let my cry come to You.

Collect of the Day

P Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Additional Collects

Collect for Peace


P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1




L Let us bless the Lord.




C Thanks be to God.

Benediction


2 Corinthians 13:14



P The grace of our Lord ✠ Je - sus Christ and the love of God

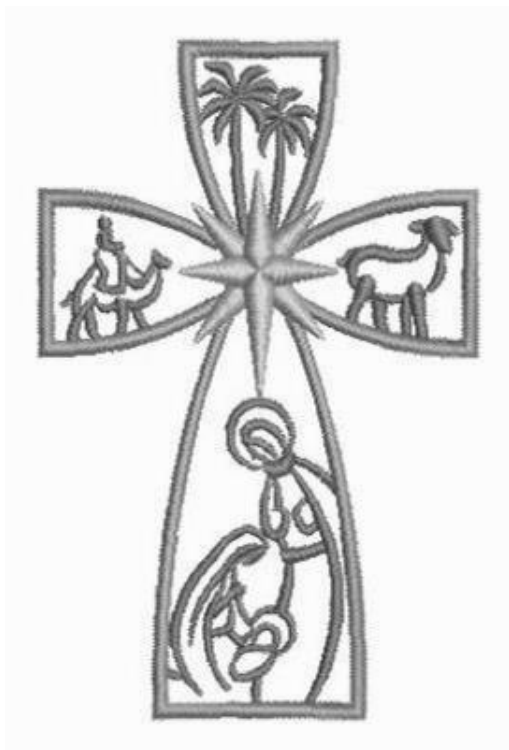


and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C A - men.

340 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates



Soli Deo Gloria!
(To God alone be the glory.)

Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

2 Peter 3:13