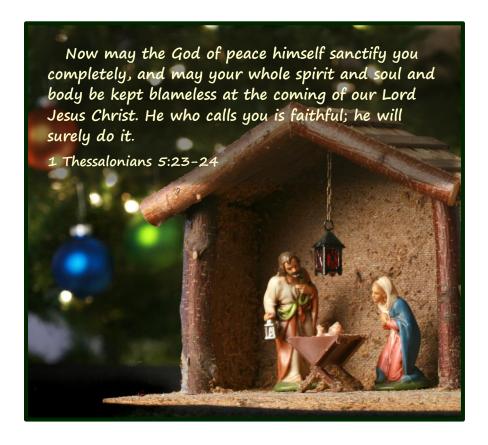
Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Divine Service One

The Third Sunday in Advent

December 17, 2023





The Third Sunday in Advent

December 17, 2023

8:00 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 Third Sunday in Advent

O God, we who were condemned to live in terror of the inevitable arrival of temporal and eternal death have been saved because of the sacrifice of Your Son, our Savior Jesus. Your own Son, the Lamb of God, promised by the prophets, awaited by the anxious, was born of a virgin in Bethlehem. Your own Son, the Lamb of God, was sent to save the entire human race. His coming brings deliverance, changing hell into heaven, fear into faith, and sadness into salvation. Beginning in the manger of a Judean stable, Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and ascension have given us eternal life. His blood on the door of our hearts says to Satan that he can do nothing there. The devil's work is done. During this Advent season, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may perceive the full meaning of Jesus' sacrifice. Amen.



Confession and Absolution

346 When All the World Was Cursed

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **G** 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 85:8–9, 12–13; antiphon: v. 7



Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,* and grant us your sal- vation.

Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,*
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his saints; but let them not turn back to | folly.

Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,* that glory may dwell | in our land.

Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,* and our land will yield its | increase.

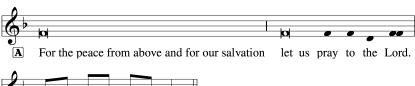
Righteousness will go be- | fore him* and make his foot- | steps a way.

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.

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,* and grant us your sal- vation.

Kyrie Mark 10:47









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



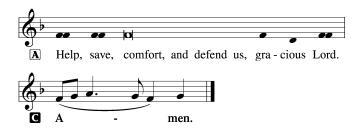




For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



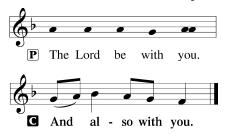




This Is the Feast

During Advent This Is the Feast is omitted.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The Spirit of the Lord GoD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. . . .

For I the LORD love justice;
I hate robbery and wrong;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their offspring shall be known among the nations,
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge them,
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GoD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

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



Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.*

Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;*

righteous and having sal- | vation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.* From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

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

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68



Holy Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

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



There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light....

This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sit

345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Sermon

"He Will Surely Do It"

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

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 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,

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.

whose kingdom will have no end.

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:

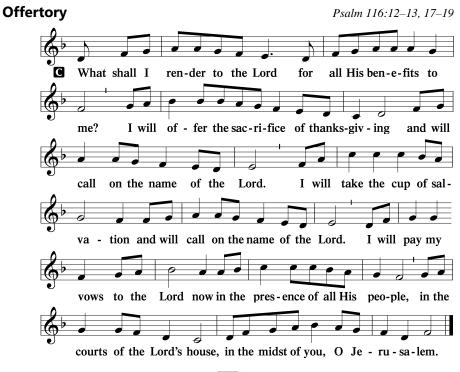
- P Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.

Sit

Offering

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

Stand





Service of the Sacrament

+++

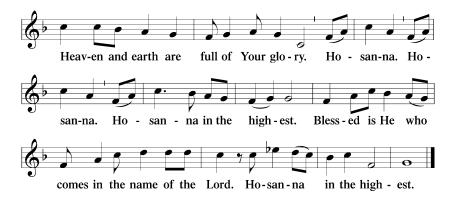
Please read our Statement on Holy Communion on the inside cover of the bulletin before communing with us.



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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:





Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten 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.

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.

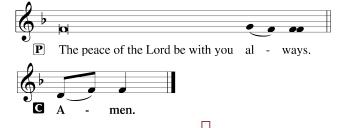
The Words of Our Lord

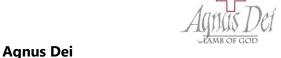
Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

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."

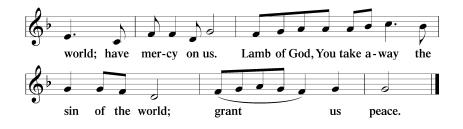
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini John 20:19





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



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

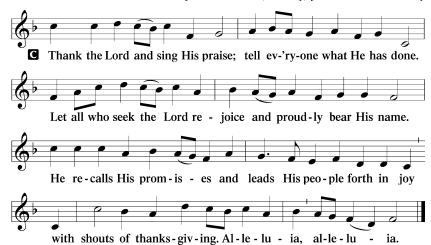
Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

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



P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.



349 Hark the Glad Sound



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. – Andy Olson

Thank you to the following members for gracing our chancel with poinsettias this Christmas: the Allan family; the DesMarteau family; Warren Denny and Pat Gil; the Floro/Smith family; Kathy Harrington; the Heger family; Dave Helmreich; Scott

and Barbara Schlapkohl; Sandra St. Marie (in honor of her mother Florence Borgen); Jane Wheatley; Steve and Becky White.

Portals of Prayer for January-March 2024 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!



December 24th, Sunday - Christmas Eve

10:00 AM: Worship Service, with children's program

December 25th, Monday - Christmas Day

10:AM: Worship Service, with Communion





CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM Dec. 24th: 10:00 AM

Reception follows, with light appetizers and cookies. Coffee, tea, and juice will be provided.

If you are able to provide cheese, meats, crackers, fruit, cookies, or other appetizer, please let us know by signing up in the Narthex.



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



We hope you'll make plans to join us for the 2023 Canto Deo Christmas! Now in our 17th year, the Canto Deo Festival Choir and Orchestra are delighted to again present our gift of live, sacred Christmas music to audiences throughout Denver. Highlights of

this year's program showcase both old favorites as well as new works by composers like John Rutter, Barlow Bradford, and Thomas Hewitt Jones. Bring the kids to conduct the orchestra!

Performance times/locations:

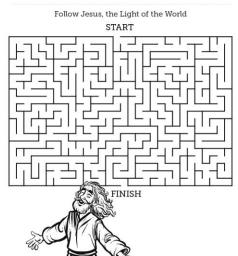
Sunday December 17 - 3 pm Bethany Lutheran Church

Monday December 18 - 7 pm Bethany Lutheran Church

Tuesday December 19 – 7 pm St. Andrew United Methodist Church

Free tickets are required for admission. You can get them from Tom Kingham or online at CantoDeo.org (link to EventBrite)

"I AM" THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD





Chrismons



The Christmas tree is decorated with Chrismons and small white lights. Chrismons are ornaments whose designs are monograms of and symbols for our Lord Jesus Christ. Because these designs have been used by His followers since biblical times, they are the heritage of

all Christians and serve to remind us of the One we follow. All Chrismons are made in combinations of white and gold to symbolize the purity and majesty of the Son of God and the Son of Man.

- The star represents Jesus who said, "I am ... the bright and morning star."
- The Latin cross symbolizes the cross on which our Lord died for our sins.
- ❖ The Chi Rho (XP) is the oldest known monogram for Christ and was commonly used in the early church. "X" and "P" are the first two letters of the Greek word for "Christ."
- The Greek cross was much used by early Greek artists. The extensions are of equal length.
- The triquetra represents the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- The triangle represents the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- The open book represents the Bible, the written Word of God.
- The orb with cross symbolizes our Lord Jesus' dominion over the earth.
- The shell with three drops of water signifies Baptism in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- The chalice represents the Lord's Supper, the Sacrament of the Altar.
- The descending dove symbolizes the Holy Spirit.
- The lamb is a scriptural symbol for Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
- The butterfly represents our Lord's resurrection, assuring all believers of eternal life.
- ❖ The crown symbolizes the victory Jesus won for all on the cross. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Н Ε C 0 Ε Χ C F F Н C Q 0 N Q Z М W Ε Υ I Q Т G G 0 G Ε Χ В I В Ρ Q Ν Х A ٧ Н Ε Z ٧ Χ U R 0 G U Т 0 Q В Χ S D Α Q C G F Т A J Н K K L Υ Ε W K Т 0 S Υ R Ρ D G U Z U U S C G F 0 Ν Q Ν A A D 0 X Z S Ε G D C Н C Ε Q G Ρ Ε K E В W Н Ν W Ε Т Ε S Q S Z В D 0 Т U K Χ S S S G Υ Ν В L Т Х 0 0 Т Υ Ρ ٧ G Т J Ε Q J C В N S Ε Υ F т 0 S S Т C т C G Υ Ν R Ε S G C W Ε Т R J N Ρ M U K Ε Q ٧ C U Ν Ε U A ٧ Ε 0 U В Ν C 0 Υ J K I S Q D Z K Κ R Т I C D S R C D Ε S Т S Z S W R Q В Z Т S C Т 0 C S ٧ U Υ J D Z Υ F Ρ Z Q D U R U ı Q Ν K N C G S C Ε S S Х M Н L L 0 0 N В U Υ G ٧ Q Υ S S R Q Т Υ Ρ F S 0 K Q Н U C Υ 0 Ε М C Ε В 0 0 Ν Z S Q

patient pray weak will of God

Be at peace rejoice help circumstances

without ceasing seek to do good Christ Jesus

thanks

Sovereign God, how good and pleasant it is when we dwell in unity! That is how this world was created, and that is Your will for us today. But even as we desire accord, we fall into unholy quarreling and his harmony. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, help us to cast those things aside. Let us be led by the truth of Your Word to be one, even as You are one. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Light of the World

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. John 1:6, 8 (NIV)

Bas	ed	on	Joh	nn 1	:6-	-8,	19-	28	(NI	(V)					CHRIST JORDAN
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U	L	Т	I	0	G	0	Α	Т	N	S	Н	S	С	R	BAPTIZE
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"Life Quotes" from Lutherans for Life December 17, 2023

"I don't know what exactly you expect this Christmas. But I can tell you to set your expectations high as you listen to God's Advent call. Listen to His promises. Look in the manger. And you'll find hope and unity now and into eternity."

> Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org



Holy Cross Lutheran is on Facebook. Check us out and Like us at facebook.com/HolyCrossHighlandsRanch. **Petitions and Prayers:** Nothing will be denied us in prayer if our desire is to do the will of our heavenly Father.



Health concerns:

Dear Lord Jesus, much of Your ministry on this earth was to heal and restore the sick. Great miracles were done by Your hand of healing and Your mercy. That is why we confidently ask for those who suffer from various diseases that Your power and Your grace reach them by healing their illness, according to Your gracious will. May they be witnesses of Your goodness, in Your holy name. Amen.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- Jim Sarafin is recovering from Covid.
- Leisa Burns, Theresa Kingham's sister, is recovering from 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') 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.

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



The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.

Psalm 126:3

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Missouri Synod) 9770 Foothills Canyon Blvd. Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

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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





Where else would a Lamb be born but in a stable?