

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Children's Christmas Service

December 24, 2023
10 am





Children's Christmas Service

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.



Scripture Readings

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 7:10–14

P The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, the seventh chapter.

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle: 1 John 4:7-16

P The Epistle is from First John, the fourth chapter.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God

was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:18–25

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the first chapter.

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

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

"A Sign"

Text: Isaiah 7:10-14

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful -- LSB 379

Children sing verses 1, 3

Congregation sings verses 2 and 4

- 2) Highest, most holy,
Light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin,
A mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing!
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
- 4) Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given!
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing!
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

The Promise

Of The Father's Love Begotten – Tune LSB 384

Children sing verses 1, 2, and 4

Congregation sings verses 3 and 5

3. O ye heights of heaven, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Every voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

- △ 5. Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore.



The Angel Tells Mary

Once In Royal David's City – Tune LSB 376

Children sing verses 1 and 2

Congregation sings verses 3 and 4

- 3) But our eyes in truth should see him
Through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above,
As he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.
- 4) Not in that poor lowly stable
With the oxen standing by
Shall we see him, but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars his children, crowned,
All in white, his praise will sound!



The Angel Tells Joseph

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



The Birth of the Savior

Away In a Manger



Angels Tell the Shepherds

Angels We Have Heard On High

Shepherds Go to Bethlehem

Oh, Come, Little Children



Wise Men Worship the Savior

Joy to the World – LSB 387

Children sing verses 1 and 3

Congregation sings verses 2 and 4

- 2) Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!**
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

- 4) He rules the world with truth and grace**
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.



Flight to Egypt

Let Us All With Gladsome Voice – LSB 390

Children sing verses 1, 2, and 3

Congregation sings verse 4

- 4) Christ, our Lord and Savior dear,
Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year.
Amen, Jesus, hear us!

Prayers

Benediction



Silent Night, Holy Night - LSB 363

Children sing verse 1

Congregation sings verses 2 and 3

- 2) Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3) Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.



Soli Deo Gloria!

(To God alone be the glory.)

Announcements



Assisting Elders:

8 a.m. – Steve White

10:30 a.m. – Andy Olson



Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Sunday, December 24	7 pm
Christmas Day Communion Service Monday, December 25	10 am



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.



On this joyous day of anticipation, O Lord, let the joyous light of Your gracious presence be not only seen but also received as we prepare to commemorate the wondrous birth of Jesus. As Joseph and Mary followed Your will that led them to Bethlehem, lead us to Your house of prayer to receive Him who comes to us in body and blood. Hear us in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.

***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!

***“Life Quotes” from Lutherans for Life
December 24, 2023***

This time of the year always fills us with cheer
But the reason we celebrate is not always clear
The cookies, the lights, the presents, the tree
The carols, the decorations, the family parties
But all of the delight and all of the fun
Does not mean a thing if we don't know God's Son
The tiny baby that was born to die
Can sometimes cause us to stop and ask why
Do we really deserve the sacrifice He made?
Are we worth the offering and the price that was paid?
In His eyes, we are, because He made us His own
And on the cross, the ultimate love was shown
So take joy in the season and spread His true love
But always remember the gift from above!

Jerrold Nelson

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.

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.

Petitions and Prayers: Through His Son Jesus Christ, our Intercessor, High Priest, and Friend, God promises to hear us, answer us, and help us when we pray.



Health concerns:

Dear Lord Jesus, Your promises are ever before our eyes. Bring healing to those who are ill if it be Your will for their lives. Stay with them in this time of infirmity, blessing them with Your peace. Thank You that we can pray in Your name. Amen.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- **Rev. Kurt Schilling**, (former Pastor at Redeemer Lutheran, Denver) and his wife, **Paulina**, at the loss of 4 of their children (Daniel, Fabian, Lillian, and Daniella) in a head-on crash in Wisconsin.
- **Leisa Burns**, **Theresa Kingham's** sister, is recovering from cancer surgery. Pray for healing and strength
- **John Kingham**, brother of **Tom Kingham**, is recovering from open heart surgery. Pray for healing.
- **Mike Kurtz**, **Keith Rodefeld's** brother-in-law, was called home last Sunday. Pray for comfort for those who loved him and rejoice that he is with our Lord.
- **Dave McCrosky's mother** has suffered a stroke. 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.

***Behold, the Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin of the world!***

John 1:29



***Oh sing to the Lord a new song;
Sing to the Lord, all the earth!***

Psalm 96:1

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"**

**Holy Cross
Lutheran Church**



Joy to the World because
Away in a Manger there was
a **Silent Night, Holy Night!**