

# **Holy Cross Lutheran Church**

**(Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)**

## **Christmas Eve**

**Lessons and Carols**

**December 24, 2023**

**7 p.m.**





**December 24, 2023**

**7 PM**

## **Holy Cross Lutheran Church**

**(Missouri Synod)**

9770 Foothills Canyon Blvd.

Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

[www.hclchr.org](http://www.hclchr.org)

Sunday Worship Services.....8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Bible Classes and Sunday School.....9:25 a.m.

Rev. Bruce Skelton, Pastor, Office.....303-683-1300

Fax.....303-470-0165

***Reaching lost souls with the Gospel:***

***Nourishing and equipping the saints for life and ministry!***

## **Prayer for Christmas Eve**

*Oh Holy God, we join the angels in singing "glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace." You are a great and gracious God who kept Your promise and sent Your one and only Son to be born of a virgin. In Jesus, the gift of heaven is opened for us and we are heirs of eternal glory. Let us kneel in humility before the Christ Child and then go and spread the word concerning Him. Fill each of us with Christmas joy and zeal each and every day until His glorious return. We pray this in His name. Amen.*



### 377 On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

1 On Christ-mas night all Chris - tians sing To hear the news the  
2 Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since our Re - deem - er  
3 When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then life and health come  
4 All out of dark-ness we have light, Which made the an - gels

an - gels bring, On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing To  
made us glad, Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since  
in its place, When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then  
sing this night, All out of dark - ness we have light, Which

hear the news the an - gels bring, News of great joy, news of great  
our Re - deem - er made us glad, When from our sin He set us  
life and health come in its place; An - gels and men with joy may  
made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God and peace to

mirth, News of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.  
free, All for to gain our lib - er - ty?  
sing, All for to see the new - born King.  
men Now and for - ev - er - more. A - men."



*Stand*

#### Prayer

**P** O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.



## Lesson 1

### Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise  
and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.*

#### 561 The Tree of Life

1 The tree of life with ev - 'ry good In E - den's  
2 The still - ness of that sa - cred grove Was bro - ken,  
3 What mer - cy God showed to our race, A plan of  
4 Now from that tree of Je - sus' shame Flows life e -

ho - ly or - chard stood, And of its fruit so pure and  
as the ser - pent strove With tempt - ing voice Eve to be -  
res - cue by His grace: In send - ing One from wom - an's  
ter - nal in His name; For all who trust and will be -

sweet God let the man and wom - an eat. Yet in this  
guile And Ad - am too by sin de - file. O day of  
seed, The One to fill our great - est need— For on a  
lieve, Sal - va - tion's liv - ing fruit re - ceive. And of this

gar - den al - so grew An - oth - er tree, of which they  
sad - ness when the breath Of fear and dark - ness, doubt and  
tree up - lift - ed high His on - ly Son for sin would  
fruit so pure and sweet The Lord in - vites the world to

knew; Its love - ly limbs with fruit a -  
death, Its aw - ful poi - son first dis -  
die, Would drink the cup of scorn and  
eat, To find with - in this cross of

dorned A - gainst whose eat - ing God had warned.  
played With - in the world so new - ly made.  
dread To crush the an - cient ser - pent's head!  
wood The tree of life with ev - 'ry good.



## Lesson 2

### Genesis 22:15-18

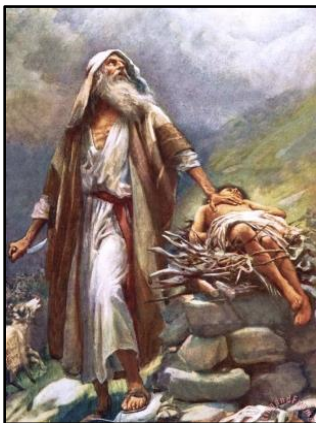
*God promises to faithful Abraham  
that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.*

#### 352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly,  
 2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'  
 3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,  
 4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of

kept His word And at last to us did send  
 heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,  
 Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—  
 gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me

Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.  
 Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.  
 Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.  
 Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.





## Lesson 3

### Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.*

#### 412 The People That in Darkness Sat

1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious  
3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a  
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -

light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In  
Son is giv'n, And on His shoul - der ev - er rests All  
last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The

shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.  
pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.  
God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.





## Lesson 4

### Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*

#### 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest  
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy  
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of  
 tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst  
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y

ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.  
 give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
 pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

*Refrain*

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el  
 Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!





## Lesson 5

**Luke 1:26-35, 38**

*The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

### 359 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath  
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet-ness fills the

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have  
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er  
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark-ness ev - 'ry -

sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the  
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to  
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and

cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.  
 us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.  
 death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.





## Lesson 6

Matthew 1:18-25

*An angel foretells the birth of Jesus to Joseph*

### 370 What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
 2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are  
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to

sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let

shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the

Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!





## Lesson 7

Luke 2:8-16

*The Shepherds go to the manger.*

### 368 Angels We Have Heard on High



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
- 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
- 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.





## Lesson 8

### Matthew 2:1-12

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

#### 379 O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
 Choir 2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;

Choir come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;  
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
 Je - sus, to Thee be glo - ry giv'n!

Choir Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God In the high - est:  
 Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,  
 O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!





## Lesson 9

### John 1:1-14

*Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

#### 372 O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is

1 O Je - sus Christ, Thy man - ger is My  
2 He whom the sea And wind o - bey Doth  
3 Thy light and grace Our guilt ef - face, Thy  
4 Thou Chris - tian heart, Who - e'er thou art, Be  
5 Re - mem - ber thou What glo - ry now The

par - a - dise at which my soul re - clin - eth.  
come to serve the sin - ner in great meek - ness.  
heav'n - ly rich - es all our loss re - triev - ing.  
of good cheer and let no sor - row move thee!  
Lord pre - pared thee for all earth - ly sad - ness.

For there, O Lord, Doth lie the Word Made  
Thou, God's own Son, With us art one, Dost  
Im - man - u - el, Thy birth doth quell The  
For God's own Child, In mer - cy mild, Joins  
The an - gel host Can nev - er boast Of

flesh for us; here - in Thy grace forth shin - eth.  
join us and our chil - dren in our weak - ness.  
pow'r of hell and Sa - tan's bold de - ceiv - ing.  
thee to Him; how great - ly God must love thee!  
great - er glo - ry, great - er bliss or glad - ness.

- 6 The world may hold  
Her wealth and gold;  
But thou, my heart, keep Christ as thy true treasure.  
To Him hold fast  
Until at last  
A crown be thine and honor in full measure.



## **Sermon: "O Come Let Us Adore Him"**

Text: Matthew 1:18-25

### **Offering**

*There is an offering plate in the back of the sanctuary where you can deposit your offerings as you leave.*

### **Choir: Waiting for Bethlehem's Light**

by Dale Peterson

*Stand*

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

### **Lord's Prayer**

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**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.**



## Lighting of the Candles

(Please remember to tilt only the unlit candle while lighting your candle so that the wax doesn't drip.)

### 363 Silent Night, Holy Night

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face

Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly  
 Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy

peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

### 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.

**C** Amen.





### 380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 Late in time be-hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir-gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty!  
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,

With the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

*Refrain*  
 Hark! The her-ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

#### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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# ***Soli Deo Gloria!***

*(To God alone be the glory.)*

***Join us for Christmas Day Worship  
(with Communion) tomorrow morning,  
December 25, 2023, at 10 am.***