

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)

The Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Day

December 25, 2023





December 25, 2023

10 AM

Prayer for the Nativity of Our Lord

Precious Savior, the evening concert of angels announcing Your birth has now given way to the day the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it! Lord God, like the angels may we announce the message of peace between God and all people. Like the shepherds may we glorify You for all that we have seen and heard. Like Mary may we ponder this day's events in our hearts. As we worship You this Christmas, let our eyes see through the manger to the cross and the empty tomb. We come to You today trusting that You are seated at the right hand of God, hearing and answering our prayers. Amen.



The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (1 Cor. 11:17-34), and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked to speak with the Pastor prior to communing with us for the first time. We thank you for respecting our belief and practice regarding the Lord's Supper.



Confession and Absolution

373 See amid the Winter's Snow

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.

G Amen.



Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 98:1–4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6



For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given,*
and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,

**and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,*
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.**

Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done | marvelous things!*
His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salva- | tion for him.

**The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;*
he has revealed his righteousness
in the sight of the | nations.**

He has remembered his steadfast love
and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.*
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.

**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;*
break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!**

**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.**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given;*,
 and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,*,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.



Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

The St. James Christmas Service

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have
 mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy up - on__ us. Christ, have
 mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer - cy up-on__ us. God the
 Lord, the Sav-ior gave us, Je-sus Christ is born to save us; Lord, have
 mer - cy up-on__ us. Lord, have mer - cy up-on__ us.____





Glory Be To God On High

Gloria [paraphrase]

The St. James Christmas Service

Joyously



Glo - ry be to God on high,
Je - sus Christ, we now de - clare
Prai - ses to the Ho - ly One,



To all peo - ple, peace on earth, An - gels, shep - herds
Lamb of God and Lord of Love. Grant us mer - cy,
Prai - ses sing in high - est heav'n; To the Fath - er



draw - ing nigh, Join to ce - le - brate His birth.
hear our prayer, Give us grace from heav'en a - bove.
and the Son and the Ho - ly Spi - rit giv'n.



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o! in ex - cel - sis De o!

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



G And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:2–7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.
You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness

from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Solo: Gesu bambino by Pietro A. Yon

sung by Jonathan Hodel

Epistle: Titus 2:11–14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand



Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68

C 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 consists of 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). It contains a melody for the first line of the verse. The second staff also begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp, and contains a melody for the second line of the verse. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1–20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.



In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

“Grace in the Manger”

Stand



C 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,
whose kingdom will have no end.

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.
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

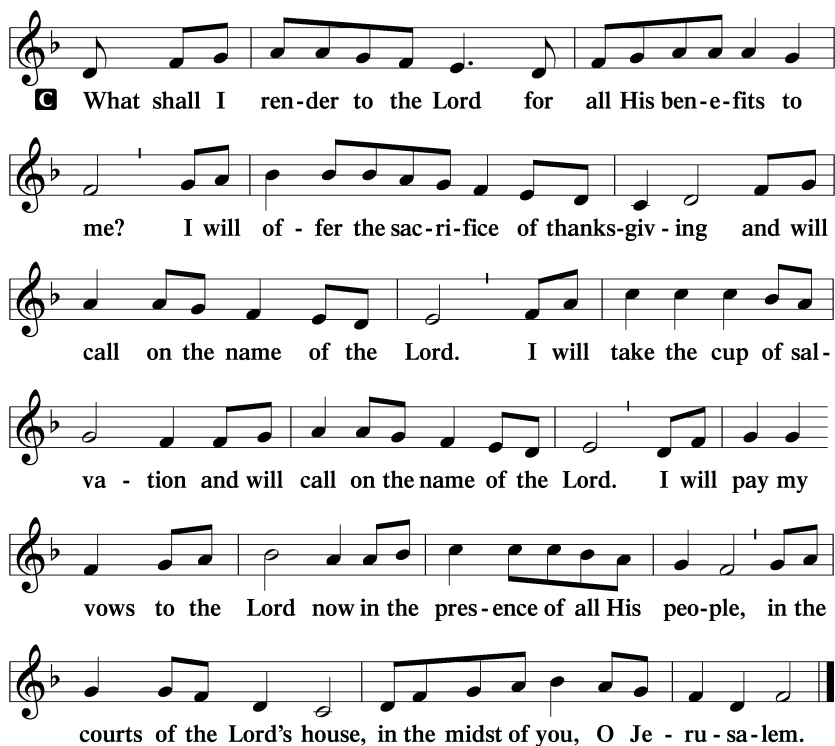
*(Please add your name to the red fellowship
book and pass it to your fellow worshipers.)*

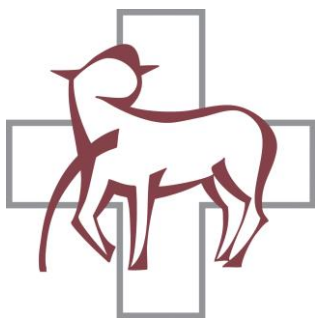
Stand



Offertory

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19





Service of the Sacrament

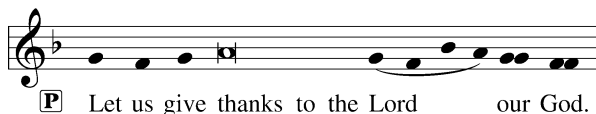
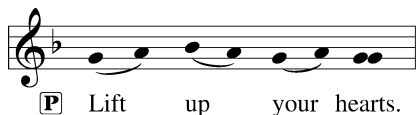


Please read our Statement on Holy Communion on the inside cover of the bulletin before communing with us.



Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



Proper Preface

- P** 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; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Sanctus

The St. James Christmas Service

Gently [in One]

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 3/4 time. It begins with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a tempo marking of 'Gently [in One]'. The first measure is a whole note chord consisting of B-flat, D, and F, with a '4' written above it. This is followed by a series of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord,
God of pow'r and_ might,____ heav'n and earth are
full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est.
Blessed is he, is he who comes in the
name of the Lord.____ Ho - san - na in the
high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

G Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**G 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*

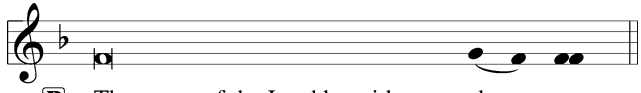
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

O Lamb Of God

Fraction Anthem

Gently [In One]

The St. James Christmas Service

Musical notation for the first line of 'O Lamb Of God'. It is in D major (two sharps) and 3/4 time. The melody consists of a half note D4, a quarter note E4, a half note F#4, and a quarter note E4.

2

Musical notation for the second line of 'O Lamb Of God'. It is in D major (two sharps) and 3/4 time. The melody consists of a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a half note B4, and a quarter note A4.

O Lamb of God, O Ho - ly

Musical notation for the third line of 'O Lamb Of God'. It is in D major (two sharps) and 3/4 time. The melody consists of a half note C5, a quarter note B4, a half note A4, and a quarter note G4.

Child, who takes the sin of the world a - way; Have

Musical notation for the fourth line of 'O Lamb Of God'. It is in D major (two sharps) and 3/4 time. The melody consists of a half note F#4, a quarter note E4, a half note D4, and a quarter note C4.

mer - cy on us, lamb so mild, the babe, the

Musical notation for the fifth line of 'O Lamb Of God'. It is in D major (two sharps) and 3/4 time. The melody consists of a half note B4, a quarter note A4, a half note G4, and a quarter note F#4.

son of Ma - ry. This, this is your bo - dy

Musical notation for the sixth line of 'O Lamb Of God'. It is in D major (two sharps) and 3/4 time. The melody consists of a half note E4, a quarter note D4, a half note C4, and a quarter note B3.

giv'n, Your pre - cious blood, the gift of heav'n.

Musical notation for the seventh line of 'O Lamb Of God'. It is in D major (two sharps) and 3/4 time. The melody consists of a half note A4, a quarter note G4, a half note F#4, and a quarter note E4.

Take, eat, for we are one in the babe, the

Musical notation for the eighth line of 'O Lamb Of God'. It is in D major (two sharps) and 3/4 time. The melody consists of a half note D4, a quarter note C4, a half note B3, and a quarter note A3.

7

son of Ma - ry.

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.

367 Angels from the Realms of Glory

375 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

Stand

Thank the Lord

[Psalm 105:1–3, 42–43]; [1 Chronicles 16:8–10]

■ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.

He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy

with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains a single measure of music. The second staff contains two measures of music. The third staff contains two measures of music. The fourth staff contains two measures of music, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes.

Post-Communion Collect

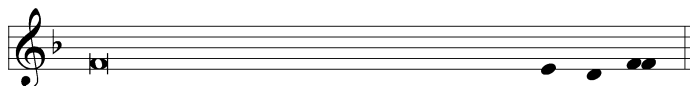
P Let us pray.

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.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



387 Joy to the World



Soli Deo Gloria!

(To God alone be the glory.)

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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A Prayer for Christmas Day

Lord Jesus, You came to dwell among us in meekness and gentleness. You have taken on flesh and blood to unite us with You as our brother and our Lord. We praise You for Your coming. May the joy of this day fill our hearts, minds, and souls all of our earthly days until we, through Your work for us, are welcomed to Your glorious home in Your kingdom. In Your name we pray. Amen.



**She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins.**

Matthew 1:21

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

[Facebook.com/HolyCrossHighlandsRanch](https://www.facebook.com/HolyCrossHighlandsRanch)



***Reaching lost souls with the Gospel:
Nourishing and equipping the saints for life and ministry!***



**The Son of God
became the Son of
man so that the
sons of men might
become the Sons of
God.**