

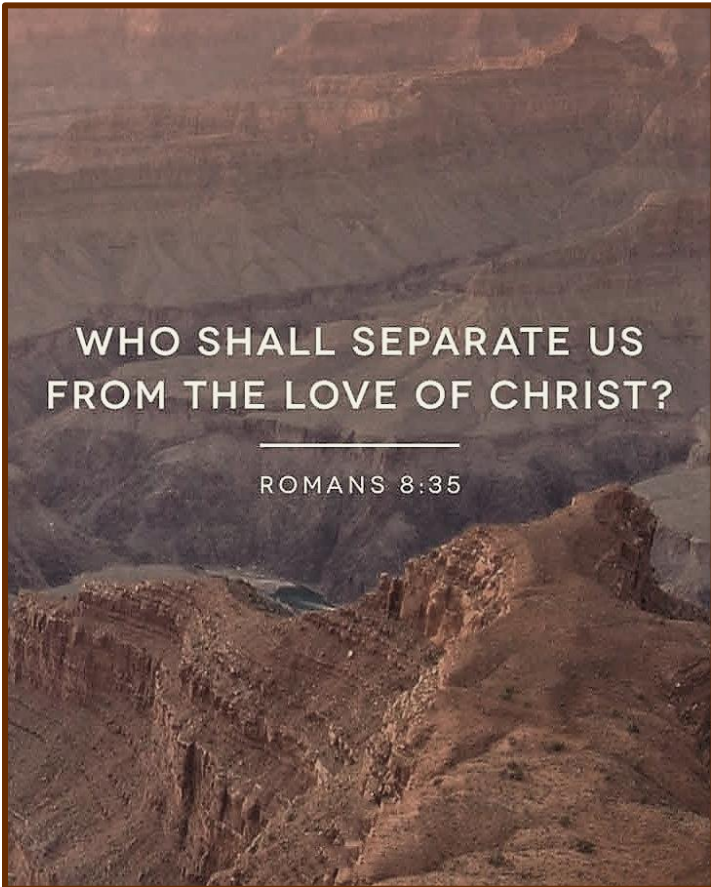
Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)

Divine Service Three

The Feast of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus

December 31, 2023





The Feast of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus

December 31, 2023

8:00 and 10:30 AM

Prayer for the Feast of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus

O God of the ages, You promised Abraham and his descendants that You would be their God, give them Your Word, and eventually cause Christ, the Savior of the world, to be born among them. You also said that those who accepted this promise in faith would have that faith credited to them for righteousness: such a one would have forgiveness of sins for the sake of the coming Savior in whom Abraham believed. You offered and sealed to Your people this covenant of grace in circumcision. O eternal God, thank You that for our sakes You made Your blessed Son, our Savior, subject to the Law and caused Him to endure the circumcision of the flesh in our stead. Hear our petition that our hearts be purified from all sinful desires so that we may be granted the true circumcision, the circumcision of the Spirit. O God, may the Spirit also enable us to cherish our Savior in our hearts so that we praise His holy and powerful name as long as we live and then praise Him forever in His presence in our Father's house. 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

385 From East to West

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

Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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 98:1–3; antiphon: Psalm 124:8



Our help is in the name | of the LORD,*
who made | heaven and earth.

**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.**

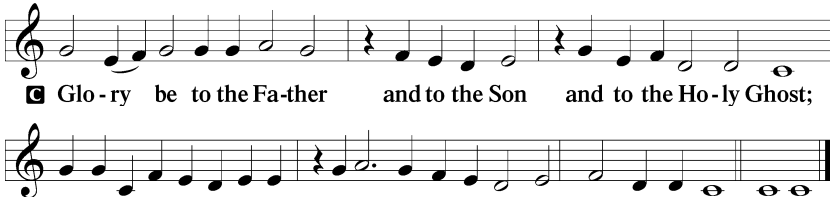
The LORD has made known his sal- | vation,*
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.

**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.**

**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.**

Our help is in the name | of the LORD,*
who made | heaven and earth.


Gloria Patri



Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;
 as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



G Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

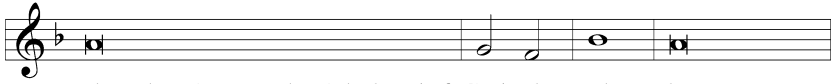
Luke 2:14; John 1:29



P Glory be to God on high: **G** and on earth peace, good - will toward
 men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
 we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
 O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.
 O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
 O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
 that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



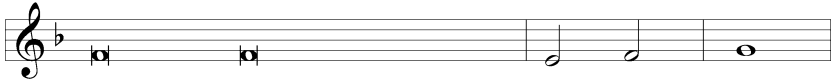
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come. In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 30:15–17

For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel,
 "In returning and rest you shall be saved;
 in quietness and in trust shall be your strength."
 But you were unwilling, and you said,
 "No! We will flee upon horses";
 therefore you shall flee away;
 and, "We will ride upon swift steeds";
 therefore your pursuers shall be swift.
 A thousand shall flee at the threat of one;
 at the threat of five you shall flee,
 till you are left
 like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain,
 like a signal on a hill.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 90:12, 14



**Teach us to num- | ber our days*
that we may get a heart of | wisdom.
Satisfy us in the morning with Your | steadfast love,*
that we may rejoice and be glad | all our days.**

Epistle: Romans 8:31b–39

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

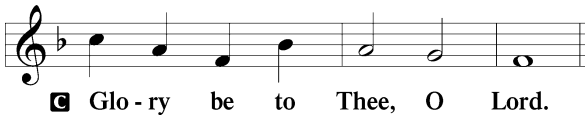
Stand

Alleluia



Holy Gospel: Luke 12:35–40

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



[Jesus said:] "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.





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,
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.**

389 Let All Together Praise Our God

Sermon

“Who Shall Separates Us from the Love of Christ”

Text: Romans 8:31b-39

Stand

Offertory

Psalm 51:10–12

C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Sit

Offering

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

Stand

Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayer:

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





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]



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

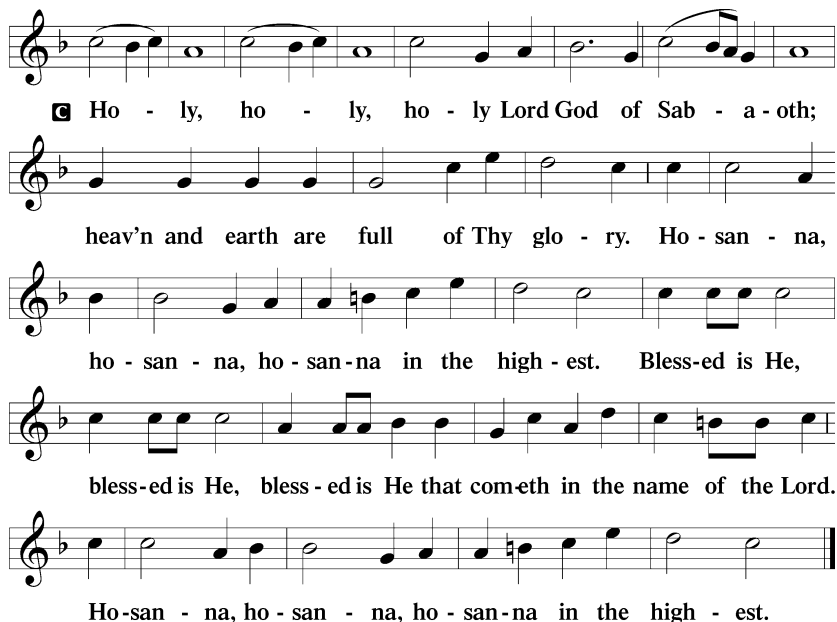
Proper Preface

P It is truly meet, 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 saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

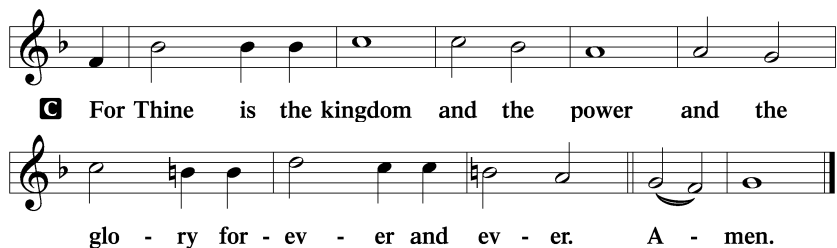


C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,
bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

P 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.



C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the
glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

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.



G A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

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.

624 The Infant Priest Was Holy Born

360 All My Heart Again Rejoices

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32

A musical score for the Nunc Dimittis, set in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C' and a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are: 'Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac - cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy'.

peo-ple Is - ra-el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A-men.

Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

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.

C A - men.

Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

Two staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are: [A] Bless we the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26

Four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first two staves contain the melody for the first line of text, and the next two staves contain the melody for the second line. The lyrics are: [P] The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. [C] A-men, a-men, a - men.

899 Across the Sky the Shades of Night



Soli Deo Gloria!

(To God alone be the glory.)

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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Announcements



Assisting Elders:
8 a.m. – Steve White
10:30 a.m. – Andy Olson

Offering Envelope



The 2024 Offering Envelopes are available on the table in the narthex. If you didn't find yours or would like to request envelopes, please contact Dave Shavlik.



Make it a point to start each day of this New Year with a prayer. It works wonders. Happy New Year!

“Life Quotes” from Lutherans for Life December 31, 2023

“While it is true that we need to be good stewards of God’s earthly gifts, it is sinful to think that we are in full control of preserving this world. It is sinful to fret about the destruction of this world before the Last Day. This world will not run out of natural resources. We will not be wiped out by climate change, a worldwide pandemic, or a meteor shower if and when those things happen. God says that as long as this earth endures—until Judgment Day—seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease. God is in control. God will protect, provide, and preserve this world. Trust in God and see His grace and mercy, especially when sin affects this world. Trust that He gives you what you don’t deserve and more than you could imagine.”

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

Names Of Jesus

L V R U K R L L I E R P Q V V G J E H O V A H V
 O N E C Q E N O Y L O H W T E L S A V I O U R F
 R E H Q Z K A E S S E N S U O T H G I R W Q D K
 D M T U H A L F I C O U N C E L O R S L S G Z N
 O E A N J M M W W R H M T E R G U X H A U V O L
 F S F B Q E I C C H R I S T M A S G C M S O X D
 L I G E D C G Q X B U Z C C Q Z G W D B E Y N C
 O W N T H A H O M R I P S F A T H E R O J W O Y
 R P I H N E T X T S I R H C S U S E J F Y W S X
 D R T L A P Y L K Q F S R L U N E W X G B F N B
 S I S E M V G E L I Y O E K T M R R H O A T E L
 Q N A H F X O Q V F N U Q H P H E E N D B Y T U
 I C L A O Y D B L E N G E A T X L W X E L Y T I
 J E R M N Q A O P A R L O Q B H U O D O T T O T
 K O E L O E V W M G I L W F X V R P H H O H G H
 H F V B S E L M E G D R A X K C U L B F B G E E
 M P E L N J E B H H X O O S Z I D L H E F I B T
 V E H Y D L K T X L T Q B I T Z N A Y Z Q M Y R
 V A A T H E L I F E T D D Q V I V G U A U L L U
 D C I P O Q S H T U R G D P X A N Y S U F A N T
 R E S H O L I N E S S A N E D T S G M L V K O H
 O N S R Y S Z B R D O G F O N O S U Z G B Z E R
 L Z E I O E F I L L A N R E T E T S I R H C Z L

All Power	Ruler	Son Of God	Rightousness	Holiness
Baby Jesus	Wise Men	Bethlehem	Saviour	Emmanuel
Father	Everlasting	Eternal Life	Love	Son Of Man
Only Begotten Son	Holy One	The Life	The Way	The Truth
Almighty God	Almighty	Jehovah	Lord of Lords	Lord
Christ	Son	God	Lamb Of God	King Of Kings
Messiah	Jesus Christ	Everlasting Father	Counselor	Wonderful
The Light	Christmas	Prince Of Peace	Savior	Holy
Joy	Peace Maker			

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!



Holy Cross Lutheran is on Facebook.
 Check us out and Like us at
facebook.com/HolyCrossHighlandsRanch.

Petitions and Prayers: When we pray in Jesus' name, we can be confident that God will give us all things so that our joy "may be full."



Health concerns:

Precious Lord and Savior, You alone are able to help us. Be with those people who are physically sick and in need of Your healing touch. We ask You to guide their doctors so that they receive the best possible care. Heal and restore them to health as suits Your wisdom. 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.
- **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.

Mighty God, You exceed the bounds of time and see all things, past, present, and future. Thank You for bringing us safely through this past year and forgiving us when we did wrong. Show us the opportunities right now to encourage the people around us and to spread Your Word. Help us embrace the future and graciously receive the blessings You have in store for us this year. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.



God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,
to redeem those who were under the law,
so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Galatians 4:4-5

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" anytime.

Holy Cross
Lutheran Church

