

The First Sunday in Advent

December 3, 2017



HOPE

AND THE ANGEL SAID UNTO HER, FEAR NOT, MARY:
FOR THOU HAST FOUND FAVOUR WITH GOD. AND, BEHOLD,
THOU SHALT CONCEIVE IN THY WOMB, AND BRING FORTH A SON,
AND SHALT CALL HIS NAME JESUS.

LUKE 1:30-31

The First Sunday in Advent

8:30 & 11:00 am - Holy Communion Services

9:45 am - Sunday School and Bible Classes for All Ages

1:00 pm - Christmas Caroling

2:00 pm - Nuer Language Service

Opening Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *LSB #357 (v. 1- 3)*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go...Refrain**

**O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe....Refrain**

Invocation, Confession and Forgiveness of Sins

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People **Amen.**

Pastor Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

People **Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!**

All **Hosanna in the highest!**

Pastor "We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away."

Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

People **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor “Be not so terribly angry, O Lord, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all Your people.”

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to 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.

People **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Pastor The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Pastor Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People **Amen.**

Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *LSB #357 (v. 4-5)*

**O come, Thou Branch of Jesse’s tree,
Free them from Satan’s tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow’r to save,
And give them vict’ry o’er the grave...Refrain**

Refrain

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav’nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery...Refrain**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—² as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³ When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴ From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. ⁵ You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways.

Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. ⁸But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

Pastor This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— ⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— ⁷so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Pastor This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

(11:00 - Church Choir)

“Jesu Candlelight Carol”

arranged by Patrick Liebergen, based on Cantata 147 by J.S. Bach

Holy Gospel: St. Mark 13:24-37

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

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

“But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning— lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn of the Day

Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates *LSB #341 (v. 1-4)*

**Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring;
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise
Your joyful songs of praise.**

**A righteous Helper comes to thee;
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings;
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise
Your grateful hymns of praise.**

**How blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He
Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise
Your happy shouts of praise.**

**Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in
And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise
For word and deed and grace!**

Sermon

Isaiah 64:1-9

“RENDING HEAVENS, RENDING HEARTS”

Nicene Creed

All 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

Parish Announcements and Gathering of Offering

Service of Holy Communion

Pastor The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

Pastor 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 saying:

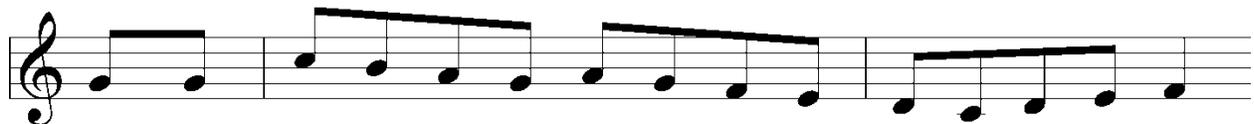
Sanctus



☐ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Words of Our Lord

Pastor 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."

Proclamation of Christ

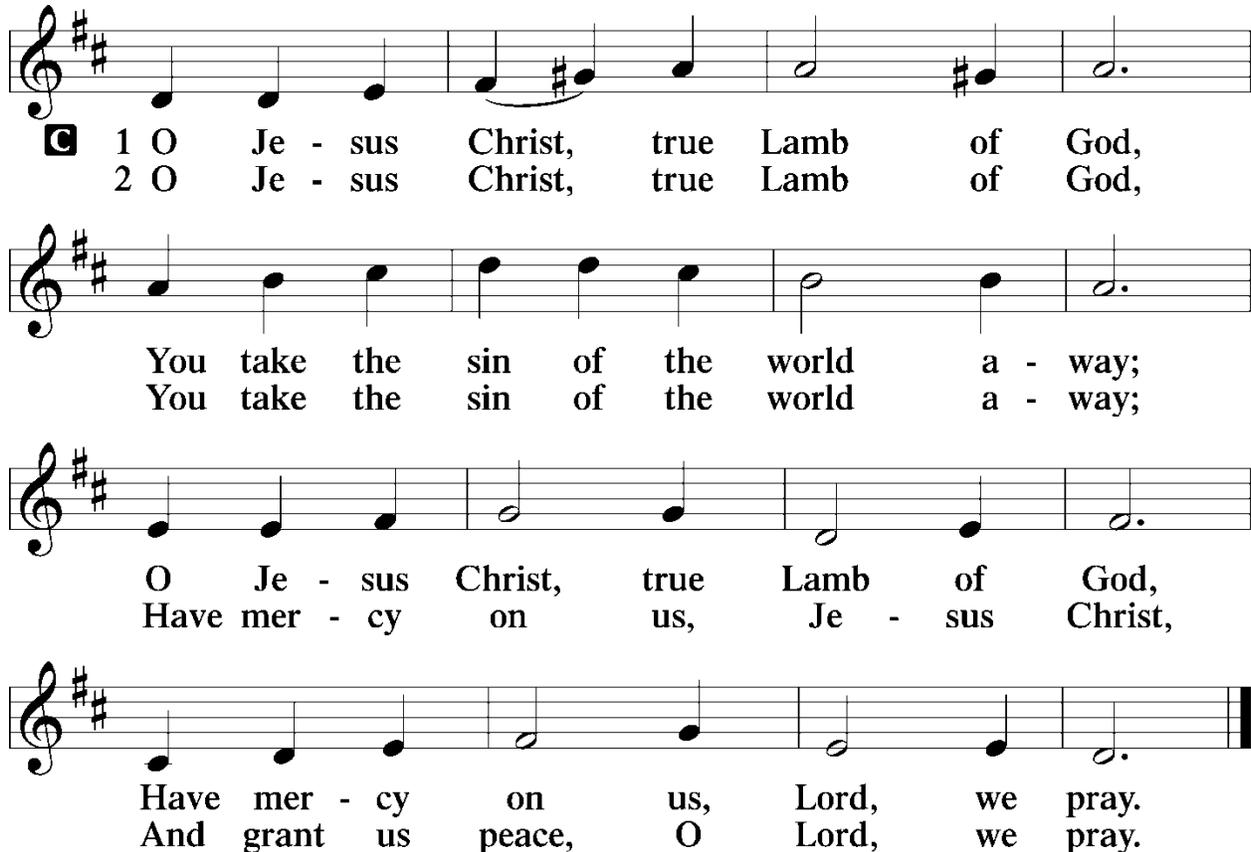
Pastor As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor O Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

All **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.**

Pax Domini*Pastor* The peace of the Lord be with you always.*People* Amen.**Agnus Dei**


1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Distribution Hymns

The King Shall Come when Morning Dawns LSB #348
Savior of the Nations Come LSB #332

Post-Communion Thanksgiving*Pastor* 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.

People Amen.**Benediction***Pastor* 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.

People Amen.

Hymn

The Advent of Our King *LSB 331*

The advent of our King
 Our prayers must now employ,
 And we must hymns of welcome sing
 In strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son
 Incarnate deigns to be,
 Himself a servant's form puts on
 To set His servants free.

O Zion's daughter, rise
 To meet your lowly King,
 Nor let your faithless heart despise
 The peace He comes to bring.

As judge, on clouds of light,
 He soon will come again
 And His true members all unite
 With Him in heav'n to reign.

Before the dawning day
 Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
 The sinful self be put away,
 The new self now put on.

All glory to the Son,
 Who comes to set us free,
 With Father, Spirit, ever one
 Through all eternity.

Acknowledgements: Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2017 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

- Preacher Pastor Nolan Astley
- Officiant.....Pastor Roland Syens
- Communion Assistants..... Pastor Robert Morley (8:30)
-Pastors William Chuol, Gary Weber (11:00)
- Organist.....Jennifer Massicotte
- Communion Duet.....Joanna & Madison Neustaedter (11:00)
- Piano/Organ Duet.....Anne Forler & Jennifer Massicotte
- Tone ChimesLINC Group, Henrietta Schafer (*director*)
- Acolytes Jonathan Das (8:30)
-Ella Kuhlman (11:00)

Prayer Concerns: As we begin the Advent Season we ask God to prepare our hearts to receive the Saviour as he comes to us today in Word and Sacrament as well as to make us ready for his coming as judge and king. We lift to the Lord's throne of grace our shut-ins and others for whom the Advent and Christmas season may be difficult to celebrate. In particular we remember **Earl Millen** and **Kurt Boese** who have been in hospital this week. We also remember the family of **Dora Dreisinger** who passed away at age 95 this past Monday.

Children's Advent Activity Bulletins...Ask an usher for a special Advent bulletin to help your kids prepare for Christmas in an activity based way.

Adult Bible Class will finish its study of the 95 Theses beginning at 10:00 am in the sanctuary. Please grab coffee and join the discussion!

Sunday School Opening will be downstairs today. Next Sunday the children will practice in the Sanctuary from 9:45 – 10:45 so Adult Bible Study will be downstairs.

Christmas Caroling: Today is the day that we are caroling to our shut-ins. Please meet in the basement at **1:00 p.m.** to get our instructions, organize into teams, and set out to do our visits. If you brought your lunch, we will eat together in the basement after the service.

Coming Events...

Save the date for our Children's Christmas Service Sunday School children will again have the opportunity to lead a special **service on Sunday, December 17 at 10:00 a.m.** We'll have **two Saturday practices: December 9 and December 16, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.** As well as Sunday, December 10 during Sunday School.

Calling all Bakers It's that time of year again where we ask if you can share some of your treats for the luncheon after the Children's Christmas Service on **Sunday, December 17.** The fellowship committee would appreciate **nut-free** cookies, squares, or Christmas cake to serve with the sandwiches, veggies & dip, cheese, tea & coffee. We hope to see everyone in the gym for some fellowship and a bite to eat.

Longest Night Service ...Christmas can be a difficult time for those who are experiencing loss in their lives, especially the loss of a loved one. Come join us at Holy Cross Lutheran Church for a special service of God's hope and comfort, **Monday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m.** Refreshments to follow.

St. John's Kitchen...We have the privilege of serving a hot lunch at St. John's Kitchen this year on **Thursday, December 28.** We need volunteers to help us on this day. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parlour. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Anita Syens 519-896-7574.

Youth Lock In Starting at **7:00 p.m. Friday, December 29** and going all night long! Pick up will be at 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning. Young Adults are invited to join the youth for fun and games from 8:00-10:00 p.m. Friday night. Confirmands are invited to join the youth for breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Contact Lenora (lenora@holycrosskitchener.org).

Please Note...

Advent Devotional Booklets are available at the Welcome Centre. Why not sit around the supper table, read a bit and meditate on God's Word, of the Advent and coming Christmas season? These can be rich moments for all families.

Christmas Invitations are available at the Welcome Centre. Invite a friend, family member or church member you haven't seen in a while to come join us during this joyous season.

Fill the Clothing Tree in the Parlour! We distribute gifts of toques, mittens, scarves, socks & children's items right after Christmas.

Christmas gift idea..The Knotty Ladies have an assortment of beautiful comforters ready to give the "gift of warmth" this Christmas. Please see Mavis Mann (519-743-1922), Doreen Groff (519-576-4556) or Joyce Stuckhardt (519-743-8974) to make a selection.

Help Wanted: If you have a wee bit of time to share we really need some volunteers for: Ushers, Sound Operators & Nursery Volunteers. No experience necessary. If you can help please contact Beth Gibney (Board of Worship Director) at 519-578-9807.

Last Week at Holy Cross...

Sunday Attendance:	114 & 193			
Nuer Attendance:	30	Total	337	('16 – 340)
Sunday School:	Pupils: 34 Staff: 16	Total	50	('16 – 49)
Adult Bible Class:	Pupils: 55 Staff: 1	Total	56	('16 – 48)
YABS:	Pupils: 6 Staff: 1	Total	7	('16 – 10)
Youth Bible Class:	Pupils: 7 Staff: 1	Total	8	('16 – 9)

Thanksgiving: With joy and thanksgiving for being a member for 25 years to the Unified Church Budget from **LOIS CYBALSKI**.

Memorial: In memory of parents **ROY & ESTHER FLEISCHAUER** to the Unified Church Budget from Bruce & Norene Brubacher.

Weekly Calendar

Monday December 3 to Sunday December 10, 2017

Monday	ESL, <i>Historic St. Paul's</i>	10:30 a.m.
	Griefshare Seminar, <i>Confirmation Classroom, Panel Room</i>	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday	ESL, <i>Historic St. Paul's</i>	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	Knotty Ladies, <i>Confirmation Classroom</i>	9:00 a.m.
	Board of Fellowship, <i>Kitchen</i>	7:30 p.m.
	Board of Missions, <i>Church Library</i>	7:30 p.m.
Thursday	Beginnings, <i>Downstairs</i>	9:30 a.m.
	Stephen Ministry, <i>Syens' home</i>	11:30 a.m.
	Prayer Group, <i>Church Library</i>	9:30 a.m.
	Church Choir, <i>Church</i>	7:30 p.m.
Friday	Circuit Youth Event, <i>Bethel Lutheran Church</i>	7:00 p.m.
Saturday	Sunday School Service Practice, <i>Church</i>	9:30 a.m.
	Nuer Bible Study, <i>Confirmation Classroom</i>	2:00 p.m.
Sunday	Second Sunday in Advent	
	Divine Service , <i>Church</i>	8:30 a.m.
	Sunday School, <i>Church</i>	9:45 a.m.
	Adult Bible Class, <i>Downstairs</i>	9:45 a.m.
	YABS, <i>Conference Room</i>	9:45 a.m.
	Youth Bible Class, <i>Youth Centre</i>	9:45 a.m.
	Divine Service , <i>Church</i>	11:00 a.m.
Slovak Congregation Service , <i>Church</i>	3:30 p.m.	

“By God’s grace, the members of Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church will be a caring, vibrant diverse community of blessed believers, lovingly reaching out with the message of Jesus Christ.” - *Vision Statement 2010*