

Holy Cross Lutheran
LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

November 22, 2020 – 9 AM



AS WE GATHER Today is the Last Sunday of the Church Year. This Sunday is traditionally filled with themes of Christ's roles as King and Judge. But consider these words from Psalm 95: "We are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand." We are God's chosen sheep. He is our Shepherd. We follow Him as He goes to seek the lost, bring back the stray, and bind up the injured. We pause to consider our brothers and sisters in Christ, especially those who have been ignored or mistreated or feel lost. We are reminded today that Christ has chosen us to be His people, to gather up the broken with Christ as He wants all to be heirs with Him of salvation. Such grace gladdens our hearts and emboldens us to help our brothers and sisters in need.

† IN DOMINE JESU †

(In the Name of Jesus)

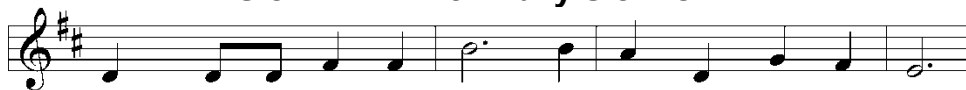
PRELUDE

WELCOME "This is the Day that the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it." *Ps. 118:24*

GATHERING HYMN

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

LSB 525 vs. 1-5



1 Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;
2 Crown Him the vir - gin's Son, The God in - car - nate born,
3 Crown Him the Lord of love. Be - hold His hands and side,
4 Crown Him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the grave



Hark how the heav'n-ly an-them drowns All mu - sic but its own.
Whose arm those crim-son tro-phies won Which now His brow a-dorn:
Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those He came to save.



A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And
Fruit of the mys - tic rose, Yet of that rose the stem, The
No an - gels in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But
His glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who



hail Him as thy match-less king Through all e - ter - ni - ty.
root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, The babe of Beth - le - hem.
down - ward bend their won-d'ring eyes At mys - ter - ies so bright.
died e - ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.

- 5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is king of all.

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 95:1–3a, 6–7

P: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;

C: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

P: Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving!

C: For the LORD is a great God.

P: Oh come, let us worship and bow down.

C: For He is our God,

P: and we are the people of His pasture,

C: and the sheep of His hand.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Indeed, our heavenly Father has called us to be His people. He has led us to green pasture and still waters. Yet, there have been times when we have treated our fellow sheep with disdain, when we have wandered away from our Shepherd. But our Good Shepherd does not abandon us, and we confess our sins before Him and one another.

C: Heavenly Father, we confess that we have wandered away from You. We confess that we have acted shamefully toward our brothers and sisters in Christ. We have sinned in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have failed by our inactivity. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, O Lord, that we might follow You to the green pastures and still waters of everlasting life.

P: Our heavenly Father has heard Your confession and sent His only Son, Jesus, to be our Good Shepherd. Jesus searches for each one of His sheep. He brings back those who have strayed. He binds up the injured. He even lays down His life for the sheep. By Christ's death and resurrection, God 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.

C: Amen. We are sought by our Shepherd. We are forgiven in Christ.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together, **Heavenly Father, You care for all people regardless of their wealth or heritage, and You have made us heirs of Your salvation. Strengthen us, that we care for the poor, weak, and lonely, and that all our neighbors may know Your gracious love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

† THE LIVING WORD †

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

(God will search for His sheep.)

¹¹"For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹²As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD.

¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice."

²⁰"Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, ²²I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

HYMN MEDLEY 'Blest the Tie That Binds' - 'Nearer My God to Thee' *instrumental: Mui Cheng & Michele Lein*

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

(The last enemy to be destroyed is death.)

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. ²⁸When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **P: Thanks be to God.**

VERSE

Revelation 22:13

Alleluia. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31-46

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter. **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The separation of the sheep and the goats)

³¹[Jesus said:] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.

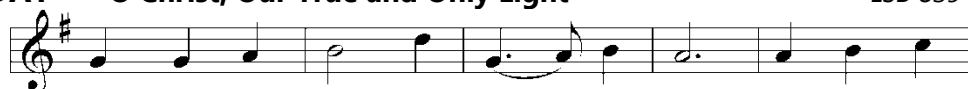
³²Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' ⁴⁰And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

⁴¹"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴²For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY "O Christ, Our True and Only Light"

LSB 839 Public domain



1 O Christ, our true and on - ly light, En - light - en
2 Fill with the ra - diance of Your grace The souls now
3 O gent - ly call those gone a - stray That they may
4 Shine on the dark - ened and the cold; Re - call the
5 That they with us may ev - er - more Such grace with



those who sit in night; Let those a - far now
lost in er - ror's maze; En - light - en those whose
find the sav - ing way! Let ev - 'ry con - science
wan - d'ers to Your fold. U - nite all those who
won - d'ring thanks a - dore And end - less praise to



hear Your voice And in Your fold with us re - joice.
in - most minds Some dark de - lu - sion haunts and blinds.
sore op - pressed In You find peace and heav'n - ly rest.
walk a - part; Con - firm the weak and doubt - ing heart,
You be giv'n By all Your Church in earth and heav'n.

SERMON

“Blessed and a Blessing!”

³⁴Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *after petitions, Pastor prays “Lord in your mercy” please pray, “Hear our prayer”*

(after all the petitions have been prayed, we commend all the prayers with these words)

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

† CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER †

THE LORD’S PRAYER

P: In preparation for the Lord’s supper we pray the prayer Jesus taught us: **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 PREPARATION *(please take your communion vessel in hand for our Lord’s Words of Institution)*

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 after giving thanks, He broke it and gave it to His 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 after supper, He took the cup, and after giving thanks He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this is My † blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of all your sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PEACE OF THE LORD

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

ONE BODY IN CHRIST *(We take Communion as one body together as brothers and sisters in Christ with our invitation of the following words)*

P: Take and eat this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ given into death for all your sin.

P: Take and drink this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior shed for you for the forgiveness of all your sin.

P: The body and blood of our Lord strengthen and preserve you steadfast, in the one true faith, to life everlasting. Go in peace, joy, love and forgiveness. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray together, **We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You gathered us together once more to share in the joys of this Sacrament, and we pray that You would strengthen us by Your Son's body and blood that as heirs of Your kingdom, we may ever serve You and our neighbors; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 His favor and † give you peace.

C: Amen.

SONG OF SENDING

"Be Thou My Vision"

By: Byrne and Hull

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace and join Jesus on His mission!

C: Amen! We will! Amen!

† SOLI DEO GLORIA †

(To God be the Glory)

THE POST SERVICE MUSIC

(reprise sending song)

Holy Cross Happenings

November 22 – November 29, 2020

WELCOME GUESTS AND MEMBERS! Welcome to the Lord's House. God bless you as hear the Good News today of His unconditional love! Jesus promised wherever two or three are gathered in His name, His presence is there. Jesus is here! We pray and know He will bless you with faith, hope, and love for your daily life through His Word and Spirit! If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to one of our ushers or greeters.

QUOTE: November 22 "This Thanksgiving, let's remember exactly what God has bought for us with the blood of His Son—not just anything, but everything that matters: Pardon from sin and release from guilt. Peace with God and a home in heaven. We come empty-handed to this banquet of blessings. No marshmallow-topped side dish of good works can earn us a place at this buffet. We have nothing to offer God in exchange, yet '[t]he LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy" (Psalm 126:3)." *Sarah Habban, Time of Grace – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

Thanksgiving Service Tuesday, November 24 we will have a Thanksgiving service at 7:00 pm.

Operation Christmas Child Follow Up: THANK YOU to our brothers and sisters in Christ at Holy Cross! God is a loving and giving God and you have poured out His blessings to you in your gifts to children around the world. Our goal was 20 boxes... we delivered 35 boxes in person last Monday and had 11 boxes completed online = 46 total! WOW! Give God an ovation of thanksgiving!

Card Writing Event: Between the Adults in Bible Class and the beautiful children/youth in SS this past Sunday we completed 50 +/- cards to be sent out to members and friends we have not seen in person due to the COVID pandemic, other unknowns or other health concerns. We all miss seeing everyone! Know we are in this together and you are not alone. (Matthew 28:20b) Serving others is a gift!

Immanuel Lutheran Church – Is hosting a Turkey Dinner Drive-Thru and Thanksgiving Pie Orders Drive-Thru Please see their website or call 952-492-6010 for more information. www.immanuel-fishlake.org

Adult Sunday Morning Bible Class - This group will meet in the sanctuary for space. The OT book of Nahum will be led by Rev. Robert Nowak. The teaser for you to participate... Robert "finds it fascinating and so much like the world we live in today"! Come for ancient history, Assyrian empire origin information, and more!

Informal prayer time - We will continue the informal time of prayer at Holy Cross on Wednesday evenings from 7-8 pm. All are welcome. We will be praying for Holy Cross, our nation, Covid concerns and any other prayer requests. We will provide a list of what to pray for and bring along your personal prayers also. Please pray about joining us for all or some of these Wednesday nights.

The Sanctuary Course Please join us today at 11 am in the front of the sanctuary or online using our Zoom link for the "Sanctuary" class on mental health understanding and support for our families and community. Pastor Jim will facilitate the class.

Holy Cross's Christmas Program - - is planned to be held Sunday, Dec. 13. The continuing saga with the Murdock family and Aunt Agatha is written and ready! What surprises will this Christmas hold??? . . . come and see, or 'tune in' by Zoom to find out! It's sure to be memorable, just like this year has been for all of us! You won't want to miss it!

2021 Church Envelopes – 2021 Offering envelopes are ready for everyone to pick up. They are on the administrative assistant’s counter. Please pick up, but do not start using until January 3, 2021. Feel free to pick up for all members in your family. Thank you for your help.

McKenna visiting – If anyone is interested in visiting Lohart on Wednesday at 10 am they set up a special indoor area distancing each other, people can meet Pastor, Janean or Nancy and attend with them when they visit. Please contact the church office if interested.

Holy Communion is celebrated today. Our belief and practice is Confessional. Jesus clearly teaches He is truly present in His supper in the bread and wine. We receive miraculously, in the gift of faith, His true body and blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. If this is your confession and you have been baptized and confirmed in our church body, please commune with us. If you have questions about communing, please wait to commune until receiving instruction in one of our communion classes. Thank you.

SERVING TODAY THE LORD AND HIS PEOPLE 9:00 am

Communion Support:	Dave Albrecht
Lector:	Pam Hunter
Ushers:	Paige Westrum
Acolyte:	Allie Wagner
AV:	Dinah Gilberts
Offering Counters:	Denny Case & Doug Schulze
Special music:	Mui Cheng and Michele Lein

SERVING NEXT TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2020 THANKSGIVING SERVICE 7:00 PM

Communion Support:	Rich Mobroten
Lector:	Dinah Gilberts
Ushers:	Denny Case
Acolyte:	Allie Wagner
AV:	Vivian Jobst
Offering Counters:	Carol Albrecht & Pam Hunter

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY NOVEMBER 29, 2020 9:00 am

Communion Support:	Jon Dobberstein
Lector:	Diane Mullenbach
Ushers:	Jason Kruse
Acolyte:	Blake Dobberstein
AV:	Jason Eickhoff
Offering Counters:	Meg Batchelder & Michele Lein

THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

Sunday November 22 Sunday after Pentecost
9:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion also via Zoom
10:15-10:45 am Drive-up Communion
10:15-11:00 am "Nahum" Bible Study
Sunday School
11:00 am "Sanctuary" Course on Mental Health live & via zoom

Monday November 23
5:30 pm Elders & Officers Zoom Meeting

Tuesday November 24
8:00 am Men's Bible Study
7:00 pm Thanksgiving Service also via Zoom

Wednesday November 25
12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due
7:00 pm Informal Prayer (*sanctuary*)

Thursday November 26
THANKSGIVING – CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Friday November 27
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday November 28
9:00 am Church Cleaning
9:15 am Advent set-up

Sunday November 29 First Sunday in Advent
9:00 am Worship W/ Holy Communion also via Zoom
10:15 am Drive-Up Communion
10:15 am "Nahum" Bible Study in Sanctuary
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 am "Sanctuary" Course on Mental Health live also via Zoom

CHURCH OFFICE REPORTS

Attendance – 11-15-2020

Worship: 35 + 20 streamers = 55
Communion: 32 + 6 Drive-up = 38
Bible Study:
Sunday School: 6 kids & 3 teachers
Sanctuary Class:

Responding to God's Grace

Contributions needed/month (General Fund): \$21,982.50
Contributions received in October \$18,196.57



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Music & Choir Director: Mui Cheng; Praise Music Director: Becca Tutewohl
Office Ministry Assistants: Meg Batchelder and Dorene Oak
Pastor James Jobst: (612) 615-2939