

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
**FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

November 29, 2020



**AS WE GATHER** We begin a new Church Year boldly begging for the advent of our risen Lord Jesus, His final coming to rescue and save us. Our boldness, however, is tempered with the humility of faith that says, "Nevertheless, Thy will be done." For we know and even expect that His answer to our prayer will be hidden in mystery. It may be the mystery of our continued cry for mercy or the surprise of His final advent as victorious Lord and Judge of all. We know what followed our Lord's humble entry into Jerusalem that great and holy week of His passion, namely, the mystery and surprise that His victory and the glory of God should be displayed for all the world on a cross. So today we pray with bold humility and confidence, for His coming and deliverance will always have a note of surprise—blessed surprise.

† **IN NOMINE JESU** †

(In the Name of Jesus)

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME** "Oh give thanks to the Lord for He is good and His mercy endures forever." Ps.107:1

**GATHERING HYMN**

**"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"**

LSB 357 vs. 1-5



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest all things  
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on  
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from Sa - tan's  
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge show,  
Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst give the Law  
tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y pow'r to save,  
heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
And teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
And close the path to mis - er - y. Re - joice! Re - joice!



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

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

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## INVOCATION

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

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*1 John 1:8; John 3:16; Matthew 5:16*

P: As we begin a new Church Year, let us put behind us everything in the past that would disqualify us from a new life, and remembering our Baptism, we boldly petition our Savior Jesus Christ, seeking for our entry into His presence and His plan and future for us, saying, stir up Your power, O Lord, and come,

**C: that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance.**

P: What are those threatening perils? I now ask you before God, who searches the heart, do you sincerely confess that you have sinned against God and deserved His wrath and punishment?

**C: I do confess.**

P: So all should confess as Holy Scripture says, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." Do you also repent of all your sins committed in thought, word, and deed?

**C: I do repent.**

P: So all should repent as did King David, who prayed for a contrite heart; Peter, who wept bitterly; the sinful woman; the prodigal son; and others. Do you sincerely believe that God, by grace, for Jesus' sake, will forgive you all your sins?

**C: I do believe.**

P: So all should believe as Holy Scripture declares, "God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." Do you promise that with the aid of the Holy Spirit you will amend your sinful life?

**C: I do promise.**

P: So all should promise for Christ the Lord says, "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Finally, do you believe that through me, a called servant of God, you will receive the forgiveness of all your sins?

**C: I do believe.**

P: As you and I believe, even so may it be to all; 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.

**C: Amen.**

P: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come,

**C: that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance. Amen.**

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, **C: the light no darkness can overcome.**

P: Let Your light scatter the darkness **C: and illumine Your Church.**

- 6 **O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.** *(refrain)*
- 7 **O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace.** *(refrain)*

*(refrain)* **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

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## † THE LIVING WORD †

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together, **By Your own great power, O Lord, we pray that You come to us to protect us by Your might from all evil, and deliver and save us from our sins; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**C: Amen.**

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 64:1–9*

*(Isaiah, in behalf of Israel, confesses the peoples' sinfulness yet to remember the Lord is the potter and we are the clay and not to remember our iniquity.)*

L: <sup>1</sup>Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—  
<sup>2</sup> 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! <sup>3</sup>When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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? <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>There 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. <sup>8</sup>But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup>Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

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

### EPISTLE

*1 Corinthians 1:3–9*

*(The apostle Paul gives thanks to Christ bringing grace to the Corinthians as they await the Lord's return)*

L: <sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— <sup>6</sup>even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— <sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup>who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

**VERSE**

Psalm 24:7

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**

Mark 11:1-10

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the eleventh chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

*(Jesus enters Jerusalem as the people shout Hosanna, which means the Lord saves.)*

P: <sup>1</sup>Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup>and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" <sup>4</sup>And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. <sup>5</sup>And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" <sup>6</sup>And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. <sup>7</sup>And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. <sup>9</sup>And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! <sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**"Hark the Glad Sound"**

LSB 349

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es

throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

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**SERMON**

**"The Unexpected Plans of God"**

<sup>7</sup>And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. <sup>9</sup>And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! <sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!" Mark 11:7-10

## THE 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.

**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. **Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son’s body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end; through 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**

**“Even So Come”**

*By: Chris Tomlin*

**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**

*(reprisal sending song)*

# Holy Cross Happenings

November 29 – December 6, 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.

**Church Christmas Decorating** - we will be decorating the church for Christmas this coming **Saturday, Dec. 5th at 8:30 am.** Please join us for making our church beautiful for Christmas. Many hands will make quick work of decorating... and its fun!

**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 7:45 – 8:45 pm after our Advent service. 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 preschool room, for the "Sanctuary" class on mental health understanding and support for our families and community. Pastor Jim will facilitate the class. If you are unable to join us, please see Pastor or Vivian to do the online course.

**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.

**NOTICE:** Besides coffee, we will be serving individually wrapped cookies. Those wishing to help out by baking cookies, please talk with Pam Hunter. Thank you for your Christmas spirit!!!

**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.

**Children/Youth Christmas Program** will be Sunday, Dec. 13 during worship service. Practices scheduled for Saturdays, Dec. 5 and 12, 10AM-Noon

**Confirmation Sunday, December 6** – Our Confirmands will be confirmed at a Special Service December 6 at 1:00 pm. Please remember all of our Confirmands in your prayers. Megan Anderson, Blake Dobberstein, Colin Kruse, Jonas Petrie, Morgan Schulze, and Allie Wagner. This service will be for the Confirmands and their families and sponsors only due to Covid protocol. If you would like to give cards to the Confirmands, please bring them to the 9:00 am service that morning.

**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 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

**SERVING ADVENT SERVICE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2020 7:00 PM**

**Elder:** Brit Weimer  
**Lector:** Robert Nowak  
**Ushers:** Dave Albrecht  
**Acolyte:** Colin Kruse  
**AV:** Vivian Jobst  
**Offering Counters:** Denny Case & Dave Albrecht

**SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2020 9:00 AM**

**Communion Support:** Dave Albrecht  
**Lector:** Dinah Gilberts  
**Ushers:** Rich Mobroten  
**Acolyte:** Daniel Vannett  
**AV:** Rostina Vannett  
**Offering Counters:** Meg Batchelder & Michele Lein



# THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

**Sunday November 29 First Sunday of Advent**  
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 30**  
5:30 pm Elders & Officers Zoom Meeting

**Tuesday December 1**  
8:00 am Men's Bible Study

**Wednesday December 2**  
12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due  
7:00 pm Advent Service  
7:45 pm Informal Prayer

**Thursday December 3**

**Friday December 4**

**Saturday December 5**  
8:30 am Christmas Decorating Church  
11:00 am Church Cleaning

**Sunday December 6 Second Sunday of 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  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
11:00 am "Sanctuary" Course on Mental Health live also via Zoom

## CHURCH OFFICE REPORTS

### Attendance – 11-22-2020

Worship: 35 + 20 streamers = 55  
Communion: 33 + Drive-up = 33  
Bible Study:  
Sunday School: 4 kids & 3 teachers  
Sanctuary Class: 6

### Responding to God's Grace

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

### Attendance – 11-24-2020

Worship 30  
Communion 29