

Holy Cross Lutheran  
**SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

December 6, 2020 – 9 AM



**AS WE GATHER** This year, the holy evangelist St. Mark greets us to lead us through a new Church Year. He does not, however, greet us as we might expect. For one thing, he seems to have forgotten all about Christmas! At least Matthew and Luke tell of Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in a manger and of angels and shepherds. But Mark? While Christmas is the earthly “beginning” of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, this preacher means that his entire Gospel, the whole biblical story, is but “the beginning of the Gospel.” It is as if he means to say that the Baptist’s call to repentance comes to us *In Medias Res*, that is, in the middle of everything else, in the middle of the biblical story and in the middle of our lives and activities, right now. He is saying, “Stop what you’re doing. Repent again and welcome the Greater One, Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” The Christian faith and life is one of continual repentance and faith. Watch and listen as our Lord comes to us again, now, by His Spirit in His Word and Sacraments.

**† 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**

**“Prepare the Royal Highway”**

*LSB 343 vs1-2*



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch-es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!



*Refrain*  
Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

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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**

P: Prepare the way of the Lord. Recalling our Baptism into Christ, we confess our sins to God in the full assurance of the gift of forgiveness by the mighty sacrifice of His Son.

**C: O God, from the wilderness of lives disfigured and crushed by the devil, our own sin, and the sins of others, we cry out to You for the forgiveness of our sins, those that trouble us as well as those of which we are not aware. Restore our life and faith by Your own command for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

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 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.**

### **LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE**

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

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

### **ADVENT LIGHTING HYMN**

**“Prepare the Royal Highway”**

*LSB 343 vs. 3-4*

**3            Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!  
              Your king, yet ev’ry nation Its tribute too should bring.  
              All lands, bow down before Him! All nations, now adore Him! Refrain  
              Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God’s Word!**

**4            His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heav’n above.  
              His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.  
              So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding: Refrain  
              Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God’s Word!**

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### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray together, **Stir up our hearts by Your mighty Word and Spirit, O Lord, that we may be prepared to receive Your gifts of life and salvation through the forgiveness of our sins; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Isaiah 40:1–11*

*(Comfort for God’s people)*

L: <sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” <sup>6</sup>A voice says, “Cry!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!” <sup>10</sup>Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

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

*(The day of the Lord will come.)*

L: <sup>8</sup>But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. <sup>11</sup>Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! <sup>13</sup>But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

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

**VERSE**

*Luke 3:4b, 6*

Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

**HOLY GOSPEL**

*Mark 1:1–8*

*(Isaiah prophecies the messenger, John the Baptist who prepares the way of the Lord.)*

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

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" <sup>4</sup>John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"**

*LSB 344 vs. 1-5*

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings Glad tidings of the King of kings!**
- 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; Make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there.**
- 3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord, Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without Thy grace we waste away Like flow'rs that wither and decay.**
- 4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand And make the fallen strong to stand;  
Show us the glory of Thy face Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.**
- 5 Δ All praise, eternal Son, to Thee Whose advent sets Thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore And Holy Spirit evermore.**

## SERMON

### “In the Midst of It All, ...”

<sup>7</sup>And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

*Mark 1:7*

## 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 ourselves and 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.”

### THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

**ONE BODY IN CHRIST** *(As brothers and sisters in Christ, as one body we communion with the 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 have graced us with Your presence in this Sacrament, and we pray that You would keep us in the one true faith until life everlasting; 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

1. Our offering plates are at the bank of the sanctuary. We also have online giving at our website with instructions if you need any help please call us.
2. Also, please read through the church announcements today for ministry opportunities.

## 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

**“Come Thou Fount Come Thou King”**

*by Robinson, Miller, and Wyeth*

## 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)*

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# Holy Cross Happenings

December 6 – December 13, 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.

**CONFIRMATION SUNDAY** – Today is Confirmation Sunday, a special service will be held at 1:00 pm for the Confirmands and their families. Due to Covid-19 it will only be for Confirmands and their families. You can watch it via zoom. We like to congratulate our confirmands and keep them in our prayers. Megan Anderson, Blake Dobberstein, Colin Kruse, Jonas Petrie, Morgan Schulze, and Allie Wagner.

**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 – 8:30 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.

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

**Women's Bible Study** - Ladies please join us on the church Zoom Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 7:30pm for a casual women's only night of fellowship and faith. Get out your Bible, download the study or pick one up today at church and plan to be strengthened by the Word and renewed by the fellowship of those in the faith. This is a one-time study so there is nothing to prepare, just login on Zoom as you do for church and enjoy. No masks required!

**Download the study.** [https://unite-production.s3.amazonaws.com/tenants/lwml/attachments/95202/2016-12-we-await-his-coming\\_bible-study.pdf](https://unite-production.s3.amazonaws.com/tenants/lwml/attachments/95202/2016-12-we-await-his-coming_bible-study.pdf)

**Zoom login** information <https://zoom.us/j/9646957677...> If you are prompted for a password, use: 398612, Phone only for the live services: call 1-312-626-6799. When prompted, enter meeting number: 964 695 7677 then hit #, If it asks you for a participant code, just hit #

**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 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

**SERVING ADVENT SERVICE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020 7:00 PM**

**Elder:** Jon Dobberstein  
**Lector:** Michele Lein  
**Ushers:** Meg Batchelder  
**Acolyte:** Jonas Petrie  
**AV:** Dinah Gilberts  
**Offering Counters:** Carol Albrecht & Pam Hunter

**SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020 9:00 AM**

**Communion Support:** Brit Weimer  
**Lector:** Judy Weimer  
**Ushers:** Jason Kruse  
**Acolyte:** Colin Kruse  
**AV:** Jason Eickhoff  
**Offering Counters:** Dave Albrecht & Doug Schulze

**CHURCH OFFICE REPORTS**

**Attendance – 11-29-2020**

Worship: 35 + ? streamers = 35  
Communion: 33 + Drive-up = 33  
Bible Study: 15 Sanctuary Class: 6  
Sunday School: N/A

**Mid-Week Advent Service 12-02-2020**

Worship: 24

**Responding to God's Grace**

Contributions needed/month (General Fund): \$21,982.50  
Contributions received in October \$21,361.57

## THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 6</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>
	9:00 am	Worship w/Holy Communion also via Zoom
	10:15-10:45 am	Drive-up Communion
	10:00-11:00 am	"Nahum" Bible Study Sunday School
	11:00 am	"Sanctuary" Course on Mental Health
<b>Monday</b>	<b>December 7</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 8</b>	
	8:00 am	Men's Bible Study
	7:30 pm	Women's Bible Study via Zoom
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 9</b>	
	12:00 pm	Happenings Articles Due
	7:00 pm	Advent Service
	7:45 pm	Informal Prayer
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>December 10</b>	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 11</b>	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 12</b>	
	10:00 am	Christmas program practice
	11:00 am	Church Cleaning
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 13</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>
	9:00 am	Worship W/ Holy Communion also via Zoom Children's Christmas Program
	10:15 am	Drive-Up Communion
	10:00 am	"Nahum" Bible Study in Sanctuary <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>
	11:00 am	"Sanctuary" Course on Mental Health



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Office Ministry Assistants: Meg Batchelder and Dorene Oak  
Pastor James Jobst: (612) 615-2939