

Holy Cross Lutheran
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 20, 2020 – 9 AM



AS WE GATHER We stand at the threshold not only of an old and familiar story but also that of an old yet familiar mystery, the greatest mystery ever told. It doesn't appear on any list of greatest novels or plays written by earthly authors. It is the mystery of God. More specifically, it is the mystery of His love for the salvation of the world. But as we prepare to review the mystery of God—the Son of God becoming incarnate in our human flesh and born of the Virgin Mary—the greater mystery is that He, Jesus, looks over your shoulder now in the retelling and hearing of Christmas. The greater mystery is that you not only know the old, familiar story but by grace you also believe it. And believing, faith brings about the best mystery of all—that your sins are forgiven, that you have a new, eternal life, that you are forever a child, a son, a daughter born of God. The Gospel—the wisdom and mystery of God—is no longer a secret. For it is told by your own mouth singing of God's love and salvation in Jesus Christ.

† 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

"A Great and Mighty Wonder"

LSB 383 1-3

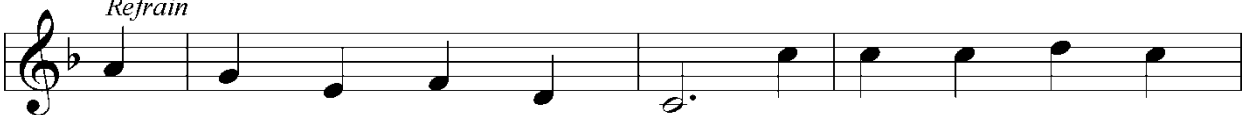


1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.

Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

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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: That our eyes and our ears may be open to receive the mystery of God's love, let us first empty ourselves of everything that has closed our hearts to God, confessing our sin and need of forgiveness and life.

C: At the Lord's own invitation and command, I confess all my sins to God, the very thoughts, words, and deeds with which I have offended Him and hurt my neighbor. I come now in the sincere hope and faith of the forgiveness of God made known to the whole world in the mystery of His Son, Jesus Christ, who has sacrificed His own flesh and blood for me. Remove my sin and guilt for His sake, and restore a right spirit within me. 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

"A Great and Mighty Wonder"

LSB 383 4-5

**4 Since all He comes to ransom, By all be He adored,
The infant born in Beth' em, The Savior and the Lord.
Proclaim the Savior's birth: "To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth!"**

**5 All idols then shall perish And Satan's lying cease,
And Christ shall raise His scepter, Decreeing endless peace.
Proclaim the Savior's birth: "To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth!"**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together, **Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come. Strengthen Your gift of faith in us, and keep us by Your power to be Your own; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

(The Lord's covenant with David)

¹Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." ³And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' ⁸Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be

prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

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

BELL SOLO

“Savior of the Nation”

Played by: Karen Van Wert

EPISTLE

Romans 16:25-27

(The Apostle Paul gives glory to God for the mystery of grace revealed in Christ for all nations)

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

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

VERSE

Matthew 1:23a

Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

(The birth of Jesus is foretold)

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

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month

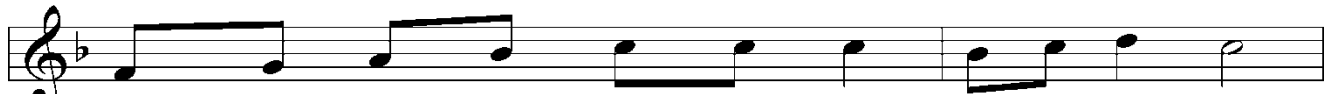
with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Let Our Gladness Have No End"

LSB 381



1 Let our glad - ness have no end, al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Proph - e - sied in days of old, al - le - lu - ia!
 3 See, the love - liest bloom - ing rose, al - le - lu - ia!
 4 In - to flesh is made the Word, al - le - lu - ia!



For to earth did Christ de - scend, al - le - lu - ia!
 God has sent Him as fore - told, al - le - lu - ia!
 From the branch of Jes - se grows, al - le - lu - ia!
 He, our ref - uge and our Lord, al - le - lu - ia!

Refrain



On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save



us; Christ, His Son, to save us.

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SERMON

"Love Has Come. No Longer a Mystery!"

Romans 16:25-27

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 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

“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)

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Holy Cross Happenings

December 20 – December 27, 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.

A BIG THANK YOU - Thank you Bonnie Nowak for writing this year's Christmas program, Sheri Brunner for directing, and all the participants that were in the play or helped in any way. It was very nice and successful. Thank you all for your hard work.

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 starting on the December 30 due to Advent services.

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.

Download the study. https://unite-rodution.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 20, 2020 9:00 am

Communion Support: Jon Dobberstein
Lector: Mary Deluhery
Ushers: Dinah Gilberts
Acolyte: Blake Dobberstein
AV: Rostina Vannett
Offering Counters: Meg Batchelder & Michele Lein

SERVING ADVENT SERVICE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2020 7:00 PM

Elder: Dave Albrecht
Lector: Robert Nowak
Ushers: Ralph Wagner
Acolyte: Allie Wagner
AV: Dinah Gilberts

SERVING CHRISTMAS EVE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020 4:00 PM

Communion Support: Brit Weimer
Lector:
Ushers: Denny Case
Acolyte: Colin Kruse
AV: Vivian Jobst
Offering Counters: Count only after 2nd service

SERVING CHRISTMAS EVE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020 7:00 PM

Communion Support: Dave Albrecht
Lector: Carol Albrecht
Ushers: Evelyn and Norma Jabs
Acolyte: Jonas Petrie
AV: Jason Eickhoff
Offering Counters: Carol Albrecht & Doug Schulze

SERVING CHRISTMAS DAY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2020 9:00 AM

Communion Support: Rich Mobroten
Lector: Vivian Jobst
Ushers: Evelyn and Norma Jabs
Acolyte: Allie Wagner
AV: Dinah Gilberts
Offering Counters: Meg Batchelder & Michele Lein

SERVING SUNDAY DECEMBER 27, 2020 9:00 am

Communion Support: Jon Dobberstein
Lector: Diane Mullenbach
Ushers: Meg Batchelder
Acolyte: Blake Dobberstein
AV: Vivian Jobst
Offering Counters: Denny Case & Doug Schulze

CHURCH OFFICE REPORTS

Attendance – 12-13-2020

Worship: 57 + 21streamers = 78
Communion: 52 + 4 Drive-up = 56
Bible Study: 15 Sanctuary Class: 4
Sunday School:

Responding to God's Grace

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

Mid-Week Advent Service 12-16-2020

Worship: 24

THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

Sunday December 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent
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

Monday December 21
5:30 pm Zoom Leader Meeting

Tuesday December 22
8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Wednesday December 23
12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due
7:00 pm Advent Service

Thursday December 24
4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

Friday December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY
9:00 am Christmas Day Service

Saturday December 26
9:00 am Church Cleaning

Sunday December 27 First Sunday after Christmas
9:00 am Worship W/ Holy Communion also via Zoom
10:15 am Drive-Up Communion
10:00 am "Nahum" Bible Study in Sanctuary
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL



14085 Pike Lake Trail NE, Prior Lake, MN 55372 Phone: (952) 445-1779
Music & Choir Director: Mui Cheng: Praise Music Director: Becca Tutewohl
Office Ministry Assistants: Meg Batchelder and Dorene Oak
Pastor James Jobst: (612) 615-2939