

Holy Cross Lutheran  
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 27, 2020 – 9AM



**AS WE GATHER** The Epistle for the First Sunday after Christmas brings a one-sentence summary of the Christmas message as Paul writes it to the Christians of Galatia. "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son" (Galatians 4:4). God knew the exact right time for His beloved Son to come to earth, this sin-filled world. God had a plan for salvation that was carried out faithfully and completely by Jesus. In the days after Christmas, we have the opportunity to reflect on the importance of the Christmas message. We have received the greatest of all gifts. Through Jesus Christ, we are heirs of God and have an eternal inheritance!

† 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

"Joy to the World"

LSB 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
play, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

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INVOCATION

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

## OPENING SENTENCES

*Luke 2:30, 32; Psalm 71:19, 23 Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a*

P: Alleluia! My eyes have seen Your salvation,

**C: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel. Alleluia!**

P: Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens.

**C: You who have done great things, O God, who is like You?**

P: My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to You;

**C: my soul also, which You have redeemed.**

P: To us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder.

**C: And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Brothers and Sisters redeemed by the Lord, let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

**C: Merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We repent of having sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have left undone those things we ought to have done; we have done those things we ought not to have done. We have not lived our lives fully in the freedom won for us by our Lord. We have not always shared the bounty You have given us as stewards of Your creation. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask Your grace and forgiveness in Jesus, our Savior. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to change what is sinful in our lives that each day we grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.**

P: God has promised pardon, life, and salvation because of the atoning sacrifice of His beloved Son, who has replaced slavery to sin with a priceless inheritance of freedom and joy. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together, **Gracious God, through our Lord Jesus Christ You have taken the slavery under which we were held captive to sin and Satan and have given us new life. By the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us, keep us ever connected to Christ to live out each day in our baptismal grace as we await the joy of life in Your eternal presence. This we ask for the sake of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 61:10–62:3*

*(Nations will acknowledge the Chosen One of the Lord.)*

L: <sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations. <sup>1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. <sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. <sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

## EPISTLE

Galatians 4:4–7

*(At the right time, God sent His Son into the world.)*

L: <sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a servant, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

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

## VERSE

Luke 2: 30,32

**All: Alleluia. My eyes have seen Your salvation; a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel. Alleluia.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:22–40

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

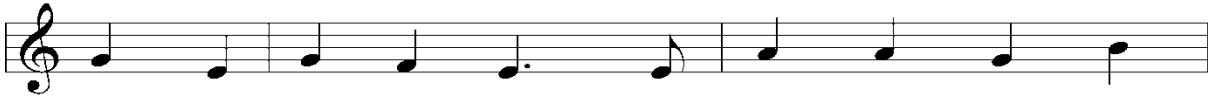
*(Jesus is presented in the temple by Mary and Joseph.)*

P: <sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") <sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." <sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup>And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup>And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup>he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, <sup>29</sup>"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup>that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." <sup>33</sup>And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup>(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." <sup>36</sup>And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup>and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup>And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

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



1 From east to west, from shore to shore Let ev - 'ry  
 2 Be - hold, the world's cre - a - tor wears The form and  
 3 For this how won - drous - ly He wrought! A maid - en,  
 4 And while the an - gels in the sky Sang praise a -  
 5 All glo - ry for this bless - ed morn To God the



heart a - wake and sing The ho - ly child whom  
 fash - ion of a slave; Our ver - y flesh our  
 in her low - ly place, Be - came, in ways be -  
 bove the si - lent field, To shep - herds poor the  
 Fa - ther ev - er be; All praise to You, O



Mar - y bore, The Christ, the ev - er - last - ing king.  
 mak - er shares, His fall - en crea - tures all to save.  
 yond all thought, The cho - sen ves - sel of His grace.  
 Lord Most High, The one great Shep - herd, was re - vealed.  
 Vir - gin - born, And Ho - ly Ghost e - ter - nal - ly.

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## SERMON

## "Christ Fulfills All Things Well"

Galatians 4:4-7

## APOSTLES' CREED/CATECHISM

The Third Article

P: Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we can call God our "Abba"—our Father. The Spirit directs our praying and intercedes for us. Today we confess the words of the Apostles' Creed regarding the work of the Holy Spirit and also speak the words from Luther's Small Catechism regarding the work of the Spirit through the Church, of which each of us is a special part.

**C: 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.**

P: What does this mean?

**C: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.**

**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, **Almighty God, ruler of all things, we bless You for having joined us to Christ through this blessed Meal. Grant that the Holy Spirit graciously intercede for us and direct our ways that we do the good works intended for us to do, and faithfully calling on You as our Father, joyfully continue our earthly pilgrimage until that time when we are gathered into Your heavenly kingdom to share in Your blessings for all eternity. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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**

**"Peace Has Come"**

*by Hillsong*

**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

## December 27-January 3, 2021

**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** - To all the wonderful musicians that participated in our Christmas services. The music was beautiful and enhanced the special meaning of Christmas. God's blessing to you in 2021.

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL** - Sundays Dec. 27 and Jan. 3 we will not be having SS classes for Children and Youth during the holiday break. See you back on Jan. 10! Thanks and blessings on your Christmas-time! You are in my prayers for health and renewal in mind, body and spirit during these days. Vivian

**Adult Sunday Morning Bible Class** - The OT book of Nahum led by Rev. Robert Nowak will be taking a break this week, but will resume January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Happy New Year!

**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** - Will be taking a break this week and will resume January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**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 TODAY, January 3, 2021. Feel free to pick up for all members in your family. Thank you for your help.

**McKenna visiting** – Interested in visiting Lohart on Wednesday at 10 am? Please sign up with Pastor Jim or Janean Johnston. At this time we are able to visit in his room but no more than 2 people per visit with Covid- Screening.

**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 - SUNDAY DECEMBER 27, 2020 9:00 am**

<b>Communion :</b>	Jon Dobberstein	<b>Acolyte:</b>	Blake Dobberstein
<b>Lector:</b>	Diane Mullenbach	<b>AV:</b>	Vivian Jobst
<b>Ushers:</b>	Meg Batchelder	<b>Counters:</b>	Denny Case & Doug Schulze

## CHURCH OFFICE REPORTS

### Attendance – 12-20-2020

Worship: 40 +17 streamers = 57  
Communion: 38 + 7 Drive-up = 45  
Bible Study: 15 Sanctuary Class: 5  
Sunday School: n/a

### Responding to God's Grace

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

### CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY ATTENDANCE

Dec. 24, 4 PM Worship: 49                      7 PM Worship: 39  
Dec. 25, 9 AM Worship: 23

## THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

**Sunday December 27 First Sunday after Christmas**  
9:00 am                      Worship w/Holy Communion also via Zoom  
10:15-10:45 am          Drive-up Communion

**Monday December 28**

**Tuesday December 29**  
8:00 am                      Men's Bible Study

**Wednesday December 30**  
12:00 pm                      Happenings Articles Due  
7:00 pm                      Informal Time of Prayer

**Thursday December 31**

**Friday January 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY**

**Saturday January 2**  
9:00 am                      Church Cleaning

**Sunday January 3 Second Sunday after Christmas**  
9:00 am                      Worship W/ Holy Communion also via Zoom  
10:15 am-10:45          Drive-Up Communion  
10:00 am-11AM          "Nahum" Bible Study in Sanctuary  
**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
11:00-12 Noon          "Sanctuary" Course on Mental Health Session 7



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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