

Holy Cross Lutheran
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 24, 2021



AS WE GATHER The Lord always sets the right time for the right people to be used for His mission and purposes. Throughout the Old Testament, He spoke through prophets to proclaim His Word, call the people to repentance, and turn back into a relationship with Him. As His own beloved Son, our Savior, came into the world when the time was right. As Christ calls His first disciples, the call to share the faith with others is primary to everything else in life. They left everything to follow Jesus. The Apostle Paul reminds us in our Epistle the difficulty for husbands and wives to balance their responsibilities to each other and family, yet to consider giving extra effort to the Lord's calling and service that others in their community may come to know the Savior. Because our time is short on earth let us spend our days not for self but for the Lord's bidding and will. Today, as we gather in His name, may we hear His call to follow Him with open ears and willing hearts, so together we keep true in making disciples of all nations. The Lord bless your worship and call to follow Him through His unconditional love.

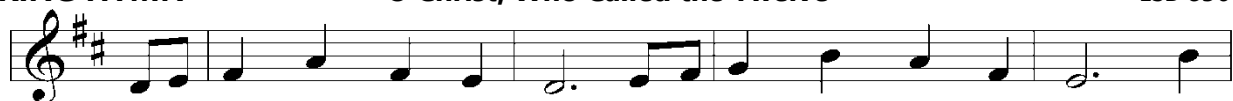
† IN DOMINE JESU †

(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 "O Christ, Who Called the Twelve" *LSB 856 vs. 1-3*



1 O Christ, who called the Twelve To rise and fol - low You, For -
2 O Christ, who taught the Twelve The truth for a - ges sealed, Whose
3 O Christ, who led the Twelve A - mong the des - o - late And



sak - ing old, fa - mil - iar ways For ven - tures bold and new:
words and works a - wak - ened faith, The ways of God re - vealed:
broke as bread of life for all Your love com - pas - sion - ate:



Grant us to hear Your call To risk se - cu - ri - ty And,
In - struct us now, we pray, By Your em - pow' - ring Word. True
Lead us a - long the ways Where hope has near - ly died And



bound in heart and will to You, Find per - fect lib - er - ty.
teach - er, be for all who seek Their light, their life, their Lord.
help us climb the lone - ly hills Where love is cru - ci - fied.

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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

Psalm 113:1-3

P: Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD,

C: praise the name of the LORD!

P: Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!

C: From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Mark 1:15

P: Gracious Lord, by Your name You have called us Your own, and we are to pray, praise, and give thanks to You.

C: Yet we often do not live as You have called us to live as Your own. We do not always honor Your name nor Your calling with our praise.

P: We confess our sins to God in repentance, turning from those things that lead us away, turning back to You as we follow in faith.

C: Almighty and ever-compassionate Lord, we are by nature sinful and unclean. We confess our many failures as we have not followed You joyfully and trustingly. We have not loved others as ourselves, and our thoughts, words, and deeds have not been pleasing to You. We have not always welcomed Your call for us to follow You and You alone.

P: The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel. Hear and rejoice in the Good News. Jesus Christ died for you, and for His sake, God has compassion. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, and in His stead, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together, **Almighty and everlasting God, as the call to follow You comes to us through Your Word, grant us Your Holy Spirit that we trust and serve You in repentance and faith; 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 †

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

(The Lord causes repentance of the Ninevites through Jonah's preaching.)

L: ¹Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ²"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you." ³So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put-on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. ¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

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

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 7:29-35

(As time grows short, Paul encourages faithful use of time.)

L: ²⁹This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and

those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods,³¹ and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.³² I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord.³³ But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife,³⁴ and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband.³⁵ I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

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

VERSE

Mark 1:15

Alleluia, the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:14–20

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

(Jesus calls the first disciples to follow Him.)

P: ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." ¹⁶Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

"O Christ, Who Called the Twelve"

LSB 856 vs. 4-5

4 O Christ, who sent the Twelve On roads they'd nev - er trod To
 serve, to suf - fer, teach, pro-claim The near - er reign of God:
 Send us on ways where faith Tran - scends ti - mid - i - ty, Where
 love in-forms and hope sus-tains Both life and min-is - try.

**5 O Christ, the apostles' Lord, The martyrs' strength and song,
 The crucified and risen King To whom the saints belong:
 Though generations pass, Our tribute still we bring,
 Our hymns a sacrifice of praise, Our lives an offering.**

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SERMON

“Undivided Devotion – Taking Time for What is Timeless”

1 Cor. 7:29-35

³⁵I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord. *1 Corinthians 7:35*

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:

C: 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. Know that His peace, joy, love and forgiveness is yours now and forever. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray together: **We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us with the body and blood of your dear Son in, with, and under bread and wine. Strengthen our faith in You and in our love for others in Your kingdom and throughout our community, country, and world, as we hear Your call, follow where You lead, and rejoice in the grace You bestow, 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

"Thy Word Is a Lamp"

LSB 973

Refrain



Thy Word is a lamp un-to my feet And a light un-to my path.



1 When I feel a - fraid, think I've lost my way,
2 I will not for - get Your love for me, and yet My



Still You're there right be - side me. And
heart for - ev - er is wan - der - ing.



noth - ing will I fear as long as You are near.
Je - sus, be my guide and hold me to Your side; *And*



Please be near me to the end. _____
I will love You to the end. _____ *Refrain*

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DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace and join Jesus on His mission! **C: Amen! We will! Amen!**

HOLY CROSS HAPPENINGS

January 24 – January 31, 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.

Adult Sunday Morning Bible Class - The OT book of Nahum led by Rev. Robert Nowak will continue today. 10:00 back of the sanctuary.

Financial Contribution Reports – The financial contribution reports are ready for everyone to pick up. They are in a clear container on the Office Ministry Assistant's counter. Please pick them up to save on postage. Thank you for your help.

NIGHT TO SHINE - We have heard from the Tim Tebow Foundation that the Night to Shine will be held VIRTUALLY this year on Friday, Feb. 12, 2021. While this will be different for all of us, I STILL NEED YOU. We are required to provide SWAG BAGS for each of the honored guests. I am hoping for around 160 registered guests this year and that means we will need 160 swag bags. We are required to deliver or mail the bags to our guests by the Wednesday before the event. Here is what I need:

1. **DONATIONS** - I am trying to purchase all items strictly out of monies donated this year. I want to save what money we have for our next in person event. Money donations, Gift Card donations, Connections to restaurants or businesses willing to provide a meal or coupon for our guests, donations for crowns and tiaras (required), donations for extra gifts in the bags, donations for corsages or boutonnieres (required). **PLEASE EMAIL ME IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE MONEY OR A SPECIFIC ITEM. ANYTHING WILL HELP!**

Please mail donations to: Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 14085 Pike Lake Trail NE, Prior Lake, MN 55372, memo: Night to Shine Attn: Shari Schulze

Informal prayer time - We will continue the informal time of prayer at Holy Cross on Wednesday evenings starting @ 7:00 pm.

Voter's Meeting – Will be held Sunday, January 31, 2021 starting at 10:00 am after the 9:00 service. Please plan on attending.

PRAY & PLAY EVENT – WINTER FUN! SUNDAY, February 21

Sledding/Snowman Building/Snowball Battle/Snow Shoeing! First,...PREPARE! Are you prepared for winter fun in the outdoors? How do you prepare? What items do you need for safety and being smart outside in the cold temperatures? How did you gain this knowledge? Think about it and bring your list of being prepared to share and discuss and everything you need to have fun and be ready for this special Sunday Pray & Play event. * I challenge you to invite, and then bring, a friend along for winter fun at church during the SS time. (Big "kids at heart" are encouraged to participate as well!)

JANUARY 31, VOTERS' MEETING: Next week the Holy Cross Voter's meeting will include a special vote, at the request of the President of the LCMS, Rev. Matthew Harrison, to suspend the National LCMS Convention one year, moving it from the summer of 2022 to the summer of 2023 due to Covid-19 complications and state restrictions that are causing District conventions to be delayed this 2021 year. The Synod by-laws specify that for Congregations to vote at the Synod's Convention, District Conventions need to be held the previous year of the National Convention to meet the

voting by-law requirement. Thus, the delay for the National Convention is to help all Congregations/Districts be equally represented at the National Convention.

Note: President Harrison also wanted to share that there will be some costs to reschedule Synod's Convention, but Synod will do their best to be good stewards of the church's finances. President Harrison has stated this is an unprecedented time with the pandemic and assures the Synod that there is not any particular theological position that would question this request. Last but not least, in order that the voting goes smooth and only need to happen once, another by-law must be met. A minimum of 25% of Synod's congregations must vote and submit the vote before Feb 15, 2021. Approximately, 1,550 congregations need to vote in the next 2-3 weeks out of about 6,200 congregations. Thank you for your willingness as a congregation to walk together as brothers and sisters in Christ with Synod's request and with our sister congregations across the country.

McKenna visiting Update - If interested in visiting Lohart, please call McKenna Crossing's office. Currently they have visiting on Thursday by appointment, two persons per week. Pastor and Janean visit on Wednesday however, currently because of Covid restrictions they are the only ones to visit on Wednesdays.

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 JANUARY 24, 2021 9:00 am

Elder/Communion Helper: Jon Dobberstein
Lector: Lance Lerum
Ushers: Dave Albrecht
Acolyte: Allie Wagner
AV: Rostina Vannett
Counters: Carol Albrecht & Pam Hunter

SERVING NEXT WEEK - SUNDAY JANUARY 31, 2021 9:00 am

Elder/Communion Helper: Brit Weimer
Lector: Youth
Ushers: Youth
Acolyte: Daniel Vannett
AV: Dinah Gilberts
Offering Counters: Dave Albrecht & Doug Schulze

CHURCH OFFICE REPORTS

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Contributions needed/month (General Fund): \$21,982.50
Contributions received in December \$26,108.57

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17 ATTENDANCE

Worship:	41	Drive-up Communion:	4
Communion:	36	Sanctuary Class:	5
Zoom:	18	Bible Class:	12

THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

Sun.	January 24	Third Sunday after Epiphany Baptism
	9:00 am	Worship w/Holy Communion also via Zoom
	10:00 am	Nahum Bible Study & Sunday School
	10:15 am-10:45	Drive-Up Communion
Mon.	January 25	
	5:30 pm	Elder/Leader Meeting zoom
Tue.	January 26	
	8:00 am	Men's Bible Study
Wed.	January 27	
	12:00 pm	Happenings Articles Due
	7:00 pm	Informal Time of Prayer
Thu.	January 28	
Fri.	January 29	
	9:30 am	Cleaning Crew
Sat.	January 30	
Sun.	January 31	Fourth Sunday of Epiphany
	9:00 am	Worship W/ Holy Communion also via Zoom
	10:00 am-11am	"Nahum" Bible Study in back of the Sanctuary
	10:15 am-10:45	Drive-Up Communion



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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