

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 14, 2025

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

Weekly Update

1090 Sterling Road, Herndon, VA 20170
www.HolyCrossHerndon.org



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Sunday, December 14, 2025

VISITORS: It is a joy to have you with us this morning. If you are looking for a church family, we hope you will consider Holy Cross. For more information, you can fill out a visitor form in the narthex, speak to an usher, or scan the QR code to the right.



FAMILIES: Children are always welcome at our worship services! There's also a small play area in the Narthex where you can hear the broadcasted service.

WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

For additions/changes, email the office: admin@holycrossherndon.org
Names will be removed after one month unless advised otherwise.

OUR CONGREGATION

Juliana Roe Beck | Bonnie Burton | Terry & Linda Butler
Joy Caveney | Joel Flegal | Roy Geiger | Otto Jacobson
Jared Lem | Reed Morgan | Mike Muller | Craig Reichow
Jeremy Shoop | Tuula Toney | Cherie Weatherhead

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Riley Morgan | Thomas Newcomb | Collin Reichow

RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF THE CONGREGATION

Erin Barden (sister of Andrew Barden)
Randy and Shirley Beamer (friends of Pam Darby)
Debbie Bowman (niece of Betty Skelton)
Joy Brown (friend of Kate Flegal)
Symphony Calvillo & her two boys (friend of Kate Flegal)
Jane Campbell (friend of Cheryl Smith)
Don and Liz Gober (friends of Craig Reichow)
Jason Greenwalt (friend of Cheryl Smith)
Madilyn Gross (cousin of Desirae Peral)
Matt Kim (friend of John & Tammy Breene)
Georgia Kirby and Cain Mason (friends of Cherie Weatherhead)
Phyllis Krapf (wife of Dick Krapf)
Don Kress (friend of Helen and Gary Wolfe)
Dale, John, and Jeff MacPherson (friends of Jared Lem)
Sharon Massen (friend of Craig Reichow)
Lisa Nolf (friend of Jared Lem)
Jim Pollock (godfather of Andrew Barden)
Anne Marie Berardi Rabinowitz (friend of Tonya Elliott)
Dylan Roe (nephew of Mark and Jo Roe)
John Smith (brother-in-law of Cheryl Smith)
Steven Swancutt (brother of Lynn Russo)
Diana Todd (friend of the Russos)
Michelle White (friend and coworker of Kate Flegal)
Bernadette Stevenson Williams (friend of the Roe family)
Laizu Zaman (friend of Jared Lem)

THOSE IN MOURNING

Family & friends of Glorene Mjones (founding member of Holy Cross)

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Director of Music and Liturgy:
Sound Technician:
Video Technician:

Jeremy Shoop
Bob Thompson
Sylvia Moran

Serving December 14th: Third Sunday of Advent

Supply Pastor: Rev. Pam Mitcham
Assisting Minister: Matthew Andersen
Reader: Kristin Andersen
Acolyte: Andy Krueger
Greeter: Jared Lem

Serving December 21st: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Supply Pastor: Rev. Amy R. Carter Feira
Assisting Minister: Andy Krueger
Reader: Catherine Taylor
Acolyte: Kate Flegal
Greeter: Jared Lem

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE: DEC 14 – DEC 21

SU 14	9:00 am	Countdown to Christmas ~ FH
	10:00 am	Worship – Third Sunday of Advent
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH
TU 16	6:30 pm	Beer & Carols ~ Jimmy's Old Town Tavern
	6:30 pm	Bldg Use: Boy Scouts Troop 12
W 17	11:30 am	Lunch for the Soul ~ FH
	6:30 pm	Midweek Advent + LFTS Worship
	7:00 pm	Midweek Advent + LFTS Dinner
TH 18	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
	8:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
SA 20	8:00 am	Bldg. Use: Herndon's Women AA ~ Rm 204
	10:00 am	Quilting Group ~ Rm 202
	11:00 am	Bldg. Use: Called2Be 7 th Day Adventist
SU 21	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School ~ Conference Rm
	10:00 am	Worship – Fourth Sunday of Advent
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH

Find Hope • Pursue Restoration • Encounter Forgiveness



2025 Advent Appeal
Prison Fellowship International

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined. (Isaiah 9:2)

Scan to donate:
Or go to: www.HolyCrossHerndon.org
(click DONATE→VANCO→ADVENT APPEAL)





ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP

Join us on Wednesday evenings this Advent season as we pause, breathe, and draw close to the promise of Christ. This year's theme— Find Hope, Encounter Forgiveness, Pursue Restoration—guides us as we listen for God's presence in a busy season and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

All are welcome. Come as you are.

12/17: Worship – 6:30 pm, LFS Dinner – 7 pm

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 12/17 DINNER

Holy Cross has many slots open to bring food or serve/clean up at the combined Midweek Advent/Lunch for the Soul Christmas Dinner on December 17. Sign up here: PerfectPotluck.com/ERPK0106



MLK Day of Service
Monday, January 19
Save the Date

HELP DECORATE THE HALLS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Join us after worship on **Sunday, December 21** (lunch will be provided), as we decorate our sanctuary and church building for Christmas Eve services. We'll set up trees, arrange greens, hang wreaths, and add all the finishing touches that make Holy Cross glow with Christmas joy.

All ages and abilities are welcome—many hands make light (and festive!) work. Thank you for helping create a beautiful worship space for this holy season!


Sign Up to Help at tinyurl.com/hclCChristmas


LAST CHANCE FOR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Today is the deadline to donate for Christmas poinsettias! Donations received will be used to purchase wreaths, garlands, and poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas. You may make a dedication *In Honor of* or *In Memory of* someone, and it will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.



Forms are also available online—go to <https://tinyurl.com/323xm9fc> or scan the QR code. Donations may be made through Vanco by selecting the **Christmas Poinsettias** fund.





Holy Cross Lutheran Church
&
Jimmy's Old Town Tavern
Present

Beer & Carols




Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long
Raffle Prizes


Tuesday, December 16 **6:30-8:00pm**

697 Spring Street, Herndon, VA 20170

Proceeds to benefit:
She Believes in Me

Questions?
Email: MusicDir@HolyCrossHerndon.org



Holy Cross Lutheran Church Welcomes ALL!

Holy Cross Lutheran Church joyfully affirms and celebrates that every person is a beloved child of God. We welcome all who are seeking God's boundless love and sustaining grace into full community with us at Holy Cross. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down barriers and systems that divide God's children working to be a space committed to racial equality for God's people and to building a community where all are recognized as part of Christ's new creation.



We welcome you, and you are safe with us...
 Whatever your race, ethnicity, or heritage;
 Whatever your relationship status;
 We welcome you, and you are safe with us...

Whatever your sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or gender expression;
 Whatever your socio-economic status;
 We welcome you, and you are safe with us...

Whatever your age and life circumstance;
 Whatever your physical and mental ability.
 You are a beloved child of God, you are valued, and you are welcome here.

What to Expect in Worship

Worship services can be intimidating for newcomers. While we try to make worship as accessible as possible for everyone, we know that some aspects can be confusing. Feel free to ask an usher or someone near you for help if you have any questions today. We are happy to help and want all voices to be included in praise to God.

Our worship style is traditional at Holy Cross. A full liturgy is used to focus our praise and prayers to God. Notes are included in the side gutter of the bulletin to explain why we use the various liturgical elements. Communion is celebrated every Sunday at Holy Cross. The table (altar) is not our table, but Christ's table. Just as Christ welcomes all, all are welcome to receive communion at Holy Cross. Pastor will give instructions on how we celebrate communion. Written instructions are also included at that point in the bulletin.

Throughout the year we emphasize each liturgical season differently to mark the passage of time. Liturgical texts change to reflect aspects of that season, some elements are removed or added to reflect the mood of that season, and colors used to decorate the chancel are changed to provide visual reminders of the current season.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Transforming the world & ourselves, together in community, fellowship, and faith.

Third Sunday of Advent December 14, 2025 ~ 10:00 AM

The origin of Advent as a season of fasting to prepare for baptisms at Epiphany is particularly evident on the third Sunday. Whenever God comes—in the past in the history of Israel and the incarnation of Jesus, in the present in the word and sacrament of each Sunday, and in the future at the end of all things—a reorienting of our life is called for. The lectionary’s readings stand in stark contrast to our society’s partying and shopping for Christmas. The coming of Christ means to transform the world, saving all who are in need.

As part of our continuous efforts to make worship more inclusive and sensory friendly, we ask that you refrain from applauding during worship and after the postlude.



WE GATHER



GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Please stand as you are able.

LITURGY OF JOY AND THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Rejoice in the Lord always—again I say, rejoice!
In this season of watching and waiting, God draws near with joy that cannot be contained: joy that rises like dawn, joy that steadies weary hearts, joy that whispers to us, “Do not be afraid.”

Assembly: **We rejoice in God, our source of Joy!**

Pastor: For the blessings that greet us each morning: the gift of breath, the promise of a new day, the quiet ways your love finds us even when we do not notice:

Assembly: **We rejoice in God, our source of Joy!**

Pastor: For the songs that lift our spirits, for beauty that surprises us, for kindness that arrives when we

need it most, and for communities that carry one another with grace:

Assembly: We rejoice in God, our source of Joy!

Pastor: For the joy of Advent: joy that flickers like a candle against the dark, joy that grows as we hear again your ancient promises, joy that points us toward the coming Christ:

Assembly: We rejoice in God, our source of Joy!

Pastor: Gather us now in this holy space. Open our eyes to the wonders you place before us, open our ears to hear your good news, and open our hearts to receive the joy you so freely give.

Assembly: We rejoice in God, our source of Joy!

GATHERING HYMN

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship #253)

He Came Down

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;
 he came down that we may have light;
 he came down that we may have peace; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.
 he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

KYRIE

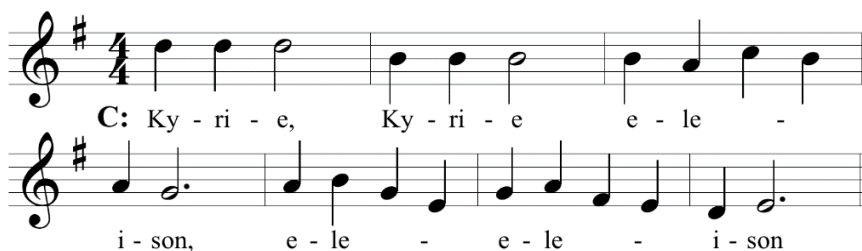
Assisting Minister: A voice cries out, "Prepare the way of the Lord!" For all who gather in this place and prepare their hearts for His birth, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly:

Assisting Minister: Lord Jesus, you came to gather all nations into the peace of God's kingdom. For peace on earth and that all people may know of His coming, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly:

Assisting Minister: Let anyone who has ears listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. For prophets of old who proclaimed your birth and for your people today who go out and share your Good News, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly:

Our Kyrie for Advent was written by our Director of Music and Liturgy, Jeremy Shoop. The petitions from the Assisting Minister prays for those gathered here and now, and all people around the world and in all times, as we prepare for Christ's birth. The refrain is the traditional kyrie, a plea for God's mercy, set to the tune VENI EMMANUEL.

The prayer of the day is inspired by collect #1125 in the seventh-century Gregorian Sacramentary. Just as John the Baptist urges the people to prepare for the Messiah, the prayer asks God to stir up our hearts to prepare for Christ with lives of growth and repentance.

Perhaps Paul's blessing of peace is what many Christians need to hear during these pre-Christmas weeks, a peace that comes from being in Christ. The stress on joy in the third week of Advent led to the tradition of using a pink candle, rather than a purple one, on this third Sunday. In today's word and sacrament, we experience that the Lord is near.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Assembly: Amen.

Please sit.



FIRST READING

Philippians 4:4-9

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

Reader: A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

LISTENING WITH CHILDREN'S EARS

*I've got a joy in Advent time that shines like the sun,
I've got a joy in Advent time that shines like the sun,
I've got a joy in Advent time that shines like the sun,
And Jesus brings it true!*

*Come Lord, O come Lord, come with joy to me!
Come Lord, O come Lord, come with joy to me!
Come Lord, O come Lord, come with joy to me!
O Lord, come soon, we pray!*

*Joy is a light that guides us on till Christ's day is here,
Joy is a light that guides us on till Christ's day is here,
Joy is a light that guides us on till Christ's day is here,
And Jesus brings it true!*

*Come Lord, O come Lord, come with joy to me!
Come Lord, O come Lord, come with joy to me!
Come Lord, O come Lord, come with joy to me!
O Lord, come soon, we pray!*

*There's joy for all the world for our Lord Jesus comes soon,
There's joy for all the world for our Lord Jesus comes soon,
There's joy for all the world for our Lord Jesus comes soon,
And Jesus brings it true!*

*Come Lord, O come Lord, come with joy to me!
Come Lord, O come Lord, come with joy to me!
Come Lord, O come Lord, come with joy to me!
O Lord, come soon, we pray!*

Sometimes in the lectionary, a reading presents the full citation that is referred to in the gospel reading. This Sunday, the reading is the oracle from Isaiah that Jesus cites in today's gospel reading. On Sunday, Christians praise the resurrection of Christ as just such a

SECOND READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

Reader: A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,

*joyous transformation
of all things. The
Sunday liturgy means to
celebrate that
transformation.*

the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Stanza 2)

Comfort, Comfort Now My People



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
 Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseauxes de David*, Geneva, 1551

The gospel of Advent 3 responds to the gospel of Advent 2: last week John the Baptist predicted the coming judgment, and this week Jesus, also citing the prophet Isaiah, speaks of the transformative power of his ministry. Each week we hear more about what the presence of God means for the world, today and at the end of time. That coming begins here, in word and sacrament.

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

Pastor: The Gospel according to Matthew the 11th chapter.
Assembly: Glory to you, O Lord.

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by

the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.
Assembly: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.



Worship today has been full of joy. We gathered with a liturgy of joy, the pink candle was lit, and joy angels were hung. "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" continues our joy with a lilting dancelike feel for this joyful Sunday.

HYMN OF THE DAY

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship #242)

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

John Thomas Furcht III

Parents: Katherine and John Furcht Jr.

Sponsors: Christina Casiano and Matthew Metcalf

Pastor: In baptism the Lord frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Sponsors: Who presents this child for baptism?
We present John Thomas Furcht III for baptism.

Pastor: Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have John Thomas baptized into Christ?

Parents: *We do.*

Pastor: As you bring John Thomas to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

To live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Parents: Do you promise to help John Thomas grow in the Christian faith and life?
We do.

Pastor: People of God, do you promise to support John Thomas and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

Assembly: **We do.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses the parents and sponsors.

Pastor: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that
defy God?

Parents/Sponsors: *We renounce them.*

Pastor: Do you renounce the powers of this world that
rebel against God?

Parents/Sponsors: *We renounce them.*

Pastor: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you
from God?

Parents/Sponsors: *We renounce them.*

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

Pastor: People of God, do you believe in God the Father?
**Assembly: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
**Assembly: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the
dead.**

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
**Assembly: I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Assembly: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Assisting Minister pours water into the font.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

Assisting Minister pours water into the font.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Assisting Minister pours water into the font.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Assembly: Amen.

BAPTISM

Pastor: John Thomas Furcht III, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Assembly: Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays:

Pastor: Sustain John Thomas with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Assembly: Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized.

Pastor: John Thomas Furcht III, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Assembly: Amen.

WELCOME

A lighted candle may be given to the newly baptized.

Assisting Minister: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Assisting Minister: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Assembly: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share. Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Assembly: And also with you.

Please sit.

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

The King Shall Come
Sanctuary Choir

by Thomas Keesecker

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY

(Stanza 3)

Prepare the Royal Highway



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!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



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!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



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!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup,
you offered yourself in love for the world,
and in this meal you nourish us with your life.
Fill us with your abundance, that we may feed
the hungry and welcome the stranger, trusting in
your name.

Assembly: Amen.



WE COME TO GOD'S TABLE



GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts,

Assembly: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,

Assembly: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PREFACE

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
... and join their unending hymn.

SANCTUS

(Setting 3)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor: Jesus was always the guest.

In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna, he was always the guest.

At the meal tables of the wealthy where he pled the case of the poor, he was always the guest. Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people, welcoming the stranger, he was always the guest.

But here, at this table, he is the host. Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him. Those who want to follow him must first be fed by him. For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished.

This is the table where we who are broken are made whole. So, come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world. Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his.

On the night in which he was betrayed, and as they were sitting at a meal, Jesus gave thanks, took a piece of bread and broke it. He gave it to the disciples saying, "This is my body. It is broken for you. Do this to remember me."

Later, after they had eaten, he took a cup of wine, gave thanks and said, "This cup is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Drink this all of you, to remember me."

So now we do as Jesus did. We take this bread and wine, the produce of the earth and fruit of human labor. In these, Jesus has promised to be present; through these, Christ can make us whole.

We ask, merciful God, that you send, in kindness, your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus.

Let that same Spirit rest on us, call us from the folly of this world, until in wisdom, we conform to the shape of him whose food we now share.

All this we ask through your son, Jesus Christ. By him, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

Assembly:

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Assembly: **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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: Behold, God is making all things new. Take your place in the new creation.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

DISTRIBUTION

*This is Christ's table of welcome. Jesus invites **all** who are hungry and thirsty for unconditional love and acceptance to come to God's banquet. The ushers will direct you forward at the appropriate time. Communion will be by station. Red wine and white grape juice are available in individual cups. Bread served is Gluten Free. If you wish to receive a blessing rather than communion, cross your arms over your chest. Return to your seat by the side aisle.*

AGNUS DEI

(Setting 3)

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship #266)

All Earth Is Hopeful

Toda la tierra

To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra_al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y_el sur - co_a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task; this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

2 *Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel:*
"De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel,"
será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será,
con él la esperanza al mundo volverá.
 3 *Montes y valles habrá que preparar;*
nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar.
Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar,
y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.

4 *En una cueva Jesús apareció,*
pero en el mundo está presente hoy.
Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está;
y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946

Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé

Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

(All Creation Sings #905)

We Are Waiting for Jesus

1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
 2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
 Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957
 Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen
 Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship #262)

Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Text: Taizé Community
 Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
 Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
 www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Assembly: **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Assembly: **Amen.**

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Pastor: Gracious God, you took the form of a servant, offering yourself as food, comfort, and strength to a sick and hurting world. Anoint with a servant heart those who take your word and sacrament to our siblings in their homes and in hospitals. Grant grace, mercy, healing, and hope to those who feast on your body and blood and receive your words of new life. May we all recognize that we have a place and a home in the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Assembly: **Amen.**





WE ARE SENT FORTH TO SERVE



We are sent out this morning singing a hymn that reminds us of the preparatory nature of Advent. In the text of this hymn, Eleanor Farjeon uses phrases like Love the Guest, Love the Rose, Love the Star, Love the Lord, to remind us that Christ “is on the way.”

Farjeon employs every part of creation to prepare the way of the Lord. Each stanza starts with a different object: People, look east (stanza 1), Furrows, be glad (stanza 2), Stars, keep the watch (stanza 3), and Angels announce (stanza 4).

SENDING HYMN

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship #264)

People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

Arr. © 1999 Novello & Company Ltd., London, United Kingdom. All rights reserved. International copyright secured.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Ancient One, enthroned, the Crucified One,
now risen, the Indwelling One, poured out, ✠
bless you now and forever.

Assembly: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

As part of our continuous efforts to make worship more inclusive and sensory friendly, we ask that you refrain from applauding during worship and after the postlude.

THIS WEEK'S COMMEMORATIONS

John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591

Sunday, December 14, 2025

John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order, and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.

Las Posadas (LLC)

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.

Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552

Saturday, December 20, 2025

Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.

There is a hearing-assistance system (induction loop) in the Sanctuary for those with hearing impairments. Please ask an usher for instructions.

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