

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH



**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 7, 2025**

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

Weekly Update

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



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Sunday, December 7, 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)

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Supply Pastor: Rev. Pam Mitcham
Director of Music and Liturgy: Jeremy Shoop
Sound Technician: Bob Thompson
Video Technician: Sylvia Moran

Serving December 7th: Second Sunday of Advent

Assisting Minister: Andy Krueger
Reader: Jared Lem
Acolyte: Gary Wolfe
Greeter: Jared Lem

Serving December 14th: Third Sunday of Advent

Assisting Minister: Matthew Andersen
Reader: Kristin Andersen
Acolyte: Andy Krueger
Greeter: Jared Lem

FLOWERS: Today's flowers are given to the glory of God during this season of peace and hope by Tonya Elliott.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE: DEC 7 – DEC 14

SU 7	9:00 am	Kingdom Kids & Angels ~ Choir Stall
	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School ~ Conference Rm
	10:00 am	Worship – Second Sunday of Advent
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH
TU 9	6:30 pm	Bldg Use: Boy Scouts Troop 12
W 10	11:30 am	Lunch for the Soul ~ FH
	6:00 pm	Midweek Advent Dinner
	7:00 pm	Midweek Advent Worship
TH 11	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
	8:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
SA 13	8:00 am	Bldg. Use: Herndon's Women AA ~ Rm 204
	11:00 am	Bldg. Use: Called2Be 7 th Day Adventist
SU 14	9:00 am	Kingdom Kids & Angels ~ Choir Stall
	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School ~ Conference Rm
	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



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)

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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. Dinner is served at 6:00 PM, followed by worship at 7:00 PM.

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.

12/10: Dinner – 6 pm, Worship – 7 pm
12/17: Worship – 6:30 pm, Dinner – 7 pm



Come make beautiful seasonal crafts to decorate your home for Christmas, enjoy fellowship with the Holy Cross family, eat some tasty Christmas goodies, and get your hearts ready for the birth of Christ! "Countdown to Christmas: A Celebration of Hope" will transform our Fellowship Hall into a warm, bustling Advent workshop. Whether you're new to Holy Cross or a long-time member, this is a wonderful opportunity to pause, connect, and enter the spirit of Christmas with joy and imagination.

CHRISTMAS EVE FESTIVAL CHOIR

Rehearsals:

Thursday, December 4th - 7:00 PM
Thursday, December 11th - 7:00 PM
Thursday, December 18th - 7:00 PM



Christmas Eve (December 24):

7:00 PM service

This is a great opportunity for anyone who enjoys singing but cannot commit to the regular choir schedule. The festival choir is also a great way for anyone who is considering joining the choir and simply wants to see what it is like.

If you are interested in joining the festival choir or have questions, please contact Jeremy at MusicDir@HolyCrossHerndon.org or call the church office at 703-437-1883.



BEER AND CAROLS PRIZE DONATIONS NEEDED

Tuesday, December 16 @ 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Prizes raffled off to benefit the Herndon charity - SHE BELIEVES IN ME
Sponsored by Herndon's Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Held at Herndon's Jimmy's Old Town Tavern

GREAT WAY TO ADVERTISE FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

JIMMY'S OLD TOWN TAVERN IS ALWAYS PACKED!

BE CREATIVE WITH YOUR PRIZE DONATION!



Contact Jeremy Shoop to donate
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.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025 ~ 10:00 AM

The origin of Advent as a season of fasting to prepare for baptisms at Epiphany is evident on the Second Sunday, which introduces the fiery preaching and baptismal ministry of John the Baptist. 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. The preaching of John the Baptist calls us to prepare for God—perhaps in many ways quite different from our usual preparation for Christmas.



GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Marcia Kratzke, piano; Jeremy Shoop, organ

arr. Lani Smith

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity,  one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

Assembly: Amen.

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Long expected God,

Assembly: we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to

release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.

Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

Pastor:

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. † You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

Assembly:

Amen.



The voice crying out in Isaiah 40:3-11 (also quoted by John the Baptist in today's gospel reading) is the inspiration for this hymn's text. The melody of this hymn seems rather disjointed at times, but still remains very singable. The disjointed nature of Henry Bancroft's melody is intended to be a musical portrayal of valleys being raised up and mountains bowing down.

GATHERING HYMN

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship #255)

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
 2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -
 3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the

call from the ways un - tred: Pre - pare in the des - er - a
 cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the

high - way, a high - way for our God!
 peo - ple, the com - ing of their king.
 na - tions and soon will the wrong.

The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 Like flow'r's of the field we - per - ish, like
 Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the

loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of
 lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now

pla - - es where God, our God, may go!
 na - - tions shall God, our dream a - way.
 lead them, and pass like a to your fold.

Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.
 Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988
 Music © Estate of Eldred Bancroft. B. Burrows, Executor.

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.

*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.*

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:

C: Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - le -
i - son, e - le - e - le - i - son

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:

C: Chri-ste, Chri-ste e - le - i - son,
e - le - e - le - i - son

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:

C: Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - le -
i - son, e - le - e - le - i - son

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor:

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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.



LISTENING WITH CHILDREN'S EARS

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

Reader:

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid;

the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

Christ comes not only to the Jewish people, as we would know from the Scriptures, and not only to us in the church, but also to all the Gentiles, that is, to all people of the world. In Advent we prepare for this momentous arrival, which in word and sacrament fills us with the power of the Holy Spirit. God comes always as the Triune One.

SECOND READING

Romans 15: 4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰ and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹ and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹² and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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 pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

To prepare for the coming of God in Jesus Christ, we are invited into a total reversal of life's values, a complete change of mind, the burning up of useless chaff. God comes to inaugurate "the kingdom of heaven," Matthew's Jewish way to speak of the presence and power of God. We celebrate that presence of God coming today in word and sacrament.

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

Pastor: The Gospel according to Matthew the 3rd chapter.
Assembly: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;
 make his paths straight.' "

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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

Please sit.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

Advent is a time of waiting and watching, but we know what we are watching for.

“Now the Heavens Start to Whisper” looks forward to the time of Christ’s second coming. With references to Christ being a shoot from the stump of Jesse (also found in today’s Isaiah reading), Mary Louise Bringle’s text reminds us that Christ’s advent is near. Take a moment and let some of the beautiful phrases sit in your heart: the heavens are whispering, the veil is growing thin, the earth is beginning to stir, moonlight is breaking through the clouds. Each stanza ends with a statement on how these events are all meant to prepare are hearts to welcome Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

(All Creation Sings #901)

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow-ing thin.
 2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon-light now be - gin to drift a - way.
 3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis-dom’s seed,

Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with-in:
 Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.
 come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.

seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se’s stem!
 Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.
 In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;

Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
 Heav - en’s em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
 Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
 Music: SUO GÂN, Welsh melody; arr. hymnal version
 Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.
 Arr. © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

APOSTLES' CREED

Assisting Minister: With the whole church let us profess our faith,
Assembly: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**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.**

**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. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assisting Minister: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

We pray for the greater church.

Assisting Minister: With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for creation.

Assisting Minister: With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Assembly:

We pray for justice.

Assisting Minister: With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in need.

Assisting Minister: With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease, including those we name before you now (*the assembly offers names*). Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation.

Assisting Minister: With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We remember the saints.

Assisting Minister: With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The sharing of THE PEACE is an ancient ritual that puts us right with our neighbors before we offer our gifts to God.

Pastor: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Assembly: **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Assembly: **And also with you.**

Please sit.

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

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:



Refrain
 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.

EUCARISTIC 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.

Amen.

Assembly:

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)

The musical notation consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are as follows:

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 #260)

The King Shall Come



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
 but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
 and left the lone-some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
 the day when Christ in splen-dor comes, and we shall see his face.
 Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick-ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship #247)

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Ososō, ososō



O - so - sō o - so - sō, pyong - hwa - ūi - im - gūm
 1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
 4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.



u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sō.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.



Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope

Music: OSOSŌ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947

Text and music © Geonyong Lee.

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



This hymn begins with allusions to Isaiah 40:3-5, where a highway for the King of kings is made straight. By the third stanza the King Is welcomed with gates flung open as in Psalm 24:7-10. Palms strew the way with hosannas as at Christ's entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (Matthew 21:1-9). Peace, freedom, justice, truth, and love with sounding praise reflect Isaiah 40 and the following chapters.

SENDING HYMN

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship #264)

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!

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

Comfort, Comfort, Now My People arr. Jerry Westenkuehler

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**Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397**

Sunday, December 7, 2025

While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead St. Augustine to faith.

Lucy, martyr, died 304

Saturday, December 13, 2025

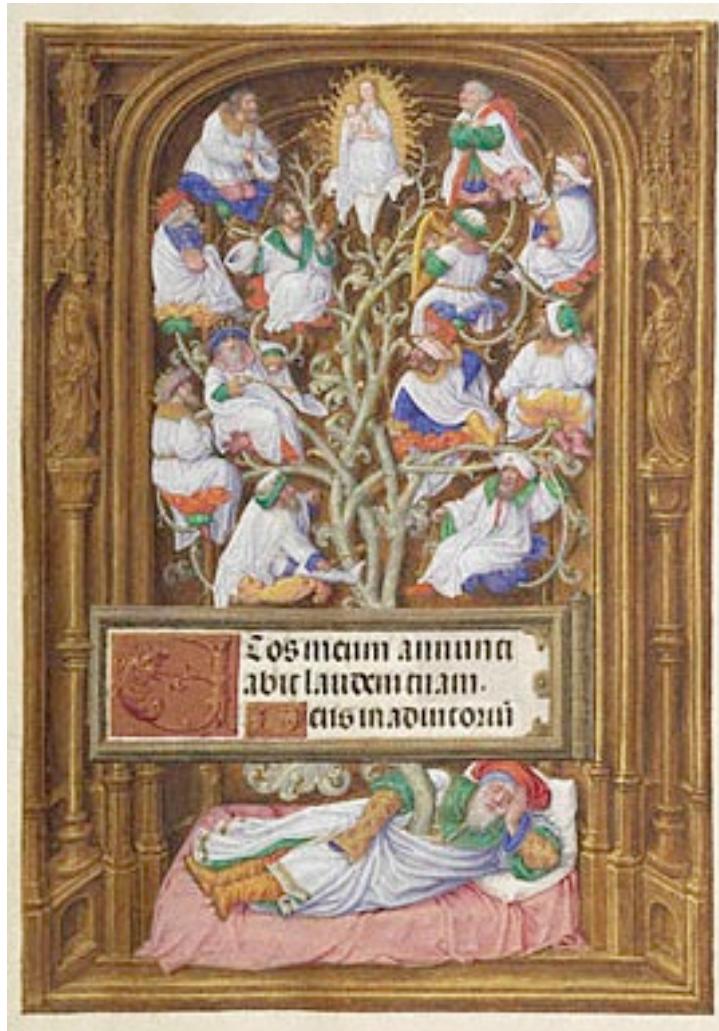
Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.

FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

[Cyril of Jerusalem, Lectures on the Christian Sacraments, trans. F.L. Cross (Crestwood, N.Y.: St. Vladimir's, 1977), 50-51.]

In the fourth century, encouraging those who were preparing for baptism, Cyril of Jerusalem said, “Great indeed is the baptism that is offered you. It is the remission of offenses; the death of sin; the luxury of paradise; a procuring of the kingdom. Prepare your heart to receive this doctrine, to have fellowship in these holy mysteries. Should you find any shameful, any base imagination rising, reflect upon God’s judgment, to remind you of salvation. Give your mind to sacred studies, that you may forget wicked things.”

Isaiah describes the coming Messiah as the branch that grows out of Jesse, King David’s father. One of the countless images in Christian art of the Tree of Jesse is a page from the Book of Hours (prayer book) of James IV of Scotland.



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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