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FOURTH SUNDAY IN *Advent*

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December 21-22, 2024

## As We Gather

**HOLY COMMUNION AT HOLY CROSS** is celebrated in accordance with the Lutheran confession that Christ's body and blood are truly given to us with the bread and wine to give forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation to repentant, reconciled believers in Christ. Missouri-Synod Lutherans united with us in that confession are invited to receive the Sacrament with us. Others who desire to commune should first speak with a Pastor or an Elder.

- ◆ For those who may require it: Holy Cross offers an alcohol-removed red wine (containing less than 0.5% alcohol) located in the center of each Communion tray.
- ◆ Gluten-free wafers are available upon request to a Pastor or Elder before the service.
- ◆ Communion in the pew is available: let an usher or Elder know before the service.
- ◆ Individual Communion cups: Please do *not* stack the plastic cups in the baskets after use at communion. Stacked cups stick together and hinder the rinsing process. Thanks for understanding!

**ATTENDANCE PADS:** Take a moment to sign the red fellowship pad located by the center aisle of each pew. Provide contact information if you are interested in membership or if you would like to be contacted by the church. After signing, please pass it to your neighbor and then return it to its spot by the aisle.

**LIVE-STREAMING of 8 AM SERVICE WEEKLY:** Holy Cross live streams the 8 AM service each Sunday on a link at our website ([hcross.com](http://hcross.com)). We provide this service for our members who cannot attend worship. The video perspective from the choir loft looks toward the altar and shows all aspects of the service from the sixth row of pews forward. This includes baptisms, children's talks, and communion.

### Prayers for Worship

#### ***On entering a church***

Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. Amen.

#### ***Before worship***

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

Fourth Sunday in Advent  
Divine Service, Setting Three  
December 21-22, 2024

Prelude: Two settings of "Veni Emmanuel"

Paul Manz, Paul Fey

Opening Hymn: "What Hope! An Eden Prophesied" LSB 342

Please Stand



1 What hope! An E - den proph-e - sied Where tame live with the wild;  
2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da-vid's line,  
3 As ban - ner of God's love un-furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,  
4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!  
A Prince of Peace in Beth - le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.  
That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.  
Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

✠ Confession and Absolution ✠

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{†}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## $\text{†}$ Service of the Word $\text{†}$

Introit

*1 Samuel 2:1b, 2, 5b-7; antiphon: Luke 1:46b-47*

**P** My soul magnifies the Lord,  
**C** **and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

**P** My mouth derides my enemies,  
**C** **because I rejoice in Your salvation.**

**P** There is none holy like the LORD;  
**C** **there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.**

**P** The barren has borne seven,  
**C** **but she who has many children is forlorn.**

**P** The Lord kills and brings to life;  
**C** **he brings down to Sheol and raises up.**

**P** The LORD makes poor and makes rich;  
**C** **He brings low and He exalts..**

**C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**P** My soul magnifies the Lord,  
**C** **and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

Kyrie



**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357 sts. 1, 3, 6



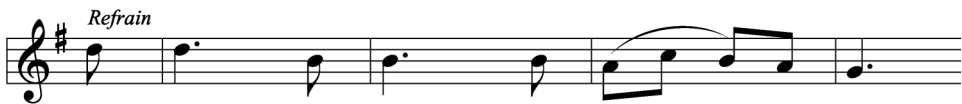
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy  
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst  
by Thy draw - ing night; Dis - perse the gloom - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.



*Refrain*  
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**G** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** **Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading: Micah 5: 2-5a

*Please Sit*

- A** The Old Testament Reading for the Fourth Sunday in Advent is from Micah, chapter 5.

**B** ut you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has given birth;  
then the rest of his brothers shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup>And he shall be their peace.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle: Hebrews 10:5-10

- A** The Epistle is from Hebrews, chapter 10.

**W** hen Christ came into the world, He said,  
"Sacrifices and offerings You have not desired,  
but a body have You prepared for Me;

<sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
You have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God,  
as it is written of Me in the scroll of the book.'"

<sup>8</sup>When He said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then He added, "Behold, I have come to do Your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Alleluia

LSB 190; Please Stand



Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel: Luke 1:39-56

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup>and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup>and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for He has looked on the humble estate of His servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup>for He who is mighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is His name.

<sup>50</sup>And His mercy is for those who fear Him  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with His arm;

He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the mighty from their thrones  
and exalted those of humble estate;

<sup>53</sup>He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich He has sent empty away.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped His servant Israel,  
in remembrance of His mercy,

<sup>55</sup>as He spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

<sup>56</sup>And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



## Apostles' Creed

**G** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

## Children's Message

*Please be seated/Sunday*

## Hymn of the Day: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

LSB 359



1	Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing	From ten - der stem hath
2	I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it,	The rose I have in
3	This flow'r, whose fra - grance	ten - der With sweet - ness fills the
4	O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y,	Who felt our hu - man





sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have  
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er  
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -  
 woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the  
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to  
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and  
 know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.  
 us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.  
 death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

Sermon

Offertory LSB 192

*Please Stand*



**C** Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -



tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

## Offering & Rite of Fellowship

*Please Sit*

*We ask that all worshipers take a moment to sign the red fellowship pad located at the end of the pew by the center aisle and return it to its spot when finished. If you are interested in membership, please provide a phone number or email address so that we may contact you. Thank you.*

## Voluntary: Es Ist Ein Ros Entsprungen

*Paul Manz*

## Prayer of the Church

*Please Stand*

**P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*Additional petitions conclude:*

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## ✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

### Preface

LSB 160

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus: "Holy, Holy, Holy"

LSB 195



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

**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 Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{†}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{†}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The Peace of the Lord

LSB 197



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**C** A - men.

Agnus Dei: "Lamb of God"

LSB 198



**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

Distribution for Holy Communion

Distribution Hymns:

*Please Sit*

- LSB 361 O Little Town of Bethlehem
- LSB 373 See amid the Winter's Snow
- LSB 337 The Night Will Soon Be Ending

Dismissal LSB 199

*Please Stand*

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart  $\text{✠}$  in peace.
- G** **Amen.**

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

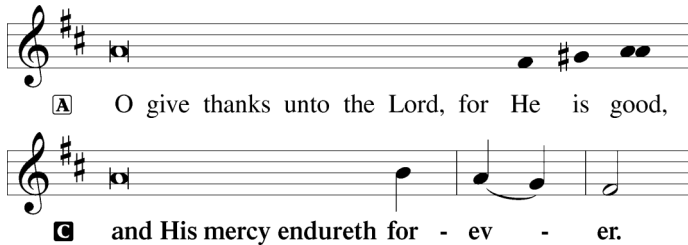
**G** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace accord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo-ple Is - ra-el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A-men.

## Thanksgiving

LSB 200



**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

**A** Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Benedicamus

LSB 212

**A** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

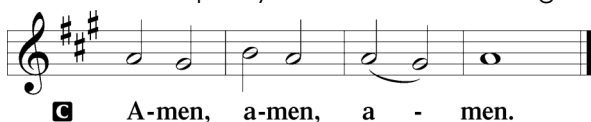
## Benediction

LSB 202

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

# Closing Hymn: My Soul Rejoices

LSB 933



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the  
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me  
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and  
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and  
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy  
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,  
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!  
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

Silent Prayer & Chimes

Postlude: Improvisation on "Consolation"

David Gilson

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## Serving in God's House Today

Preacher		Pastor Jason P. Kohm
Liturgist		Pastor Andrew J. Gimbel
Director of Christian Education		Charity Smith
Director of Music		David Gilson
Elder	Saturday, 3PM	Ralph Erickson
	Sunday, 8 AM	Ed Belter
	Sunday, 10:45AM	Neal Menscher
Ushers	Saturday, 3PM	Refer to Elder
	Sunday, 8AM	Mike Vesper, Karl Schnoor
	Sunday, 10:45AM	Jennifer Reed
Greeters	Saturday, 3PM	Linda Kettler
	Sunday, 8 AM	Chris & Jayme Price
	Sunday, 10:45AM	Neal & Cynthia Menscher, Glenda Kramer

### Acknowledgments

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Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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