

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
November 28, 2021



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Minneapolis, MN 55407
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Today's Theme: We are seized with Advent anticipation as we wait, hopeful for Christ the King to come again. We are bold to proclaim Jesus as Christ for He is the one who creates, nourishes, and sustains our faith that in turn, we may abound in love.

Silent Prayer Before Worship: Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink your body and blood in, with and under the bread and wine. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Welcome

Opening Hymn, “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” (Different tune)

- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How welcome You aright?
Your people long to greet You, My hope, my heart’s delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, Your lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly All that may please You best.

- 2 Your Zion strews before You Green boughs and fairest palms;
And I too will adore You With joyous songs and psalms.
My heart shall bloom forever For You with praises new
And from Your name shall never Withhold the honor due.

- 3 I lay in fetters, groaning; You came to set me free.
I stood, my shame bemoaning; You came to honor me.
A glorious crown You give me, A treasure safe on high
That will not fail or leave me As earthly riches fly.

- 4 Love caused Your incarnation; Love brought You down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation Procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling, That led You to embrace
In love, all love excelling, Our lost and fallen race.

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Invocation/Call to Worship

P We have come together this morning for a reason:

C **We are here to worship our God.**

P We worship in His holy name.

C **We worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Confession of Sins

C **As much as we don't like to admit it or think about it, we are sinners. Our words betray us, as do our actions. Even our thoughts are far from pure. We come, Lord, as Your humble children, asking – even begging – that You forgive us, even though we are far less than deserving.**

P Our God is just, and He is merciful. In His powerful grace, He listens to us when we bring Him our concerns, especially when we admit our sin-full-ness. In the name of Jesus, and for His sake, He forgives us all, of all our sins. Live in this confidence, then, that you are forgiven, and can begin again, cleansed by His grace-filled love.

C **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray:

C **We pray, O Most Holy LORD, as we enter the season of Advent, that You will grant each one of us Your Holy Spirit, so that our worship on Sundays and our daily lives will demonstrate our eagerness for Your once-again Presence in our lives. O Jesus, we pray in Your blessed name. Amen.**

The First Reading, Jeremiah 33:14-16 (NIV)

“‘The days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. ‘In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; He will

do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord Our Righteous Savior.””

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Reading, First Thessalonians 3:9-13 (NIV)

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father Himself and our LORD Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. May the LORD make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May He strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all His holy ones.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choir, “Hurry Over Clouds and Heaven” by Thomas Keesecker

Gospel Reading, Luke 1:11-20, 57-66 (NIV)

P The Gospel reading is introduced:

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

An angel of the Lord appeared to [Zechariah], standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many

will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous – to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.”

The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this Good News. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.”

When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the LORD had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.”

They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.”

Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.”

Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the LORD’s hand was with him.

P This is the blessed Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

A Statement of Faith

We believe in God the Father, Creator of the heavens and the earth.

We believe in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our LORD.

He was born on Christmas, lived a short life of ministry,

healed, served, and forgave sins of those near and far.

He realized His goal to call us together as His family –

around the table the night before He was crucified,

and around the cross where He gave His life for ours.

He conquered the power of death – for Himself and for us.

In His forever-life, He reigns as King with His Father in Glory.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

Who brings all these truths to us,

Guiding us to gather as the Christian Church,

Serving us as He comforts us with the forgiveness of our

sins,

And leading us in our service to our neighbors all around.

Amen!

The Offering Plates are not being passed at this time. You can give by sending your envelope to HCLC. You can give online from the Holy Cross homepage (holycrossmpls.org). Click on the blue button or directly via the Holy Cross online donation form. You can give to the General Fund, Building Fund, We Care, Synod or Trinity First. Donations are processed through faith based

Vanco. Payments are deposited directly into the Holy Cross bank account.

Sermon Hymn, LSB 332 [TLH 95]

“Savior of the Nations, Come”



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
△ 8 Glo - ry to the Fa - ther sing, Glo - ry to the



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
Son, our king, Glo - ry to the Spir - it be



That the Lord chose such a birth.
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
God was there up - on His throne.
Now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

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Sermon, “Anticipation Time”

“In those days and at that time I will make a Righteous Branch sprout from David’s line.” – Jeremiah 33:15a

Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer

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.

Communion

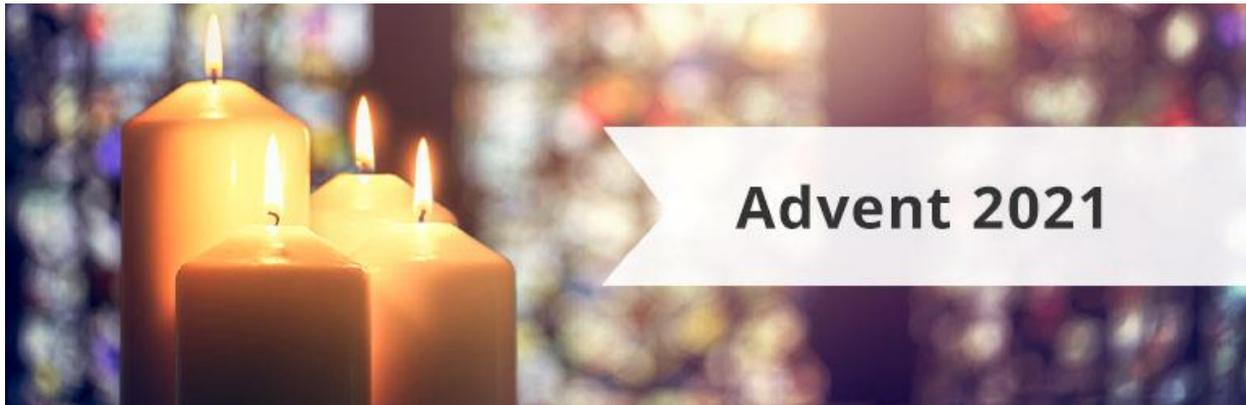
Choir

Benediction (NIV)

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

The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.

C **Amen.**



Christmas by the Creek

Christmas by the Creek is next Sunday beginning at 4PM. A signup sheet is posted in the narthex. See the poster on the bulletin board for other details.

Closing Hymn, LSB 341, TLH 73³
“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the
 4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a
 5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to



King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing
 tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em -
 Thee; here, Lord, a - bide! O en - ter with Thy grace di -



near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -
 ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your
 vine; Thy face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly



va - tion He doth bring; There - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing.
 Sov - 'reign en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin.
 Spir - it guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won.



To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
 To God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!
 E - ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

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Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Numbers from Last Sunday

The attendance on 11/21 was 43. The total offering was \$2,543 including \$95 to the Capital/Building Fund, \$45 to Trinity First, and \$25 to Synod.

Now Available

- December Newsletter
- 2022 Offering Envelopes
- Portals of Prayer (January – March Edition)
- Signup Sheet for Poinsettias

Bible Study

Please join Pastor Don and others in the Family Room as we begin a new Bible Study series on the Apostles Creed. If you brought a Bible to church, bring it along. If not, come anyhow...we have Bibles available.

Celebrations this Week

- Happy Birthday to Jamie Lustfield (12/4), Ivah Pannkuk (12/6).

Carol Sing

The Holy Cross carol sing is on again this year! We will be gathering on Friday, December 10 at Peter and Gail Klatt's house (1770 Tiffany Place, Eagan) at 7:00PM. Please bring finger food to share and your holiday spirit. All are welcome (please mask though if you are not vaccinated.) If you have not attended before, you've missed a really good time. Join us this year to enjoy the spirit of the season.

Dumpster Key

Holy Cross now has a locked dumpster. The key is hanging by the phone in the kitchen downstairs.

Continued prayers are requested for Harold and Evelyn Sand.

Sunday Treats

A signup sheet is on the table in the Family Room. Signup if you are willing to furnish treats to go along with our refreshments. Either home-made or store-bought is fine. See Judy Sorenson for more details.

Serving Today, November 28

November Altar Guild: Carol Rusk
November Deacon: Steve McConley
Choir Director: David Hinrichs
Choir Accompanist: Wendy Kofoot
Counter: Adam Horrmann
Lector: Jean Anderson
Organist: Julie Wright
Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Don Mulfinger
Recorder: James Blomberg
Treats: Mike Dennis
Ushers: Ed Copeland & Steve Blomberg

*Thank
you!*

Serving Next Sunday, December 5

December Altar Guild: Donna Daniels & Jean Anderson
December Deacon: Jim Likely
Choir Director: David Hinrichs
Choir Accompanist: Wendy Kofoot
Counter: Lynn Oolman
Lector: Steve Blomberg
Organist: Julie Wright
Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Don Mulfinger
Recorder: James Blomberg
Treats: No one is signed up
Ushers: Lynn Oolmann & Andy Tatham



Christmas BY THE Creek

A FREE EVENT

Sunday, December 5th
1720 East Minnehaha Parkway
Minneapolis

A Festival of Lessons and Carols
Bonfire, Caroling and Christmas Treats

★ Warm Socks donations being received for
Holy Cross Lutheran Pillar of Warmth ★

Beginning at 4 PM

- ★ Bonfire, Christmas Treats, and Beverages
- ★ Sing Christmas Songs
- ★ Fun Activities for Children

Beginning at 5 PM

- ★ Festival of Lessons and Carols *indoors*
- ★ Listen to wonderful readings and sing favorite Christmas carols
- ★ Stay for more treats and bonfire fun!

Bring your friends ★ Make new ones!

christmasbythecreek.com

