



*The Third Sunday in Advent*

December 13-14, 2025

## *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.

### **HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE**

Those with hearing aids can now download and use a smartphone or tablet app that broadcasts the service to their hearing aids. (Bluetooth connection required)

#### **Step 1. Log in to the Guest Wi-Fi**

Network Name: **HC-Guest**

Password: **Romans1:16**

You will be prompted to join the "HC-Guest" Wi-Fi network

#### **Step 2. Download the ListenWIFI App**

Search your device's app store for the **ListenWIFI** app by Listen Technologies



Third Sunday in Advent  
Divine Service, Setting Three  
December 13-14, 2025

Prelude: Veni Emmanuel

Paul Fey

Prelude: Prepare the Royal Highway

Paul Fey

✠ Confession and Absolution ✠

Opening Hymn: "Prepare the Royal Highway" LSB 343

*Please Stand*



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 should 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, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!  
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!

*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 ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## ✠ Service of the Word ✠

### Introit

*Psalm 71:14–18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4; Sunday*



Rejoice in the Lord | always;<sup>\*</sup>  
again I will say, | Rejoice.

**I will hope con- | tinually<sup>\*</sup>  
and will praise you yet | more and more.**

My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation |  
all the day,<sup>\*</sup>  
for their number is past my | knowledge.

**With the mighty deeds of the Lord God | I will come;<sup>\*</sup>  
I will remind them of your righteousness, | yours alone.**

O God, from my youth you have | taught me,<sup>\*</sup>  
and I still proclaim your | wondrous deeds.

**So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not for- | sake me,<sup>\*</sup>  
until I proclaim your might to another generation,  
your power to all | those to come.**



☐ Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

### Kyrie

LSB 186



☐ 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, 6

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y

ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
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.

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

**P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

*Please Sit*

**A** The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 35.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

<sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.  
<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
<sup>4</sup>Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
"Be strong; fear not!  
Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you."  
<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup>then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.  
For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.  
<sup>8</sup>And a highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;  
the unclean shall not pass over it.  
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;  
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.  
<sup>9</sup>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.  
<sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

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

## Psalm - Wait for the Lord

Psalm 27:14; 70:4; Isaiah 40:3, 5; Sunday

The cantor sings the parts marked "A." The congregation sings the parts marked "C"

**A** Refrain

**C** Refrain

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!

**A** Prepare the way for the Lord. Make a straight path for God.  
Prepare the way for the Lord!

**C** Refrain

**A** Rejoice in the Lord always: God is at hand.  
Joy and gladness for all who seek the Lord!

**C** Refrain

**A** The glory of the Lord shall be revealed. All the earth will see the Lord!

**C** Refrain

**C** Refrain

## Epistle: James 5:7-11

**A** The Epistle is from James, chapter 5.

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.



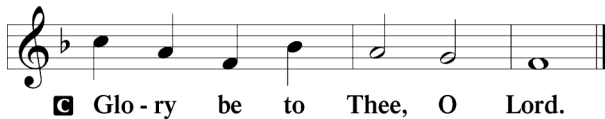
## Alleluia

LSB 190; Please Stand



## Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:2-15

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.



When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses.

<sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.”

<sup>11</sup>Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup>From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup>For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, <sup>14</sup>and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. <sup>15</sup>He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

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



## Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\text{✝}$  of the world to come. Amen.

Children's Message

*Please be seated/Sunday*

Hymn of the Day: "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"

*LSB 348*

Sermon



**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: Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

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 347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

LSB 354 Arise, O Christian People

LSB 636 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ☩ in peace.

**C** Amen.

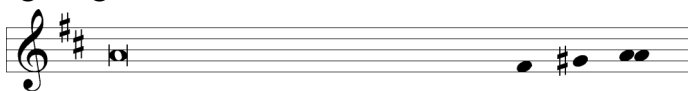
## Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

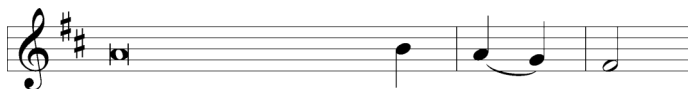
**C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-  
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the 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 unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



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

## Closing Hymn

*See page 17 of the bulletin*

## Silent Prayer & Chimes

## Postlude: Richmond (Hark the Glad Sound)

*Healey Willan*



# Closing Hymn: "Hark the Glad Sound"

LSB 349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.



# Serving in God's House Today

## December 13-14, 2025

|                                 |                 |   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Preacher                        |                 | Pastor Andrew J. Gimbel                       |
| Liturgist                       |                 | Pastor Jason P. Kohm<br>Seminarian Jacob Bode |
| Director of Christian Education |                 | Charity Smith                                 |
| Director of Music               |                 | David Gilson                                  |
| Organist on Saturday            |                 | Jill Kirk                                     |
| Cantors                         |                 | Melanie Dafler, Mike & Dawn Kahler            |
| Violinist                       |                 | Drake Nagle                                   |
| Flutist                         |                 | Anna Gilson                                   |
| Elders                          | Saturday, 3PM   | Jerry Lancour, Paul Helvey                    |
|                                 | Sunday, 8AM     | Ed Belter                                     |
|                                 | Sunday, 10:45AM | Brian Storm, Kent Haffer                      |
| Ushers                          | Saturday, 3PM   | Refer to Elder                                |
|                                 | Sunday, 8AM     | Mike Vesper, Terry Hardy                      |
|                                 | Sunday, 10:45AM | Refer to Elder                                |

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# Holy Cross Lutheran Church & Pręschool

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*With the help of God,  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
grows disciples  
and transforms hearts  
for Christ.*