



Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
Guiding our journey of faith.

December 22, 2024

Worship with Holy Communion

10:00 a.m.

Pastor Samantha (Sam) Perret, Presiding

Welcome to all who worship with us today, especially our visitors. We invite you to return and worship with us again.

Hymns are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Service Book & Hymnal (red book).



**Fourth Sunday
of Advent**

+ GATHERING +

Welcome and Announcements

* Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of mercy,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

P: God of might,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

P: God in our midst,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

P: A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through ✝ Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

C: Amen.

Music today by Barbara Mase ~ Thank you!

**Gathering Hymn
(v1-4)**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel **ELW# 257**

Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

+ WORD +

Reading for us today is Arnold Arnajallum

Lesson 1 – Micah 5:2-5a

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Lesson 2 – Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." ⁸When 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), ⁹then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle - #240 "Light One Candle To Watch For Messiah" (v4)

Gospel – Luke 1:39-55
The Gospel according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." [⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

ELW# 251

***APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us confess our faith, in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**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.

Sharing prayers with us today is Bill Villano

Prayers of Intercession

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities. Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Today we pray especially for all those on our prayer list below, all whom we send cards through our Care Card Ministry, on our prayer tree and those we now name in our hearts or with our voices... *[Current prayer list: Larisa & JTL, JP, Barbara S, Kathy M, Joshua, Luna, Myra S, Elaine W, Jim C, Arlene & William S, Judy J, Arthur F and family, Jacky A, Eva B, Shawn Y, Candie L, The LeClair family, Mark B, Nadia & Gary M, Glenn & Ann, Betsy C, Adam K, Don M, Lori, Susan A, Randy and Priscilla B, Randolph K, Jeff S]*
Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Generous God, we know that all good things come from you, and we give you thanks for the many blessings we have received. We name before you now some of the gifts for which we are thankful... Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping. **Amen.**

*** Sharing the Peace**

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

C: And also with you.

+ MEAL +

* Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray,

C: God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

* The Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: Holy Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and Earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

L: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

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, grant us peace.

Assisting with communion today is Pat Huesch

Communion Distribution In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.

* Post-Communion Blessing

L: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen**

A: Let us pray.

C: Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.

+ SENDING +

L: God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✚ bless and keep you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn
(v1-4)

Savior of the nations, Come

ELW# 263

P: Go in peace, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

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BIBLE STUDY: Bible Study will resume on Tuesday, January 7 at 6PM on Zoom and Thursday, January 9th at 10am in the Conference Room.

Altar Care Volunteers

Today: Sr. Carol Weaver & Janine Kifer

12/24: Christmas Eve

12/29: Tish Hunter & Char Lawton



Hospitality Volunteers

Today: Rita Villano

12/29: Becky Armington

****There is a new hospitality sign-up list on the bulletin board for
January & February 2025***



**Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
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Lutheran Church in
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**To welcome all into safe, sacred relationship, as
the Spirit works through us to embody God's love
and grace in the world.**