

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA
“Spirit-Led, Community-Driven!”
Contemporary Worship
10:00 AM CT December 29, 2024,
First Sunday after Christmas

GATHERING The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people
of God

MEDITATION MUSIC *Angels We Have Heard On High (King & Country)*

Intro

Gloria

Oh oh oh oh oh

Verse 1

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

Verse 2

Shepherds why this jubilee
Why your joyous strains prolong
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song

Chorus

Gloria

In excelsis Deo

Gloria

In excelsis Deo

Verse 3

See Him in a manger laid
Whom the choirs of angels praise
Mary Joseph lend your aid
While our hearts in love we raise

Ending

Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King
(REPEAT)

CCLI Song # 7163427

CCLI License # 1787498

WELCOME by *Worship Asst*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT by *Pastor*

THEME FOR THE DAY... “”



GREETING *Assembly please stand as you are able.*

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE *The four Advent candles are lit.*

The season for watching and waiting is over. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. This is the light of the world, and the darkness cannot extinguish it.

The Christ candle is lit.

“O sing to the Lord a new song; Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of his salvation from day to day. “Declare his glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples” (Psalm 96:1-3).

PASSING THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

The people may move around and greet one another with a sign of Christ’s peace.

PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people. *A brief silence.*

For the thriving of creation, we pray. Protect the habitats of pangolins and porcupines, penguins and parrots, and all wild animals and creeping things. Increase our knowledge of the natural world and the care of its inhabitants. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For the nations of the world, we pray. Raise up rulers who lead with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Let your peace rule in their hearts and in all lands especially in places of war and conflict. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For the well-being of your people, we pray. Keep watch over all who travel this holiday season. Console parents and children whose relationships are strained or severed. Accompany those who are alone or ill especially:

Adam Jackson,

Leah Leimbach,

Preben Christensen,

Sionie Elavsky,

Lois Ristau,

Ginger Prellwitz,

Cheryl Weiland (at home and recovering),

Sharon Reiss (lung cancer),

Sandy Kalin (recovering from covid),

Mike Bailey

Prayers of comfort to the family of Sandra Hughes (Cheryl Weiland's sister, who passed away this last Friday.)

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For your holy, beloved, and chosen ones of every time and place, we give thanks. Draw us all into everlasting praise and joy. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** *The Assembly may be seated*

WORD God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

First Reading: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 *Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband Elkanah come to the temple to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.*

¹⁸ Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹ His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰ Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the loan that she made to the LORD," and then they would return to their home. ²⁶ Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to the God.**

Psalm 148 *Please read responsively*

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights. ² **Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.** ³ Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars. ⁴ **Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.** ⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created, ⁶ **who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.** ⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps; ⁸ **fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;** ⁹ mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars; ¹⁰ **wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;** ¹¹ sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world; ¹² **young men and maidens, old and young together.** ¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven. ¹⁴ **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD.** Hallelujah! *Assembly please stand as you are able.*

The Holy Gospel: Luke 2:41-52 *Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd Chapter **Glory be to you O Lord.**

⁴¹ Now every year [Jesus's] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents were unaware of this.

⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you." ⁴⁹ He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them, and his mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favor.

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ** *Assembly may be seated.*

CHILDREN / YOUTH TIME MESSAGE: " "

OFFERING

- *Please continue to offer to Holy Cross what you desire to give to God through*
- *E-giving pledge through Vanco online*
- *Send your check directly to Holy Cross at 13014 Olive Blvd. in Creve Coeur, MO 63141*
- *Go to our Website & hit "DONATE NOW"*
- <http://www.holycrosselca.com/site/cs/links.asp>

SONG FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE *Christmas Day*

Verse 1

Joy to the world
On a night like no other
Emmanuel
God is with us

Verse 2

Beggars and kings
Let us come and adore Him
Rest in His peace
And bow before Him

Chorus

Sing all you people
The Lord almighty reigns
Sing ev'ry creature of God
Come bless His name
For He is good for He is good
He was born to conquer the grave
Light of the world
The reason for Christmas Day

Verse 3

Stars we have seen
Over deserts and oceans
The darkness was deep
But never hopeless
Redemption came
And His name is Jesus

Bridge

From the mountains
We will shout it out
For the Lord our God almighty reigns
He is with us
He is with us now
For the Lord our God almighty reigns

Tag

Light of the world
The reason for Christmas Day
CCLI Song # 7139126
CCLI License # 1787498

MEAL God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Assembly please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER *Led by the Worship Asst.*

God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

Amen

The presiding minister instructs those communing at home to gather their communion elements to hold up during the Words of Institution.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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. And so we proclaim the mystery of our faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

The Assembly may be seated.

COMMUNION SONG *Christmas Offering*

Verse 1

Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star
While angels sang to lowly shepherds
Three wise men seeking truth traveled from afar
Hoping to find the child from Heaven
Falling on their knees
They bowed before the humble Prince of Peace

Chorus

I bring an offering of worship to my King
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing
Jesus may You receive the honor that You're due
Oh Lord I bring an offering to You
I bring an offering to You

Verse 2

The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love
There is no shadow in Your presence
No mortal man would dare to stand before
Your throne
Before the Holy One of Heaven
It's only by Your blood it's only through Your mercy
Lord I come

Chorus

Ending

We bring an offering to You
We bring an offering to You
We bring an offering to You
CCLI Song # 7005509
CCLI License # 1787498

Assembly please stand if you are able

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *Led by the Worship Asst.*

Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

Amen.

SENDING God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING The God of love, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL *Led by the Worship Asst.*

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly. **Thanks be to God.**

SENDING SONG *How Great Is Our God* CCLI Song # 4348399 CCLI License # 1787498

Verse 1

The splendor of the King
Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice
All the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light
And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice
And trembles at His voice

Chorus

How great is our God
Sing with me
How great is our God
And all will see how great
How great is our God

Verse 2

And age to age He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the End
Beginning and the End
The Godhead three in one
Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb
The Lion and the Lamb

Bridge

Name above all names
Worthy of all praise
My heart will sing
How great is our God

How Great Thou Art Chorus

Then sings my soul
My Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art
How great Thou art
Then sings my soul
My Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art
How great Thou art

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL!

INTERIM PASTOR: Gerhard W. Kraus

LAY ASST: Renate Hawn

A/V LATE SERVICE Camera – Court, Sound - Dave R, Slides- Philip

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC WORSHIP DIRECTOR: Dave Reinking

PRAISE BAND: Brandon Clay, Marty Little, Brendan Falsetto, Matt Davis

SINGER: Moira McCracken

ALTAR FLOWERS given to the glory of God from Steve Kuhlman in honor of Darlene and Kjersten's birthday

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Dave Winkler (President), Bob Morin (Vice President), Kevin Aleshire (Member at Large) Kari Brangan, Kelly Caligiuri, Donovan Lucas, Philip Paul, Mary Bailey (Treasurer), Clarence Jentes (Financial Secretary), Penny Rudolph (Secretary)