Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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THE STRORM FIRSTBORM OF MY SONS REDEEM

1873-2024 151 Years of God's Grace

Sharing with Everyone the Good News of Salvation Through Jesus Christ!

Divine Service with Holy Communion 9:00am Bible Class and Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

Welcome to

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

WARDA, TEXAS - LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

PO Box 69 Warda TX 78960 979.242.3333 holycrosswarda.com

Sunday, December 29, 2024

First Sunday after Christmas

+ IN NOMINE JESU +

(In the Name of Jesus)

GUESTS & VISITORS: Welcome to Holy Cross and to today's worship service. We are glad you are here! Please register your attendance in the Fellowship Book in the pew (be sure to include the name of any children with you today). We invite you to come and worship with us again. If you have any questions, or have an interest in joining Holy Cross, please speak with Pastor or one of our Elders.

Our Communion Policy: Communicant members of LC-MS congregations are welcome to join us for Communion. Please mark the Fellowship Book, providing us with your address and the name of your home congregation. In keeping with our confessional heritage, we practice "close communion." If you are not a member of an LC-MS congregation and wish to commune, we ask that you please visit with Pastor or one of our Elder's before partaking of Holy Communion. Thank you.

IN TODAY'S READINGS:

The Firstborn Son of God Is Our Redemption from Sin and Death

When the Lord destroyed the firstborn sons of Egypt, He spared the sons of Israel by providing a lamb in their stead. Hence, all the firstborn sons belong to Him. Every firstborn male animal was sacrificed, and every firstborn son of man was redeemed (Ex. 13:12–13). Therefore, the parents of Jesus "brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord" (Luke 2:22). However, He is not redeemed from priestly service but is consecrated for "the redemption of Jerusalem" and "the consolation of Israel" (Luke 2:25, 38). For God the Father did not spare His only begotten Son, but offered Him up as the true Passover Lamb, in order to redeem His people from bondage. His cross has caused many to stumble and fall, but His blood atoned for the sins of the world and delivers us from death. We now depart in the peace of Christ because we are also raised with Him. As we receive His body and blood, we join Simeon and Anna in "giving thanks to God the Father through him," "singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs," including the Nunc Dimittis, with thankfulness in our hearts (Luke 2:28–32, 38; Col. 3:15–17).

PRELUDE - Selected

THE RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

Hymn 92

[Please stand]

INVOCATION pg. 5ff

P In the name of the Father, and of the

→ Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

☐ ☐ Amen.

Matthew 28:20

CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

- 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.

 [Hebrews 10:22]
- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord.
- **C I** Who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

- P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.
- ☐ ☐ And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Psalm 32:5
- Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end, that by Thy grace, we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
- Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy up on and hath given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgiveth us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He giveth power to become the sons of God and hath promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.
- ☐ **A** Amen. [John 20:19-23]

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT - Psalm 98:1-4; antiphon: Isaiah 52:10

The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

The Lord has made known his salvation;

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

GLORIA PATRI Pg. 6ff.

☐ ☐ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Kyrie

☐ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Mark 10:47

HYMN OF PRAISE

Hail the Day So Rich in Cheer

Hymn 78

SALUTATION AND COLLECT FOR THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

- **C And** with thy spirit.
- P O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- **C A** Amen.

[Please sit]

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 13:1-3a; 11-15

¹The Lord said to Moses, ²"Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine."

³Then Moses said to the people, "Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the Lord brought you out from this place. . . .

¹¹"When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, ¹²you shall set apart to the Lord all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the Lord's. ¹³Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴And when in time to come your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall say to him, 'By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. ¹⁵For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem."

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a

To us a child is born, to us a son is given;

and the government shall be upon his shoulder.

And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Sing to the Lord a new song,

for he has done marvelous things!

EPISTLE READING

Colossians 3:12-17

¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and

hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

[Please stand and face the pastor in the center of the nave, a sign of Christ's presence among His people]

VERSE Luke 2:30, 32

- ☐ ☐ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
- P My eyes have seen your salvation; a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.
- ☐ ☐ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:2-40

- **P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.
- **G** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation

31that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- ☐ ☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED pg. 12

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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men

Hymn 105

SERMON

"Jesus, our Redemption"

[Please stand]

OFFERTORY pg. 12

Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Psalm 51:10-12

[Please sit]

RECEIPT OF OFFERINGS

PAUSE TO PONDER: Luke 2:38 – "And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem." Notice here how giving thanks to God leads to good works (speaking about Jesus, in this case). Thankfulness towards God for all He has done for us is the foundation of a Christian life lived in godliness. For if we know all that the Lord has done for us, how can we not strive to honor Him with what we think, say and do?

[Please stand]

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

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

Almighty God, You have chosen us from the foundation of the world to be Your people. Strengthen our hearts by Your grace and open our lips to sing Your praises, that Your Holy Word would dwell richly within us from generation to generation. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Heavenly Father, grant Your blessing to the whole Church on earth, that Christ's people may set their hearts and minds on the things above and be clothed with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lover of mankind, bind our families together in perfect harmony and rule our hearts with the peace of Christ. Cause His Word to dwell richly among us, and let fathers and heads of the household teach and admonish their families in all wisdom. Let our songs, words and deeds be done in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, with thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious Father, as blessed St. Anna waited in the temple for the consolation of Israel, give to Your people who await the second advent of our Savior endurance in our vocations, that we would do the good works You have prepared in advance for us to do. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Lord, You wounded Your own Son to bring us the eternal healing of Your love. Bless all who suffer wounds of body and soul especially Wayne, Layne, David, Courtney, Lawrince, Clayton, Cheryl, and those we name before You in our hearts. Grant them healing according to Your will, and sustain them unto the day of the resurrection of all flesh. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

O Lord, as blessed Mary treasured all things in her heart, grant us to know what is worthy of our attention and what will pass away, that approaching the table of our

Lord we may be well-prepared to receive with repentance and faith His flesh for the life of the world and His blood that cleanses us from all our sin. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

All these things we pray, O Lord, in confidence of Your mercy, trusting that You will grant us all things needful and prevent all things harmful to our faith, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Page 24ff.

PREFACE AND PROPER PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

- **☐** And with thy spirit.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.

[Colossians 3:1]

- \square We lift them up unto the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

[Psalm 136]

- \square It is meet and right so to do.
- It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord: For in the mystery of the Word made flesh Thou hast given us now revelation of Thy glory that, seeing Thee in the person of Thy Son, we may be drawn to the love of those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Thy glorious name, evermore praising Thee and saying:

SANCTUS

☐ ☐ Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; Heavn'n and earth are full of Thy glory; Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, Blessed is He, Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

LORD'S PRAYER

- P Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom, and teach us to pray:
- 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.

 Matthew 6:9-13

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24 Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

PAX DOMINI AND AGNUS DEI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always!

John 20:19

☐ ☐ Amen.

If you are unable to climb the chancel steps without assistance, please come forward at this time.

☐ ☐ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen. John 1:29

Silent Prayer before Communing:

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul at the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

To Shepherds as They Watched by Night While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night God Loves Me Dearly Hymn 103 Hymn 109 LSB Hymn 392

1. God loves me dearly, grants me salvation, God loves me dearly, loves even me.

Refrain:

Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly, God loves me dearly, loves even me.

- 2. I was in slav'ry, sin, death, and darkness; God's love was working to make me free. Refrain
- 3. He sent forth Jesus, my dear Redeemer, he sent forth Jesus and set me free. *Refrain*
- 4. Jesus, my Savior, himself did offer; Jesus, my Savior, paid all I owed. *Refrain*
- 5. Now I will praise you, O Love eternal; I will praise you all my life long. *Refrain*

O Sing of Christ LSB Hymn 362



Silent Prayer after Communing:

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

[Please stand]

NUNC DIMITTIS pg. 29ff

C ☐ Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation: which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Luke 2:29-32

THANKSGIVING AND POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

- P Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
- \square And His mercy endures forever.

Psalm 107:1

- We give thanks to Thee, Almighty God, that Thou hast refreshed us through this salutary gift; and we beseech Thee that of Thy mercy Thou wouldst strengthen us through the same in faith toward Thee and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.
- ☐ ☐ Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

Hymn 97

POSTLUDE

OUTREACH THOUGHT: Luke 2:22-40: Simeon had it right - Christmas has arrived, so that we can celebrate for the rest of our eternal lives, not so that it can be over as soon as we open the gifts, eat the ham, put away the decorations and then put it all behind us for another year. Simeon lifted up the gift that he had waited for all his life and recognized that in it, we had the Gift that would lead us to eternal rejoicing, Christ Jesus our Savior. Don't give in to the "after Christmas letdown." You have the salvation and peace that God promised and promises in His Son. May your celebration continue and may your sharing of the Good News in God's Word be just as bold and vibrant as it was on Christmas Eve and may your peace be ever found in Jesus, who is with you always.

LOOKING AHEAD: Next Sunday we will observe Epiphany (just a day early!). This is an important day in the church's life together, as it reveals Jesus' mission to save us from our sins in even sharper detail than did our celebration of Christmas! In the Epiphany, we see the magi journeying to worship Christ, the king of the world! They were gentiles, and yet they were added to the people of God through faith in the Son, revealed by the star! Join us as we celebrate Epiphany together next Sunday! Readings are: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our New Year's Eve Worship is Tuesday evening at 6:30 with communion. Everyone is invited to come as we bid farewell to 2024 and look forward to 2025.

Installation of 2025 Church Officers and Board members will take place next Sunday, January 5th, during our morning worship service. All those who will serve as an officer or board member for 2025 are asked to be here for installation.

Oh No! It's the BIG 4-0! Join us in celebrating Pastor Beck's 40th birthday on Friday, January 3rd, beginning at 6PM at the picnic grounds. Hamburgers will be served at 7PM. Feel free to bring a snack or dessert to share and BYOB if you want something other than tea or water. No presents are needed, just your presence. If you are planning to come, please call or text Chelsea at 940-704-0040 See you there!

The Wednesday night Bible study group will begin studying 2nd Kings on January 8th at 6:30 p.m.. New members are always welcome! For more information about this group or their upcoming study, contact Cyndy Zoch at cyndy.zoch@gmail.com or 979-966-3166.

The Amanda Knox Memorial Scholarship Fund will hold a BBQ Pulled Pork Taco meal on Monday, January 20th. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased in the church office or by calling or texting Cyndy Zoch at 979-966-3166. In addition, we will be selling tickets after church Sundays in December and January until sold out. Only 250 tickets will be sold so don't wait! All proceeds will be used to award another scholarship to an 8th grade student attending Faith Lutheran High School.

FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Seeking a German Teacher:

FLHS rejoices with the Obersat family as they have accepted a new call to serve in Wyoming, however, this leaves Faith without a German teacher following Christmas break. Faith Lutheran High School is actively seeking a part-time German teacher for the spring semester of 2025. All interested candidates are encouraged to call to learn more about this position. Please reach out to Mrs. Kueck at (979) 242-2889. If you have the time and talents, please consider sharing your gifts with our students. Thank you!

Raffle Items:

The Spring Raffle is just around the corner. The Board of Directors is currently looking for valuable items or monetary donations to be used in the raffle. Please contact Nikki Kueck if you have something to donate! Thank you!

End of Year Giving:

In Proverbs 2:6, God's Word promises: "The LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding." Faith Lutheran High School exists to instill Christ's wisdom in His Word to prepare faithful leaders for tomorrow. Thank you for being a part of this mission through your prayers and financial support. Please prayerfully consider how you can give to further Lutheran education in our area. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mrs. Nikki Kueck at (979) 242-2889.

Thank you!:

Everyone at FLHS is blessed by each gift that we receive from our supporters. It's not about the size of the gift, but the cheerful attitude that gives thanks to God (2 Corinthians 9:7). Whether your gift seems big or small, it is greatly appreciated and makes a bigger impact than you know!



Wayne Kappler, recovering from a procedure
Layne Schramm, recovering from surgery
David Lehmann, undergoing tests for back and leg pain
Courtney Wagner, undergoing treatments for cancer
Lawrince Heinrich, hospitalized in St. David's South
Clayton Wolf, son of Allen & Dolores Wolf and brother of Melissa Alford, undergoing additional treatments
Cheryl Jurk, friend of Sunny Woelfel, diagnosed with Thyroid Cancer

Those who serve today: December 29, 2024

Rev. Dustin Beck Mrs. Ann Bamsch Mr. Shea Kasper Hailey Bamsch Pastor Organist Audio/Video System Acolyte

Elders on Duty Mr. Cory Knox Mr. David Weishuhn

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

TODAY	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service w/Holy Communion NO Bible Class or Sunday School today
TUESDAY	6:30 p.m.	New Year's Eve Worship w/ Communion
	8:00 p.m.	Couple's Club Christmas Party
THURSDAY	9:00 a.m.	Sewing Circle
FRIDAY	8:00 a.m.	Board of Ed
Next Sunday	Installation of 2 9:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Divine Service w/Holy Communion Adult & Youth Bible Class & Sunday School

Soli Deo Gloria

(To God alone be Glory)