

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
P.O. BOX 69 WARDA, TX 78960

Thursday, December 25, 2020

Christmas Day

GUESTS AND VISITORS: Merry Christmas! Welcome to Holy Cross and this mornings worship service. We are glad you are here as we worship and give praise to our newborn King. We pray that this Christmas season has been one of peace and good health for you and your family. We invite you to come and worship with us again. If you are a visitor, and have any questions about Holy Cross, please call our church office and speak with Pastor Beck during the week.

The Living and Life-Giving Word of God Dwells Among Us in the Flesh

The Lord sends out His ministers of the Gospel to make disciples *“of all the nations,”* so that *“all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.”* For the Lord has *“bared his holy arm”* in the incarnate Christ (Is. 52:7, 10). The child in the manger, born of the Virgin Mary, is the very Word of God, the only begotten Son of the Father, *“whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world”* (Heb. 1:2). As *“all things were made through him”* (John 1:3), so are all things redeemed and made new in Him. In His body of flesh and blood, we behold *“the radiance of the glory of God”* (Heb. 1:3), *“glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth”* (John 1:14). He dwells among us in peace, that we might have life and light and salvation in Him. For by His Word of the Gospel, we are born again as the children of God, bearing His name and sharing His eternal life.

Prelude - Selected

The Ringing of the Church Bell

Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn: *“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”* *Hymn 102*

1. Oh, come all ye faithful, triumphantly sing:
 Come, see in the manger our Savior and King!
 To Bethlehem hasten with joyful accord:
 Oh, come, let us adore Him, Oh, come, let us adore Him,
 Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

2. True Son of the Father, He comes from the skies;
 To be born of a virgin He doth not despise;
 To Bethlehem hasten, with joyful accord;
 Oh, come, let us adore Him, Oh, come, let us adore Him,
 Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

3. Hark, hark to the angels all singing in heaven,
"To God in the Highest all glory be given!"
To Bethlehem hasten, with joyful accord;
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!
4. To Thee, then, O Jesus, this day of Thy birth,
Be glory and honor through heaven and earth.
True Godhead incarnate, omnipotent Word!
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord! Amen.

[please stand]

The Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

C: ♪ Amen.

The Confession of Sins & 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.

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 Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

P: 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.

C: 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.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His name, He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C: ♪ Amen.

The Introit: Psalm 98:1–4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6

For 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.

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!

For 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.

The 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.**

The Kyrie

♪ **Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Hymn:

“Rejoice, Rejoice, this Happy Morn”

Hymn 79

Rejoice, rejoice, this happy morn,
A Savior unto us is born,
The Christ, the Lord of Glory.
His lowly birth in Bethlehem
The angels from on high proclaim
And sing redemption's story!
My soul, extol God's great favor,
Bless Him ever For salvation,
Give Him praise and adoration. Amen.

The Salutation & The Collect for the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: 🎵 **And with thy spirit.**

P: Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: 🎵 **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10 (ESV)

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The 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.

The Gradual: Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1

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

C: and the government shall be upon his shoulder.

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

C: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

P: Sing to the Lord a new song,

C: for he has done marvelous things!

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 1:1-12 (ESV)

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”?

⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.”⁷Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.”

⁸But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

¹⁰And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; ¹¹they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, ¹²like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed.

But you are the same, and your years will have no end.”

[please stand]

C: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Verse: John 1:14

P: Alleluia. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

C: and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel: John 1:1-18 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C: ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of

God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord..

C:  Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Apostle's Creed

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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.

Sermon Hymn: *"Of the Father's Love Begotten"*

Hymn 98

1. Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the Source, the Ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.
2. Oh, that birth forever blessed When the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer, First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.
3. O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing;
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent, Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

4. This is He whom Heav'n-taught singers Sang of old with one accord;
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the Long-expected; Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.
5. Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

The Sermon

“The Word Made Flesh”

[we stand]

The Offertory

♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. 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.

Receipt of Offerings

Hymn:

“A Great and Mighty Wonder”

Hymn 76

1. A great and mighty wonder, A full and holy cure:
The Virgin bears the Infant With virgin honor pure!
Repeat the hymn again: "To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!"
2. The Word becomes incarnate And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems To shepherds from the sky.
Repeat the hymn again: "To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!"
3. While thus they sing your Monarch, Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, ye vales and mountains, Ye oceans, clap your hands.
Repeat the hymn again: "To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!"
4. Since all He comes to ransom, By all be He adored,
The Infant born in Beth'lem The Savior and the Lord.
Repeat the hymn again: "To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!"

5. And idol forms shall perish, And error shall decay,
And Christ shall wield his scepter, Our Lord and God for aye.
Repeat the hymn again: "To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!" Amen.

The Prayers of the Day

To us a child is born, to us a son is given; let us offer praise, thanks and prayer to God the Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

For all who celebrate the incarnation, that the knowledge that their God reigns would cause them to lift up their voices and sing for joy, and that they would always be ready to tell others about the Word made flesh, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all pastors, that God would work through their proclamation of Christ to bring the good news of happiness and salvation to all who hear them, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the nations of this world, that they would be given a spirit of peace so that conflicts cease and all see in the birth of Jesus the salvation of our God, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who suffer persecution for the sake of Christ, that they would be kept firm in their faith as they bear witness to the light of the world, and that they would never lose sight of their identity as children of God, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the destitute, those recovering from natural disaster and those who find themselves in want, that they would receive the necessities for daily life, that the agencies who serve them would receive generous support, and that those who serve and those who are served would come to see God as the Giver of daily bread, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who suffer sickness in mind or body, those who are homebound and all who have asked for our prayers, that God would grant them healing, peace, patience and faith that endures, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

In thanksgiving for all the people of God who have gone before us and now rest in His presence, that we, too, would be kept faithful until that day when He makes all things new, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Hear us, O Lord, for the sake of Your Son, the Word become flesh, the Savior of the nations, Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God.
Amen.

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.

The Collect for the Word/Church

P: Blessed Lord, who has caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of Your holy Word we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which You have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

C: ♪ Amen.

The Benediction

P: The Lord bless Thee and keep Thee. The Lord make His face shine upon Thee and be gracious unto Thee. The Lord lift up His countenance upon Thee and † give Thee peace.

C: ♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.

The Closing Hymn:

“Joy to the World”

Hymn 87

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King; Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love. Amen.

Christmas Poinsettias

Thank you to everyone who has given a Poinsettia to beautify our sanctuary this year!
You may take your poinsettia home after this mornings service.

In memory of Justin Whited, Sr., Harold and Irene Kasper, and Ralph Kasper by
Margie Whited and family

In memory of Jimmie Lehmann, Billy and Jo Ann Lange, Willie and Ruby Lehmann,
and John and Renata Teinert by Kevin and Sandra Lange and daughters

In memory of Barbara Zoch by Bruce Zoch

In memory of Arnold Kasper by Evelyn Kasper, Billy and Pat Karisch

In memory of Rosie Heinrich and Bernice Heinrich by Lawrince Heinrich and
Nichole and Jack Gomez

In memory of Elwert and Helene Hobratschk by Lisa Wood

In memory of Alice and Otto Kunze by Glenn, Allen, Charles, Karen and Mark

In memory of Amanda Zoch Knox by Ron & Cyndy Zoch, Cory and Emma Knox
and Megan, Brett, & Jett Lamont

In memory of Roy and Ruth Lehmann by Roland and Betsy Guettler

In memory of all our loved ones who have gone to be with Jesus by Willie and Judy
Wagner

In memory of Elmo and Helen Pietsch by Dennis and Diann Pietsch

In honor of Amy Wagner by Willie and Judy Wagner

In honor of Willie and Judy Wagner by Amy Wagner

To the glory of God by Delbert and Judy Zoch

To the glory of God for all His blessings by J.C. and Carol Schramm

This year's sanctuary Christmas Tree is given to the Glory of God by Jerrell and
Oranell Dunk in memory of all Holy Cross members who have gone to their heavenly
home in 2020.

FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY,
IN THE CITY OF DAVID
A SAVIOR, WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD!
LUKE 2:11



MERRY CHRISTMAS!