



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

WARDA, TEXAS - LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

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And they gave Him the name Jesus.



Holy Cross Lutheran Church (LCMS)

1873-2020

147 Years of Grace

Divine Service

9:00 a.m.

Holy Communion

1st & 3rd Sundays

Bible Class &

Sunday School

10:15 a.m.

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

NEW YEARS' EVE WORSHIP

The Order of Compline (Close of Day)

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

December 31, 2020

Our Times Are in His Hands

The Church and the world are awake, but for very different reasons. The world counts down to midnight; the Church watches eagerly for her Master who is “*coming at an hour*” we “*do not expect*” (Luke 12:40). For many, the changing year brings regrets, fears and desperate wishes for improvement. The world delights in smooth talk and illusions of prosperity at any cost (Is. 30:9–10). It has already forgotten “*the Holy One of Israel*” born six days earlier (Is. 30:11). The Church ends the calendar year differently. “*In returning and rest . . . in quietness and in trust,*” that is, in repentance and faith, for the Holy One saves us, and He is our strength (Is. 30:15). Our times are in His hands (Ps. 31:15), the hands of Mary’s Son — God not only with us, but for us (Matt. 1:23). So, who could be against us? If God has given His Son, “*how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?*” (Rom. 8:31–32). The Church dresses for action not in fear, but in hope; Christ is coming to serve her with His gifts (Luke 12:37). Who is there to condemn us for the passing year? Christ has died, is raised and intercedes for us! What distress will the new year bring? Nothing can “*separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord*” (Rom. 8:34–39)!

HYMN OF INVOCATION - *Across the Sky the Shades of Night*

Hymn 110

1 Across the sky the shades of night
This New Year’s Eve are fleeting,
We deck Thine altar, Lord, with light,
In solemn worship meeting;
And as the year’s last hours go by,
We raise to Thee our earnest cry,
Once more Thy love entreating.

3 And while we pray, we lift our eyes
To dear ones gone before us,
Safe home with thee in Paradise,
Whose peace descendeth o’er us;
And beg of Thee, when life is past,
To reunite us all at last
With those who’ve gone before us.

2 Before the cross subdued we bow,
To Thee our prayers addressing,
Recounting all Thy mercies now,
And all our sins confessing;
Beseeching Thee this coming year
To keep us in Thy faith and fear
And crown us with Thy blessing.

4 We gather up in this brief hour
The mem’ry of Thy mercies;
Thy wondrous goodness, love and pow’r
Our grateful song rehearses;
For Thou hast been our Strength and Stay
In many a dark and dreary day
Of sorrow and reverses.

5 In many an hour when fear and dread,
Like evil spells, have bound us
And clouds were gathering overhead,
Thy providence hath found us.
In many a night when seas ran high,
Thy gracious presence, drawing nigh,
Hath made all calm around us.

6 Then, O great God, in years to come,
Whatever may betide us,
Right onward through our journey home
Be Thou at hand to guide us;
Nor leave us till at close of life,
Safe from all perils, toil, and strife,
Heaven shall enfold and hide us.

Please Stand.

OPENING VERSICLES

Psalm 92:1

P The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

C Amen.

P It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

C to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;

P to herald Your love in the morning,

C Your truth at the close of the day.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

C The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.

C I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

P The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

C Amen.

PSALM

Psalm 98:1–3; antiphon: Psalm 124:8

Our help is in the name of the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

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.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Our help is in the name of the LORD,

who made heaven and earth.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 30:15–17

For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel,

“In returning and rest you shall be saved;

in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”

But you were unwilling, and you said,

“No! We will flee upon horses”;

therefore you shall flee away;

and, “We will ride upon swift steeds”;

therefore your pursuers shall be swift.

A thousand shall flee at the threat of one;

at the threat of five you shall flee,

till you are left

like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a signal on a hill.

Silence for reflection.

EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 8:31b–39

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;

we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Silence for reflection.

HOLY GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 12:35–40

[Jesus said:] “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they

may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Silence for reflection.

RESPONSORY

Psalm 31:5

- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
- C** **Into Your hands I commend my spirit.**
- P** You have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.
- C** **Into Your hands I commend my spirit.**
- P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Into Your hands I commend my spirit.**

OFFICE HYMN - *Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love*

Hymn 114

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 Jesus! Name of wondrous love, Name all other names above, Unto which must ev'ry knee Bow in deep humility. | 2 Jesus! Name decreed of old, To the maiden mother told-- Kneeling in her lowly cell-- By the angel Gabriel. |
| 3 Jesus! Name of priceless worth To the fallen sons of earth, For the promise that it gave, "Jesus shall His people save." | 4 Jesus! Name of mercy mild, Given to the holy Child When the cup of human woe First He tasted here below. |
| 5 Jesus! Only name that's given Under all the mighty heaven Whereby man, to sin enslaved, Bursts his fetters and is saved. | 6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love, Human name of God above; Pleading only this, we flee, Helpless, O our God, to Thee. |

SERMON

“Thank God for 2020!”

OFFERING

Please Stand.

PRAYERS

Psalm 102:1; Psalm 17:8; Psalm 17:15

- P** Hear my prayer, O Lord;
- C** **listen to my cry.**

P Keep me as the apple of Your eye;
C **hide me in the shadow of Your wings.**

P In righteousness I shall see You;
C **when I awake, Your presence will give me joy.**

P Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come. In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of life may find our rest in You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in Your mercy grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Visit our dwellings, O Lord, and drive from them all the snares of the enemy; let Your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let Your blessing be on us always; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Eternal God, the hours both of day and night are Yours, and to You the darkness is no threat. Be present, we pray, with those who labor in these hours of night, especially those who watch and work on behalf of others. Grant them diligence in their watching, faithfulness in their service, courage in danger, and competence in emergencies. Help them to meet the needs of others with confidence and compassion; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. Abide with us and with Your whole Church. Abide with us at the end of the day, at the end of our life, at the end of the world. Abide with us with Your grace and goodness, with Your holy Word and Sacrament, with Your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes upon us, the night of fear and despair, the night when death draws near. Abide with us and with all the faithful, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE PREFACE AND THE PROPER PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C *♪* **And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C *♪* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C *♪* **It is meet and right so to do.**

P 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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the Messiah from the very Lamb of God, and calling sinners to repentance, that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He cometh again in glory. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Thy glorious name, evermore praising Thee and saying:

THE SANCTUS

C *♪* **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, Hosanna in the highest.**

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 WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PAX DOMINI & THE AGNUS DEI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C *♪* **Amen.**

C *♪* **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.**

THE DISTRIBUTION

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

Hymn 85

1 "From heav'n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:

3 "This is the Christ, our God and Lord
Who in all need shall aid afford;
He will Himself your Savior be
From all your sins to set you free.

5 "These are the tokens ye shall mark:
The swaddling-clothes and manger dark;
There ye shall find the Infant laid
By whom the heavens and earth were made."

7 Give heed, my heart, lift up thine eyes!
What is it in yon manger lies?
Who is this child, so young and fair?
The blessed Christ-child lieth there.

9 Ah, Lord, who hast created all,
How weak art Thou, how poor and small,
That Thou dost choose Thine infant bed
Where humble cattle lately fed!

11 For velvets soft and silken stuff
Thou hast but hay and straw so rough,
Whereon Thou, King, so rich and great,
As 'twere Thy heaven, art throned in state.

13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for Thee.

15 Glory to God in highest heaven,
Who unto us His Son hath given!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth. Amen.

2 "To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child, of lowly birth,
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

4 "He will on you the gifts bestow
Prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom, bright and fair,
You may with us His glory share.

6 Now let us all with gladsome cheer
Go with the shepherds and draw near
To see the precious Gift of God,
Who hath His own dear Son bestowed.

8 Welcome to earth, Thou noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
Thou com'st to share my misery;
What can we render, Lord, to Thee?

10 Were earth a thousand times as fair,
Beset with gold and jewels rare,
It yet were far too poor to be
A narrow cradle, Lord, for Thee.

12 And thus, dear Lord, it pleaseth Thee
To make this truth quite plain to me,
That all the world's wealth, honor, might,
Are naught and worthless in Thy sight.

14 My heart with very joy doth leap,
My lips no more can silence keep;
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradle-song:

Please stand.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE - *Nunc Dimittis*

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. 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.

THE THANKSGIVING

P Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C ♪ **And His mercy endures forever.**

P 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 liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

C ♪ **Amen.**

THE BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION

P The Lord be with you.

C ♪ **And with Thy spirit.**

P Bless we the Lord.

C ♪ **Thanks be to God.**

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 ♪ **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

HYMN TO DEPART - *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

Hymn 123

1 Our God, our Help in ages past,
Our Hope for years to come,
Our Shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal Home!

3 Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

5 Thy word commands our flesh to dust:
"Return, ye son of men!"
All nations rose from earth at first
And turn to earth again.

2 Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

4 A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

6 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

7 Like flowery fields the nations stand,
Pleased with the morning light;
The flowers beneath the mower's hand
Lie withering ere 'tis night.

8 O God, our Help in ages past,
Our Hope for years to come,
Be Thou our Guard while life shall last
And our eternal Home! Amen.

“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.”



Homemade
GIFTS MADE EASY