



December 11, 2022 - 9:30 am

3rd Sunday in Advent



GATHERING: The Spirit Calls Us Together

Welcome and Announcements

Temple Talk

Jerry Wajda

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Advent Song

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

ELW 257

Call to Worship

Gathering Hymn

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

ELW 264

Greeting

Kyrie

Hymn of Praise

"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

ELW 265

Prayer

Special Music

"Advent Voices"

Carolyn Bell Choir

WORD: We Hear God in Scripture & Preaching

Isaiah 35:1-10... The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 146:5-10... Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God, ⁶who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; ⁷who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; ⁸the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. ⁹The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. ¹⁰The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 11:2-11...When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see:⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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

Message Pastor Heather Grell

Hymn of the Day

"Come to Set Us Free"

Prayers

Sharing God's Peace

MEAL: God Feeds us with the Presence of Jesus

Offering

Special Music

Offertory

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace"

ELW 247

Great Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Communion

Communion Songs

"Lamb of God"

"Wait for the Lord"

ELW 262

Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

SENDING: Being Loved, God Sends Us to Love

Blessing

Sending Song

"People Look East"

Dismissal

Postlude

Announcements

- ⇒ **Call Process Update** Throughout the building, you will see **Call Process** posters. We are currently in the Preparation Phase, steps 2 & 3. In **Step 2** (The Transition Projects) the church council has been looking at community demographics, compiling a digital view book about the ministry of Holy Cross, and ensuring that our governing documents are up to date. In **Step 3** (The Ministry Site Profile) the church council has begun to compile and draft a ministry site profile for the congregation. Due to the starting of a new Bishop in our synod and the transition to a new synodical staff, our Assistant to the Bishop will change starting in January. Pastor Juliet Focken will help facilitate this transition and beginning in January we will be working with Pr. Gregory Berger. Pastor Heather will continue to serve as our full-time interim pastor throughout the call process.
- ⇒ **Centering Prayer Group** will meet Monday's at 1:00 pm in the Youth Room here at Holy Cross. Questions, contact Paula McDonald at 402-210-6040.
- ⇒ **Food Pantry** Our third Thursday of the month Food Pantry is Thursday, December 15th. [CLICK HERE](#) to help. We are in need of canned veggies, canned fruit, pasta sauce, pasta, cereal, juice, bar soap, and paper sacks.
- ⇒ **Recycle your Christmas Lights!** Joe Evans is taking old strings of lights to Scrap Central which provides recycling at no cost. There will be a bin in the Narthex marked Christmas Lights Only.
- ⇒ **Christmas Pantry** For the December 15th Food Pantry, we will be providing cookies and hot cocoa to each family and we need your help! Use the link below to sign up for either a dozen cookies or a box of hot cocoa. Please have to the church no later than Wednesday, December 14th. Thanks! [Click Here to Sign Up.](#)
- ⇒ **Middle School Gathering** 6th-8th graders are taking a trip to Kearney, NE for the NE Synod Middle School Gathering January 14-15, 2023. Cost is \$40 and registration forms have been emailed to parents. Registrations are due December 9th. Hope you can join us!
- ⇒ **Christmas Caroling** Join your Holy Cross Family as we go out and carol to some of our members that are not out and about. Meet at the church today, December 11th at 1:45 pm where we will form groups of carolers and head out. Music provided. Come and make a joyful noise! [Click Here to register.](#)
- ⇒ **The Advent season**-We wait. We watch. We hope. Join us **December 18 at 9:30 am** for the 4th Sunday of Advent celebrating with music from all of our choirs and listening to **Stories of Hope**, told by you.
- ⇒ **Christmas Eve Worship:** 4:00 pm Carols, Children's Message, & Candlelight. 8:00 pm Carols & Candlelight.
- ⇒ **Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day**—Join us at 9:30 am as we Welcome the baby Jesus!

Calendar for Upcoming Week

Sunday, December 11

9:30 am Worship
10:45 am Sunday School/Adult Forum
10:50 am Youth Ensemble
11:00 am High School/Middle School Bells
2:00 pm Caroling

Monday, December 12

1:00 pm Centering Prayer Group
6:30 pm Boy Scouts
7:00 pm Rachel Circle
9:00 pm CMA Meeting

Tuesday, December 13

3:00 pm Finance Committee
6:30 pm Property Committee
7:30 pm A.A. Meeting

Wednesday, December 14

6:00 pm Confirmation/Uke Choir
6:30 pm Youth Worship
7:00 pm Radical Ringers/Youth Group

Thursday, December 15

5:00 pm Food Pantry
6:30 pm Carolan Bell Choir
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Friday, December 16

7:00 pm Belles N Beaus

Saturday, December 17

10:00 am Christmas Program Rehearsal
4:00 pm Kern Family Cookie Baking

Sunday, December 18

9:30 am Worship - Stories of Hope
10:45 am Sunday School/Adult Forum
10:50 am Youth Ensemble
11:00 am High School/Middle School Bells
3:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 48012 Meeting

Prayer Requests from our Church Community

Member Concerns: Jan Swanson as she recovers from a fall. **Connie Mertz** as she deals with medical concerns.

On-Going Member Concerns: Edie Nabity at Hillcrest Papillion

Friends and Relatives: Jessica Sampson, Matthew Wrenn & Family, friends of Melissa Regan; **Todd & Kristie Erickson**, brother & sister in law of Wendy Erickson; **Cliff & Carol Speck**, friends of Loreen & Harvey Gifford; **Walt Weaver & Carson Rich**, family of Carol Rich; **Angela Gehring**, friend of Brad Yearwood; **Ronda Bayer**, friend of Debbie Risinger; **Debbie Haacke**, coworker of Debbie Risinger; **Logan Black**, son of Joey Black; **George Adamson**, friend of Sue Spengler; **Tatyana Povazhnaya**, friend of Sue Spengler; **Gaylen Grunke**, Wes Grunke's Brother; **Jason West**, Sue Spengler's boyfriend's cousin; **Andie Hunter**, Elizabeth Yearwood's sister; **Linda Anderson**, Barb Kay's sister; **Amy Churchill**, friend of Barb Kay; **Ronald Gulbranson**, Julie Noteman's brother; **Josh Prochotsky and family**, Paula McDonald's nephews son and family; **Aaron McDonald and Family and Caregivers**, McDonald's grandson.

Grieving

Jim Schneider and family as they mourn the loss of Jim's mother.