

The Third Sunday In Lent
December 17, 2023 • 8:30 a.m.
Divine Service — Hymnal Supplement 98
(Readings for Advent 3, Series B)

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN “Hark the Glad Sound”

LSB #349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

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INVOCATION, CONFESSION, AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross (✠) may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins,

People: **O Lord, who could stand?**

Pastor: But with You there is forgiveness;

People: **therefore You are feared.**

Psalm 130:3-4

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

People: I, a poor miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;

to comfort all who mourn;

³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—

to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning,

the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;

that they may be called oaks of righteousness,

the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins;

they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities,

the devastations of many generations. . . .

⁸For I the LORD love justice;

I hate robbery and wrong;

I will faithfully give them their recompense,

and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations,

and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;

all who see them shall acknowledge them,

that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;

my soul shall exult in my God,

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

EPISTLE READING 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA VERSE



☐ Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



☐ These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



☐ Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL John 1:6-8, 19-28

Pastor: The Gospel according to John, the 1st chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

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.

¹⁹And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly
 2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'
 3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
 4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send
 heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,
 Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—
 gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
 Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
 Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
 Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

5. **Bruise for me the serpent's head That, set free from doubt and dread,
 I may cling to You in faith, Safely kept through life and death.**
6. **Then when You will come again As the glorious king to reign,
 I with joy will see Your face, Freely ransomed by Your grace.**

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SERMON **“A Voice Calling”**
Text: John 1:6-8, 19-28

OFFERING

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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 Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen**

PRAYERS

✠ THE LORD'S SUPPER ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with You. *2 Timothy 4:22*

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord** *Colossians 3:1*

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.** *Psalm 136*

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

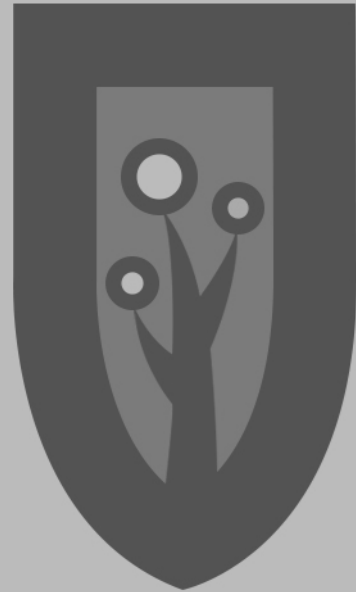
BELONGING



BELIEVING



BEARING 



Weekly Announcements for December 17 at ...



HOLY CROSS

LUTHERAN CHURCH

BELONGING, BELIEVING, & BEARING  IN JESUS

509-483-4218 www.holycrosslcms.net 7307 N. Nevada
secretary@holycrosslcms.net or scomi@holycrosslcms.net
Pastor Mike: mvonbehren@holycrosslcms.net cell:509-701-6413

Worship each week at—8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.: Each week we offer two services—an early more traditional service at 8:30 a.m. and a later more contemporary service at 10:45 a.m. The blessing of this schedule is that it allows for at least 45 minutes of fellowship over coffee and goodies in our Fellowship Hall with all worshipers from both services together. Please plan to join us for fellowship and worship! Fellowship is at 9:45-10:30 a.m. Weekly Sunday Services will break from this normal schedule on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve with services at 10 a.m. each of these days. The normal schedule will resume January 7.

Offerings: We thank each of you for your continued financial support of Holy Cross. Donations may be made through our website, through your bank, through automatic transfers, by mailing a check into the office, or at one of the in-person services. Donations received from Dec.4-Dec. 10, 2023 were \$17,574.50. Questions? Need help? Contact the office at 509-483-4218 or secretary@holycrosslcms.net.

Sunday School starts at 10 a.m.: Sunday School teachers will round up kids from the Fellowship Hall at a few minutes before 10 a.m. and take them to their rooms. Sunday School will run until 10:35 a.m. and kids can be picked up from their classrooms. Kids will be divided into preschool-1st grade and 2nd-5th grade. Parents of little kids are invited to come help their little ones. Sunday School will take a break for Christmas Eve and New Years Eve and resume on January 7.

Middle & High School Bible Class is in the Youth Room from 10-10:35 a.m. today lead by Pastor Mike & Ben Anderson.

“To Be” Groups Studies: “To Be” groups are our Sunday morning adult small group studies. See details on back and join one. “To Be” groups will take a break for Christmas Eve and New Years Eve and will start again on January 7.

Stephens Ministry Leader Training has been moved to January: In our community the characteristics of compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness and patience, serve as a meaningful foundation for what a Stephen Minister is called to be and do. If you are interested, please fill out an application and begin the discerning process to see if this ministry is for you. There are applications on the long oak table in the Narthex. Questions? Contact Don Comi at 509-990-8145.

Prayer List: If you would like prayers for needs going on in your life or if you would like to be on our prayer list praying for others, please email Gwen at prayerlistholycross@gmail.com or call Barbara Ammons at 509-328-0213.

Choir is meeting Thursday nights at 7p.m. in the sanctuary. Come join us and make a joyful noise.

Looking Ahead: Life Light in January. The Gospel of Mark is the next study. Books are ordered and will be available for pick up, along with registration, in a couple of weeks in the lay office. After Christmas they will be on the round table in the narthex.

Office will be closed December 25-Merry Christmas! and January 1- Happy New Year!

Advent Service continues on December 20: During Advent we have evening service on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and you don't need to worry about dinner as we also host Soup Suppers at 5:30 p.m. before the service begins. Advent soup suppers will include a craft for kids so bring the family and come join us! Our soup supper will be hosted by our Men's Morning Bible Study on December 20. Come join us.

Advent devotional books are available on the round table in the narthex.

Holy Cross Family Christmas Party is TODAY, Sunday, December 17, 6-9 p.m. The Ellwanger family will be hosting, at their home (4357 S. Greystone Ln.) the Holy Cross Family Christmas Party. If your last name begins with A-M—bring an hors d'oeuvre to share and if your last name begins with N-Z—bring a dessert to share. You may also bring a wrapped gift (\$10 or under) if you wish to participate in the gift exchange. Questions? Contact Art or Mardi Ellwanger at 509-710-8425 or 509-868-7354 or *mfcgirl@aol.com*.

Sunday School Christmas Program is TODAY, December 17 at the 10:45 a.m. service. If all the kids can meet in the large Sunday School room at 10 a.m. we will have a dress rehearsal and the teachers will bring the kids down the hall to the church for the program. Immediately following the program, the kids will return to the large Sunday School room to return their costumes and receive a small Christmas gift from their teachers. If parents can pick up their kids from the classroom following the program that would be greatly appreciated. The kids are excited to share the wonderful Christmas story from Luke 2:1-2 with you all!"

Poinsettia Order Forms are on the round oak table for you to fill out and turn in if you'd like to help beautify our church this Christmas. Please return this order form to the church or place it in the offering plate. Last day to orders is December 20th.

The Bethlehem Tree: Thank you to all who purchased Christmas gifts and placed them back under the Bethlehem Tree. They will get distributed and help some family's have a very Merry Christmas.

Invite a friend, relative or neighbor to one of our Christmas services. There are flyers on the round table in the narthex, so pick up a few and pass them out to those you know. This is an easy way to share Christ's love with those around you.

THANK YOU TO ALL who beautified our church for this Christmas season. It is so festive!

The Lost and Found Box has found a few things lately, so if you're missing something, go take a look. It's located in the hallway to the south of the sanctuary.

Coffee Call: Needing regular coffee again. No decaf please, we have plenty. Please bring to the kitchen. Thank you!



Adult Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Morning “To Be” groups will take a break for Christmas Eve and New Years Eve and will start again on January 7.

Sunday Moring “To Be” Groups: Please sign up for “To Be” groups in the Narthex. Room numbers are indicated on the sign up sheets and also below. All are welcome. Join us!

9 am Loving Jesus, a study on various aspects of the life of faith as found in the Gospels. Written by a Lutheran New Testament scholar, this is a great study for living a meaningful Christ-centered life. The study will be facilitated by Lisa Key. Room 036.

10 am 2nd Peter and Jude, a Bible study of the New Testament books of 2nd Peter and Jude. This is a shortened 35 minute study to accommodate parents with kids in Sunday School or Youth Bible Class. These two short letters at the end of the New Testament seek to root every believer’s faith deeply in God’s word as we wait the soon coming return of Jesus. This study is a God’s Word for Today publication of Concordia Publishing House and will be facilitated by Margie Indahl. Room 029.

10:30 am Church Year Bible Studies, a Bible study of the readings used in worship for that particular Sunday of the Church year. This will take you deeper into the scriptures for the week giving you more out of every Sunday service. This study is published by Concordia Publishing House and facilitated by David Gannaway. Room 003.

10:30 am Provoking Proverbs and the Ten Commandments, a Bible study produced by Concordia Publishing House that looks at the ten commandments through wisdom of the book of Proverbs. It’s a great study for learning to navigate God’s way of wisdom in a wayward world. This study will be facilitated by Alan Meyers. Room 036.

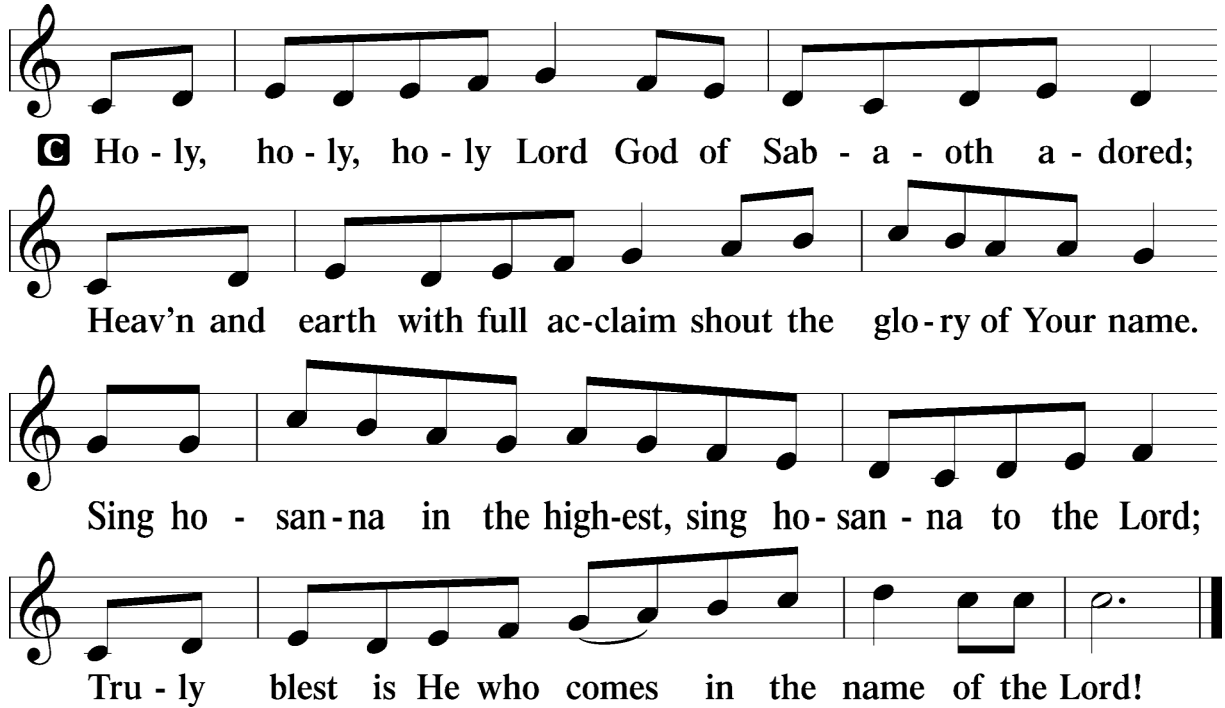
10:30 am The Spirituality of the Cross, a study of the fundamental themes in Lutheran theology and how these impact the way we live our everyday lives as believers in Jesus. This book is published by Concordia Publishing House and the study will be facilitated by Mike Shannon. Room 030.

GLOW meets on Fridays via Zoom: This is our Friday morning Women’s “To Be” group, currently meeting via Zoom. If you would like more information please contact Mardi Ellwanger 509-868-7354

Men’s Bible Study: This is a small group study on Thursday mornings at 6 a.m. in the fellowship hall, currently studying 1 Peter. Participants may join any Thursday by entering through the back doors by the kitchen.

SANCTUS ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

**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 OUR LORD

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

PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

John 20:19

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI ~ *Lamb of God*

John 1:29

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

LSB #340



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the King of
2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot is hu -
3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the rul - er
4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a tem - ple
5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to Thee; here,



glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing near; The
mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness, His
is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py homes To
set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em - ploy, A -
Lord, a - bide! O en - ter with Thy grace di - vine; Thy



Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal - va - tion
scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of all our
whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less sun of
dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your Sov - reign
face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



He doth bring; There - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing. To
woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings. To
joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free. To
en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin. To
guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won. E -



God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!
ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

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I “From heav’n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
news to ev - ’ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:

8. **Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery That You might share Your joy with me.**
9. **Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart For You to dwell within my heart.**
10. **My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradlesong:**
11. **Glory to God in highest heav’n, Who unto us His Son has giv’n!
While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.**

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BENEDICTION

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

People: **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN "Song of Simeon"

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

THANK YOU to all who assisted in our worship today.

Acknowledgments:

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Advent-Christmas Worship Schedule

As we pray *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* this year, we'll worship on:

Advent Wednesday, December 20 at 7 p.m. with soup supper at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday School Christmas Program will be a part of the 10:45 a.m. service Today, Sunday, December 17.

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

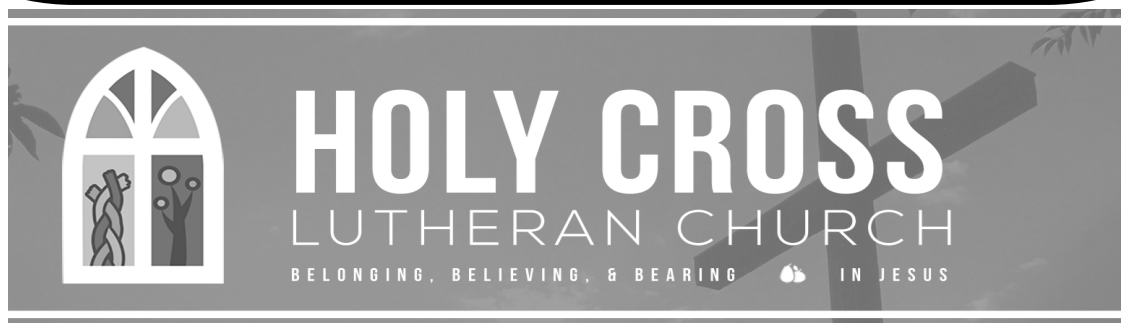
Christmas Eve Morning 10 a.m. This service will have the same Christmas message as the evening services but will include communion and different Christmas carols. (There will be no Bible classes or Sunday school this morning).

Christmas Eve Night 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. These services will include the same message as the morning service but will have different Christmas carols and will end with the candlelight singing of Silent Night.

Christmas Day, Worship Online, We will not have an in-person service but we will post a full Christmas worship online with carols, using the message from Christmas Eve services, that can be used by those wishing to worship at home with their families on Christmas Day.

New Year's Eve, Sunday, December 31, 10 a.m. We'll have just one worship service for everyone with no Sunday school or Bible Class on this Sunday, as is our tradition on the Sunday after Christmas, we'll also have a leftover Christmas cookie fellowship in the narthex after worship.

Our normal Sunday Schedule will resume on January 7.



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Worship Sundays at 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.
Fellowship for all from 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Sunday School for Kids and Youth at 10 a.m.
"To Be" Study Groups at 9, 10, & 10:30 a.m.