

# Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

*Faithful Through Generations*

December 19, 2021



Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent.

Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

## PRELUDE

Welcome and Announcements

Organist: Jeff Rudi

## **BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

L: Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.

**C: Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. Amen.**

## HYMN

*"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"* (Verse 4)

**ELW #240**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **C: Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**L: God for whom we wait, in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

L: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace. **C: Amen.**

**GREETING & KYRIE****ELW p. 165**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE****“This is the Feast”****ELW p.169**

*Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia.*

**1. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,  
and honor, blessing, and glory are his. *Refrain***

**2. Sing with all the people of God,  
and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain***

**3. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.  
Alleluia. *Refrain x2***

L: The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

---

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **THE FIRST READING**      *(Bulletin Insert)*

**Micah 5:2-5a**

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

## **THE SECOND READING**      *(Bulletin Insert)*

**Hebrews 10:5-10**

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

## **\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**ELW p.171**

**C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

## **THE GOSPEL**      *(Bulletin Insert)*

**Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]**

\*The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

\*The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

*“Seasons of Faith”*

Pastor Dan Nordin

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”*

**ELW#257**

**\*THE APOSTLE’S CREED: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.)**

**\*The Peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.**

**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

ELW p.172

L: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*THE PREFACE**

**\*THE SANCTUS**

**ELW p. 173**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**\*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.**

**LAMB OF GOD**

**ELW p. 174**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

**COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

**\*L: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**SENDING HYMN**

***“What Child Is This”***

**ELW#296**

**\*L: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

***(\*Please Stand)***