

**Cross of Christ Lutheran Church**  
**204 S. Chase Street, Houston, MN**  
**507-896-3102**

**Second Sunday of Advent Worship**  
**with Holy Communion/Noisy Offering/FB**  
**Installation of WELCA Officers**  
**December 7, 2025**



**Monday:**

**Tuesday:** 6:00 Executive Mtg.

**Wednesday:**

**Thursday:**

**Friday:** 2:00 WELCA Christmas Program  
Pastor's Day Off

**Saturday:**

**Sunday:** 8:30 a.m. Choir  
9:30 a.m. Worship w/Holy Comm./FB  
10:30 a.m. Coffee hr./Sunday School, Club 56 & Confirmation  
S.C. Cemetery Mtg.

*Cross of Christ Mission Statement: As a fellowship of believers, it is our mission to joyfully proclaim the gospel of Christ in word and deed; inviting people to worship together, nurturing them in the Christian faith, loving one another and serving a world in need.*

## Prelude

## Ringling of the Church Bell

## Announcements

### Gathering Song: ELW #248 “People, Look East” vs 1,2&3

1 People, look east. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east, and sing today--  
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

2 Furrows, be glad.  
Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there.  
Give up your strength the seed to

nourish, that in course the flow'r may  
flourish.  
People, look east, and sing today--  
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

3 Stars, keep the watch.  
When night is dim,  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east, and sing today--  
Love, the Star, is on the way.

### Advent Reading and Lighting of the Advent Candles

**“Sing a Song of Advent”** (to the tune of “*Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*”)

Advent is a time to wait,  
Not quite time to celebrate,  
Light the candles one by one,  
Till the Advent time is done,  
Christmas Day will soon be here,  
Time for joy, and time for cheer!

### Installation of a WELCA Leaders

Sisters in Christ, you have been chosen for leadership responsibilities in Women of the ELCA. We rejoice in the gifts God has given you and in your willingness to offer them for this service. Will you continue to seek to grow in faith, attending daily to God’s holy Word, and listening to God in prayer? If so, respond, Yes, and I ask God to help me.

**Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

Will you earnestly seek to affirm the gifts of others, to share the responsibilities of your office in partnership with your sisters, and to encourage others to offer their talents and skills in faithful service? **Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

Will you seek to lead the Cross of Christ WELCA in ministry and action, extending God's loving promise of hope to those beyond this community? **Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

Will you seek to promote healing and wholeness within the church, the society and the whole world? **Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

Do you accept the specific responsibilities for which you have been elected and will you seek to serve faithfully? **Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

Congregation will you receive these leaders and work with them, pray for them, and support them for the sake of the gospel? If so, answer: We will, and we ask God to help us. **We will, and we ask God to help us.**

I now declare you installed as officers of Cross of Christ Women of the ELCA, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **Choir Anthem**

### **Reading: Isaiah 11:1-2,6-10**

- <sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- <sup>2</sup> The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
- <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.
- <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- <sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be  
full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.
- <sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;  
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.
- R: The Word of the Lord.     C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19**

- <sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;
- <sup>2</sup> **that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**

- <sup>3</sup> that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.
- <sup>4</sup> **Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
- <sup>5</sup> May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.
- <sup>6</sup> **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**
- <sup>7</sup> In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- <sup>18</sup> **Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel;  
you alone do wondrous deeds!**
- <sup>19</sup> And blessed be your glorious name forever,  
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

### **Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12**

P: The holy Gospel according to Matthew.      **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea,  
proclaiming, <sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

<sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’ ”

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food  
was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around  
the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan,  
confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he  
said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming  
wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup> and do not presume to say to  
yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these  
stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the  
trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into  
the fire.

<sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals.

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you O Christ.**

## Sermon

**Pastor Dana Jackson**

### Hymn of the Day ELW #267 “Joy to the World”

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.

3 No more let sin and sorrow 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.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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.

### Apostle's Creed

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
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 to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting.**

**Prayers of Intercession:**

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

**Noisy Offering Collection**

**Offering Collection**

**Offertory Hymn# 186 “Create in Me a Clean Heart”**

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

**Words of Institution**

**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,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

## **Invitation to Communion**

*Congregation Response: All are welcome.*

**The Distribution (*Please sign the pew pad.*)**

**Communion Hymns: 272, 276, 286, 296**

## **Sending Song: ELW #270 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

(Refrain)

**Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel! **R**

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth. **R**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

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**Thank You for helping with the service today:**

Organist: Shelley Jerviss

Choir Director: Jake Olson

Acolytes: Junior Pich, Aubree Diersen,

Reader: Lisa Skifton

Communion: Cheryl Skifton, Lisa Skifton,  
Krin Abraham

Usher: Megan Ulmen, Duane Hegland

**Advent Helpers:**

Bell Ringer: Emme Collins

Cross Bearer: Sylvie Hegland-Tarr

Advent Verse Reader: Robbie Carlson

Window Candles: Leona Holmstadt and Kaitlyn Seekamp

Prayer Reader: Amelia Halvorson

**Happening Today WELCA**



**Sudsy Sunday December 21<sup>st</sup> Caring Collection** we will be collecting Shampoo, Laundry soap, dish soap.

**Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

**Salvation Army Bell Ringing**

'Tis the time of year to ring those bells and bring comfort and joy to others in Houston County this season! Contact Lisa Skifton at 507-429-3820 or [lisa.skifton@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.skifton@gmail.com) with any questions.