

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

Second Sunday of Advent Worship Service w/Holy Communion
December 4, 2022



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.

Sunday, December 4, 2022, Second Sunday of Advent w/Holy Communion Worship Service

Prelude

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

ELW p. 94

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Silence is kept for reflection.

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

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Accents in Advent/Lighting of the Advent Candle

Gathering Song: ELW 249 “On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry” vs 1,3&5

1 On Jordan's bank the
Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is
nigh;
awake and hearken, for he
brings
glad tidings of the King of
kings!

3 We hail you as our Savior,
Lord,
our refuge and our great
reward;
without your grace we waste
away
like flow'rs that wither and
decay.

5 All praise to you, eternal
Son,
whose advent has our
freedom won,
whom with the Father we
adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

Apostolic Greeting: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day:

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Choir Anthem

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The 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.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They 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.

¹⁰On 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.

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

- ¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
²**that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**
³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴**Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
⁶**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**
⁷In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
¹⁸**Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!**
¹⁹And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹²and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This 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.’”

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

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do 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. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His 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 Jeff Forbes

Hymn of the Day: ELW # 264 “Prepare the Royal Highway” vs1,3&4

1 Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!

Let ev’ry hill and valley
a level road appear!

Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:

Refrain

Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God’s word!

3 Then fling the gates wide
open

to greet your promised king!

Your king, yet ev’ry nation
its tribute too may bring.

All lands will bow before
him;

their voices join your
singing: Refrain

4 His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav’n above.

His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.

So let your praise be
sounding

for kindness so abounding:

Refrain

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 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 Intercession:

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

Holy Communion

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**

Blessing

Benediction

Sending Song: ELW #246 “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!” vs 1,4&5

1 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding! "Christ is near," we hear it say. "Cast away the works of darkness, all you children of the day!"	4 So, when next he comes in glory and the world is wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mercy and with words of love draw near.	5 Honor, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son with the everlasting Spirit while unending ages run!
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Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We welcome you in Jesus' name to this Service of Worship. We pray that you will be blessed through the hearing of God's Word and our fellowship as people of faith. If you have any questions, please ask our ushers, and please sign our Guest Book in the narthex. If you are a visitor, please introduce yourself to our Interim Pastor as you leave the service. We are happy to have you with us today as we worship together!

Prayer Requests; Family of Bonnie Kinstler; Family of Junior Van Gundy; Family of Sherman Cole; Terri Peterson (Karyn Olson's daughter); Kathryn Brisson (Susan Ferries's sister); Tom Westby (Steve's brother); the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Today Cookie Walk at Cross of Christ will be after worship service in fellowship hall. We are again asking everyone to donate cookies or bars to this fundraiser for WELCA. The proceeds will be used to replace the carpet in the fellowship hall.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers Needed

It is that time of year to get your jingle on! Please sign up to ring bells for the Salvation Army at Root River Market this season. You can either use Sign

Genius:<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094DADA628A4FACE9-salvation>

or contact Lisa Skifton at 507-429-3820 or lisa.skifton@gmail.com All proceeds stay in Houston County.

Sunday School Christmas Program

December 18, 2022 is the Annual Christmas Program. We will be having rehearsals on **Sunday December 4th & 11th**. Also practice on a couple **Wednesdays, December 7th & 14th**. Your child is welcome to come at 6:00 p.m. for the simple supper followed by practice until 7:30 p.m. Each year the Sunday School works hard to get ready. A wonderful Christmas tradition to have your child or grandchild participate in and share the story of the birth of Jesus.



Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement
To give electronically, please search “Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement”
create account or download app.
Contact the church office with any questions.

Pastor Jeff Forbes-Interim

revforbes@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.crossofchristhouston.org>

Church Number: 507-896-3102

Church Office Email: cofc@acegroup.cc

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

AT CROSS OF CHRIST THIS WEEK: 12/04/22-12/11/22

TODAY: 9:30 In person Second Advent Worship at Cross of Christ w/Holy Communion/FB Live
10:30 Sunday School Program Practice
Cookie Walk (following Service)

MONDAY: Pastors Day Off
9:30 WELCA Officer’s Mtg.
6:00 Ruth’s Circle Potluck at CofC

TUESDAY: Pastors Day Off

WEDNESDAY: 9:00 Quiet Prayer Time
5:30 Bell Choir Practice
6:00 **Sunday School Christmas Program Practice**
6:30 Confirmation & Club 56

THURSDAY:

FRIDAY: 2:00 WELCA Christmas & Installation of Officers

SATURDAY: 11:00 Manor Christmas

SUNDAY: 9:30 In Person Third Advent Worship at Cross of Christ w/Pastor Beth/Noisy Offering/ FB Live
10:30 Sunday School Program Practice
12:30 4-H

Looking Ahead.....

December 14 Prayer Time, Prayer Group, Bell Choir, Confirmation & Club 56, **Sunday School Christmas Program Practice**

December 15 Executive Cabinet Mtg.

December 18 **Sunday School Christmas Program**

Time And Talent Online Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8K9LK87>

Schedule -Coffee hour Hosts-10:30 AM

December 11 Denise Rostad

December 18 Lynn Meyer