

# ✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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First Sunday in Advent

November 30, 2025

Divine Service, **Setting Four**

## As We Gather

Today is not only the First Sunday in Advent but also the commemoration of St. Andrew, whose day governs the start of Advent. In this way, Andrew continues to point to Christ as we begin a new Church Year. How odd it is, then, that the Gospel for the First Sunday in Advent is the same as the Gospel for Palm Sunday! This reminds us that Jesus came for the cross and empty tomb, and this is the only Gospel that can save us from sin and death. The cry of Advent is “prepare the way of the Lord.” We will echo the words of John the Baptist, heralding Christ’s coming. We will join in the chant of the crowd: “Hosanna to the Son of David!” (Matthew 21:9). We will hear Him speak to us through the voice of His Word. We will feast upon His flesh for the life of the world and His blood that cleanses us from all sin. In all our preparations, we acclaim Him as Lord and receive Him and all His benefits.

## 851 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us



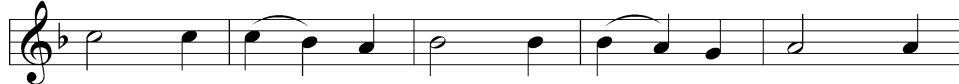
1 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your  
2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Glad - ly,  
3 Won - drous hon - or You have giv - en To our  
4 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your



life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the  
free - ly of Your own. With the sun - shine of Your  
hum - blest char - i - ty In Your own mys - te - rious  
life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the



lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;  
good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone  
sen - tence, “You have done it all to Me.”  
lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.



And with that have free - ly giv - en Bless - ings  
Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by  
Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, That You  
Give us faith to trust You bold - ly, Hope, to



count - less as the sand To the un - thank - ful  
You, at length be - lieve That more hap - py  
deign for alms to sue, Say - ing by Your  
stay our souls on You; But, oh, best of



and the e - vil With Your own un - spar - ing hand.  
and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.  
poor and need - y, “Give as I have giv'n to you”?  
all Your grac - es, With Your love our love re - new.

# Confession and Absolution

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

*Kneel/Stand*

**C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

**P** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

## Service of the Word

Introit

*Psalm 118:25–28; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt.*

**P** Behold, your king is com- | ing to you; \*  
righteous and having sal- | vation.

**C** Save us, we pray, | O LORD! \*

O LORD, we pray, give | us success!

**P** Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the LORD! \*

We bless you from the house | of the LORD.

**C** The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine up- | on us. \*

Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the | altar!

**P** You are my God, and I will give | thanks to you; \*

you are my God; I will ex- | tol you.

**C** Glory be to the Father and | to the Son \*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning, \*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

**P** Behold, your king is com- | ing to you; \*

righteous and having sal- | vation.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

### 733 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

sts. 1–6



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,  
 2 Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;  
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived her frame,  
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:  
 Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.  
 From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.  
 Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
 Soon bears us all away;  
 We fly forgotten as a dream  
 Dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,  
 Our hope for years to come,  
 Be Thou our guard while troubles last  
 And our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.  
 Tune: William Croft, 1678–1727  
 Text and tune: Public domain

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

### Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 2:1–5

**R** The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 2.

<sup>1</sup>The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>It shall come to pass in the latter days  
 that the mountain of the house of the LORD  
 shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
 and shall be lifted up above the hills;  
 and all the nations shall flow to it,

<sup>3</sup>and many peoples shall come, and say:  
 “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
 to the house of the God of Jacob,  
 that he may teach us his ways  
 and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go the law,  
 and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations,

and shall decide disputes for many peoples;  
 and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
 and their spears into pruning hooks;  
 nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
 neither shall they learn war anymore.

<sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob,  
 come, let us walk  
 in the light of the LORD.

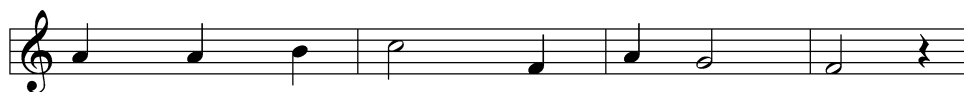
**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### 355 O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide



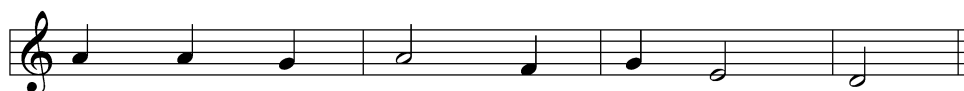
1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide;  
 2 O Fa - ther, light from heav - en send;  
 3 O earth, in flow'r - ing bud be seen;  
 4 O Fount of hope, how long, how long?



Come down, come down with might - y stride;  
 As morn - ing dew, O Son, de - scend.  
 Clothe hill and dale in garb of green.  
 When will You come with com - fort strong?



Un - lock the gates, the doors break down;  
 Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring:  
 Bring forth, O earth, a blos - som rare,  
 O come, O come, Your throne fore - go;



Un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.  
 To Ja - cob's line rain down the King.  
 Our Sav - ior, sprung from mead - ow fair.  
 Con - sole us in our vale of woe.

5 O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,  
 When will our hearts behold Your dawn?  
 O Sun, arise; without Your light  
 We grope in gloom and dark of night.

6 Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;  
 Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.  
 O come, lead us with mighty hand  
 From exile to our promised land.

7 There shall we all our praises bring  
 And sing to You, our Savior King;  
 There shall we laud You and adore  
 Forever and forevermore.

Text: Friedrich von Spee, 1591–1635; tr. Martin L. Seltz, 1909–67, alt.  
 Tune: Rheinfeilssisch Deutsches Catholisches Gesangbuch, 1666, Augsburg  
 Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017219  
 Tune: Public domain

### Epistle

*Romans 13:8–14*

**R** The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 13.

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not

covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

<sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

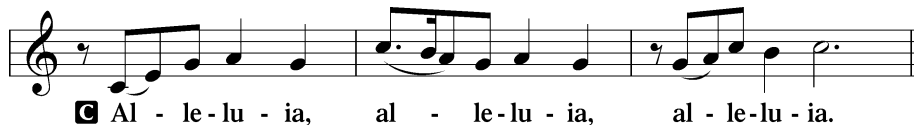
<sup>11</sup>Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup>The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. <sup>13</sup>Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

### Alleluia and Verse



### Holy Gospel

*Matthew 21:1–11*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

**P** <sup>1</sup>Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” <sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

<sup>5</sup>“Say to the daughter of Zion,  
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,  
humble, and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. <sup>7</sup>They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup>Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” <sup>10</sup>And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” <sup>11</sup>And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### Apostles’ Creed

**C** 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.

*Sit*

### 332 Savior of the Nations, Come



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make  
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it  
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a  
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,  
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—  
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:  
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.  
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
God was there up - on His throne.  
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

5 God the Father was His source,  
Back to God He ran His course.  
Into hell His road went down,  
Back then to His throne and crown.

7 From the manger newborn light  
Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides;  
In this light faith now abides.

6 For You are the Father's Son  
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.  
By Your mighty pow'r make whole  
All our ills of flesh and soul.

△ 8 Glory to the Father sing,  
Glory to the Son, our king,  
Glory to the Spirit be  
Now and through eternity.

## Sermon

*Stand*

### Prayer of the Church

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the peace from above, that our Lord's advent might kindle in us a love for His name, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** That the church would be preserved against all her enemies; and that we, as God's people, would walk in His ways and one day welcome with glad hosannas Jesus in His glory, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For Christian homes, that God would defend the single, husbands and wives, and all children from the temptation to walk in the works of darkness, clothing them instead with the armor of light, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For our president, governor and all in temporal authority, that godly wisdom would guide policy and lead nations into the way of peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those in great need, those afflicted with physical and mental ills, those whose hearts are touched by grief, and those in their last days on earth, [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_,] let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For unity amongst God's people, that we may confess with one voice the truth of the Word and live together in love and anticipation for that day when Christ shall return in triumph and we will enter with all the saints into the marriage feast of the Lamb without end; and that we would here discern the body and blood of Christ in this holy meal, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank, bless and praise You forever that You have sent Your Son to reign over us poor sinners, who for our trespasses deserve rightly to remain in bondage to sin and Satan. You have given us a righteous and humble King who, through His death, has saved us from sin and eternal death. We implore You, enlighten, govern and direct us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may remain faithful to this righteous King and Savior and not be offended by His humble appearance or despised Word, but believe in Him and obtain eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

## Offering

*340 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates st. 1*

*Stand*

## 956 Create in Me



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new  
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way  
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;  
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12  
Tune: Johann Georg Winer, 1583-1651, adapt.  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Lord's Prayer

- P** Let us pray.
- C** **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.**

## Prayer

- P** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

## Benedicamus

LSB 212

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Benediction

- P** 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.
- C** **Amen.**

## 922 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

sts. 1-4



1 Go, My chil-dren, with My bless-ing, Nev-er a-lone.  
2 Go, My chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, At peace and pure.  
3 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, Clos-er to Me;  
4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;



Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you; You are My own. In My  
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure. Here you  
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, Joy-ful and free. Here My  
I the Lord will smile up-on you And give you peace: I the



love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you Mine for-ev-er.  
heard My dear Son's sto-ry; Here you touched Him, saw His glo-ry.  
Spir-it's pow-er filled you; Here His ten-der com-fort stilled you.  
Lord will be your Fa-ther, Sav-ior, Com-fort-er, and Broth-er.



Go, My chil-dren, with My bless-ing— You are My own.  
Go, My chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, At peace and pure.  
Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, Joy-ful and free.  
Go, My chil-dren; I will keep you And give you peace.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919-2008  
Tune: Welsh, 18th cent.  
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Tune: Public domain

### Announcements

**Adult Sunday School** is at **9am** on Sunday mornings studying our Lutheran identity.

The **Flowers** that beautify our altar this morning are given to God's glory.

The **Ladies Bible Study** meets Wednesdays at **10am** studying the Psalms.

**Church Council** next meeting is **Dec 14 at 8am**.

**Biannual Voters' Assembly** meeting is **Dec 14** at after service. We will be voting on the budget and an elder.

The next **Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** is Sat. **Dec 6 at 9am**.

November **30** is a **Fifth Sunday!** Join us after service for the potluck luncheon.

**Midweek Advent Services** are Wednesday evenings at **7pm** on **Dec 3, 10, & 17**.

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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