



December 7, 2025 - 9:30 am

## 2nd Sunday of Advent



### GATHERING: The Spirit Calls Us Together

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Advent Song "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" ELW 257

Call to Worship

Gathering Song "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" ELW 631

Greeting

Kyrie

Hymn of Praise "Come to Set Us Free"

Prayer

Special Music "Ukrainian Bells" MS/HS Bell Choir

### WORD: We Hear God in Scripture & Preaching

#### Children's Message

**Isaiah 11:1-10**...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>3</sup> His 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, <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed 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. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. <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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Romans 15:4-13**...Whatever 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. <sup>5</sup> May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> For 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 ancestors <sup>9</sup> and 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";

<sup>10</sup> and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people"; <sup>11</sup> and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; <sup>12</sup> and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope." <sup>13</sup> May 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.  
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Matthew 3:1-12**...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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message** Pastor Heather Grell

**Hymn of the Day**

*"All Earth is Hopeful"*

ELW 266

**Prayers**

**Sharing God's Peace**

**MEAL: God Feeds us with the Presence of Jesus**

**Offering**

**Special Music**

**Offertory**

*"Come Now, O Prince of Peace"*

ELW 247

**Great Thanksgiving**

**Words of Institution**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Communion**

**Communion Songs**

*"Lamb of God"*

*"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

ELW 254

**Communion Blessing**

**Post-Communion Prayer**

**SENDING: Being Loved, God Sends Us to Love**

**Blessing**

**Sending Song**

*"People, Look East"*

**Dismissal**

**Postlude**

## Announcements

- ⇒ **Food Pantry** Our next food pantry is our Thursday, December 18th from 5 to 7pm. [CLICK HERE](#) to help. Donations are needed! Our most pressing needs right now are cereal, soup, bar soap and toilet paper. To help with our inventory control please only put your donations in the blue bin. Thank you for your continued support of this vital community ministry.
- ⇒ **Christmas Caroling** Join your Holy Cross Family on December 14 at 1:45 p.m. (event: 2-4:00 p.m.) as we go Christmas Caroling to some of our members who are not out-and-about. Meet at the church at 1:45 p.m. to form groups of carolers. Music is provided, and all ages welcomed!
- ⇒ **Cookie Walk & Hot Cocoa Bar!** Save the Date—Sunday, December 21st following worship you are invited to a winter wonderland in the Fellowship Hall. The High School Youth Group will have homemade holiday cookies ready to go home with you. For a suggested donation of \$10, you can fill a to-go box to the brim! There will also be a free hot cocoa bar and a small silent auction with themed gift baskets to bid on. We hope you can join us and support the Youth Fund!
- ⇒ **Recycle your Christmas Lights!** Joe Evans is taking old strings of lights to Scrap Central which provides recycling at no cost. There is a bin in the Narthex marked Christmas Lights Only.
- ⇒ **Altar Flowers** for 2026 are now available for purchase for \$47. Please [click here](#) to sign up or contact the church office.
- ⇒ **Giving through Venmo** You can now support the ministries of Holy Cross via Venmo. Find us on Venmo @HolyCrossLutheran.

## Calendar for Upcoming Week

### **Sunday, December 7**

9:30 am Worship  
10:40 am Sunday School/Adult Forum  
10:50 am MS/HS Ensemble  
11:00 am MS/HS Bell Choir

### **Monday, December 8**

6:30 pm Boy Scouts  
9:00 pm CMA Meeting

### **Tuesday, December 9**

7:00 pm Rachel Circle  
7:30 pm AA Meeting

### **Wednesday, December 10**

12:30 pm Tai Chi Balance Class  
6:00 pm Confirmation/Uke Choir  
6:30 pm Youth Worship  
7:00 pm Radical Ringers/Youth Group

### **Thursday, December 11**

6:00 pm Finance Committee  
6:30pm Carolan Bell Choir  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

### **Friday, December 12**

1:00 pm Knitting  
7:00 pm Belles N Beaus

### **Saturday, December 13**

9:30 am Sarah Circle

### **Sunday, December 14**

9:30 am Worship  
10:40 am Sunday School/Adult Forum  
10:50 am MS/HS Ensemble  
11:00 am MS/HS Bell Choir  
2:00 pm Christmas Caroling  
3:00 pm Girl Scout Troup 48012 Mtg

## Prayer Requests from our Church Community

**Member Concerns:** Norm Firkins; Phyllis Beam; Donna McCoy; Connie Mertz.

**Friends and Relatives:** Jim O'Grady, uncle of Pastor Heather Grell; Pat & Barry Butterfield, mother and father of Amy Odson; Deniel Algarin, nephew of Alicia Glesne; Scott Matheson, brother in law of Julie Noteman; Joshua Perilo, son of Sharon Perilo; Crosby Vargas, friend of Julie Noteman; Savannah Barb, cousin of Emma & Geno Roberts; Sonrisa Lewis, friend of the Harvey family; Avery W.; Ken Gross, cousin of Julie Noteman; Josh Moreau, friend of Wendy Brenner's family; Nancy Bartell, sister-in-law of Peg Schneider; Michael Schadendorf, grandfather of Edith and Tanya Valandra; Erin Peters, daughter of Gail Ginger; Anna Victor, aunt of Jen Gitt; Dave Huggins, friend of Jim & Peg Schneider; Mya Calendar, daughter of Trisha Ryan; Carol Deditz, sister of Julie Noteman; Opal Calendar, foster granddaughter of Trisha Ryan; Kelsey Schneider, daughter of Jim & Peg Schneider; Theresa Ramelb, friend of Jacque Petersen; Shari Jensen, friend of Ed Krueger; Ronda Bayer, friend of Debbie Risinger; Debbie Haacke, coworker of Debbie Risinger; Linda Anderson, Barb Kay's sister; Aaron McDonald and Family and Caregivers, McDonald's grandson.

**Grieving:** Irene and Troy Schnack and their families as they mourn the death of Gordon.