



## SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 10, 2023 | 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Cross Lutheran Church and School; New Braunfels, TX

### As We Gather

Advent is the season of waiting! As we await Christ's coming again in power and glory, we know that the time we are given before that great Day is due to the Lord's patience. "The Lord . . . is patient toward you," says Peter (2 Peter 3:9). Why? More time before Christ's return as King and Judge means more opportunities for us to share the life-giving Gospel with all the world. As people hear the message of Christ, repenting of their sin and turning to Him in faith, more souls will be brought into God's eternal kingdom. And because He is working His wonders of salvation, we rejoice in Him and receive from Him all He seeks to give!

### PRELUDE

**RINGING OF THE CHIMES** (*Psalm 100:4*)

**INTRODUCTION BY PASTOR TOBY JOECKEL**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

✠ PREPARATION ✠

*(Please stand and face our processional cross)*

**HYMN OF INVOCATION** (*Col 3:16*) "*I'm But a Stranger Here*" (LSB #748)

**INVOCATION** (*Matthew 28:19*)

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**OPENING SENTENCES** (*Psalm 27:13-14; 130:5*)

**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.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *(based on Psalm 130)*

- 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.
- 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.**

## ✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

### INTROIT *(Psalm 80:1, 8a, 9b, 7; antiphon: v. 3)*

- A** Restore us, | O God;\*  
let your face shine, that we | may be saved!
- C** **Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph | like a flock!\***  
**You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.**
- A** You brought a vine out of | Egypt;\*  
it took deep root and | filled the land.
- C** **Restore us, O | God of hosts;\***  
**let your face shine, that we | may be saved!**
- 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.**
- A** Restore us, | O God;\*  
let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

## KYRIE

LSB pg. 204



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

## SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*(please be seated)*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 40:1-11*

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup>And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, “Cry!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”  
All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.  
<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades  
 when the breath of the LORD blows on it;  
 surely the people are grass.  
<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
 but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain,  
 O Zion, herald of good news;  
 lift up your voice with strength,  
 O Jerusalem, herald of good news;  
 lift it up, fear not;  
 say to the cities of Judah,  
 “Behold your God!”

<sup>10</sup>Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
 and his arm rules for him;  
 behold, his reward is with him,  
 and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>He will tend his flock like a shepherd;  
 he will gather the lambs in his arms;  
 he will carry them in his bosom,  
 and gently lead those that are with young.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**SPECIAL MUSIC (11:00)** Cross Adult Choir “*A Little Child Shall Lead Them*”

**EPISTLE**

*2 Peter 3:8-14*

<sup>8</sup>But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! <sup>13</sup>But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*(please stand)*

**ALLELUIA AND VERSE** (*Revelation 22:13*)

**C** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**C** These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

**C** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**HOLY GOSPEL**

*Mark 1:1-8*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way,

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

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

<sup>4</sup>John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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

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

**NICENE CREED (8:30 service)//APOSLTES CREED (11:00 service)**

*(please be seated)*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON HYMN

*“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”*

*(LSB #770)*

*(please be seated)*

### SERMON

*“Praying Throughout the Day”*

*(please stand)*

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(Revelation 22:20)*

**P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved! As You led Joseph like a flock, so now by Your Son lead us into straight paths. Bring us out of the bondage of our sins, and plant us securely in Your eternal promises. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Gracious God, You sent John the Baptist to herald the coming Messiah and proclaim a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. In these latter days, You send pastors to proclaim the same repentance for the forgiveness of sins, and through them lead Your people to trust in Your salvation. Look with kindness upon all pastors, that they may be diligent and faithful heralds of Your beloved Son. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** God of all comfort, Your Word alone endures forever. The nations of the world come and go before You, even kings and rulers are like grass before Your breath. Preserve us from placing our trust in princes and mortal men. Give us rulers who will rule after Your good pleasure, keeping order and protecting life, that we may live peaceably in godly quietness and honesty. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, to our prayers [especially for \_\_\_\_\_]. Give healing, courage and perseverance to all who cry to You, that they may find comfort in Your enduring Word and the certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life with Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Father, we know that You are not slow in keeping Your promises. We thank You for Your patience. Do not take Your Spirit from us when we stray from Your commandments, but convict us of our sin and draw us back to You in repentance. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer**

**P** Lord, You invite us again to Your table to receive the medicine of immortality in the body and blood of Christ, Your Son. May we receive this Sacrament rightly, that with faith strengthened and sins forgiven our lives may be lived in holiness and godliness. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer**

**P** Lord, as we in the Church on earth wait for the coming of Your Son, we remember all the saints who have gone before us and now rest in Your presence. Keep us safe in Your arms until You gather Your people together in the new heavens and new earth in which righteousness dwells. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer**

**P** All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*(please be seated)*

### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

(8:30) Cross Adult Choir “*A Little Child Shall Lead Them*”

*(please stand)*

✠ SACRAMENT (8:30 SERVICE) ✠

✠ (11:00 SKIP TO LORD’S PRAYER AND CLOSING RESPONSE) ✠

### **PREFACE** (*Lam. 3:41, Ps. 86:4*)

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**PROPER PREFACE**

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**SANCTUS**

*(LSB pg. 208)*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.



In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, “Come, Lord Jesus,” confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

**LORD’S PRAYER** (Matthew 6:9 ff)

**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.

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD** (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

**PAX DOMINI** (John 14:27)

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

AGNUS DEI (*John 1:29, Is 53:7*)

(LSB p. 210)

**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*(please be seated)*

✠ Distribution Hymns ✠

*"Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior"* (LSB #619)

*"I Lay My Sins on Jesus"* (LSB #606)

*(please stand)*

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT** (*Psalm 107:1*)

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## BENEDICTION *(Numbers 6:23-27)*

**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.

## HYMN

*“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”*

*(LSB #922)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## POSTLUDE

*Please return your service book to the Usher’s table for the next service*

*Do not forget to pick up your copy of the weekly newsletter, The Chronicle,  
from the Usher’s table on your way out.*

## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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## **About Holy Communion**

If you have not been educated in what Lutherans believe about the Sacrament, we would like to take the opportunity to sit down with you and share the wonderful news of the Gospel in how this Sacrament (meaning sacred act, or mystery) is a means of grace (forgiveness) in which we confess close fellowship and unity with one another. In the meantime, if you would like to prayerfully come to the altar, please cross your arms over your chest so pastor can give you a blessing. Questions? Talk with Pastor.

**\*\*Gluten free wafers are available; please indicate your preference to the Pastor.**

Non-alcoholic white wine cups are located in the center of each tray.\*\*

## **Assisting in Worship Today**

**Elders:** 8:30-Richard Gabriel and Roy Price 11:00– David Luckemeyer

**Organist:** both services– Corey Brandenburger

**Acolytes:** 8:30 - Lauren Whitson & Kade Lundquist

11:00– Juliann Lanphere

**A/V Tech:** 8:30– Dane Lundquist 11:00– Andy Chantos

**Livestream:** 8:30- Courtney Mann

**Greeters:** 8:30– Dale & Carolyn Culbertson; 11:00– Gary & Sue Wittenborn

## **Cross Lutheran Church & School, 2171 E. Common St.**

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# Cross Weekly Chronicle

## Second Sunday in Advent

### December 10, 2023

#### Growing in Worship...

**IN OUR PRAYERS** – Thomas Alexander (son-in-law of Ray & Patricia West), Florence Bowser (friend of Marsha Marmolejo), Don Cornman (brother-in-law of James & Shanna Smith), Martha Danz (friend of Rick Martin), Steve Engelstad (brother of Ruth Stavenger), Mike Eskew, Brittany Fenrich, Angie Gabriel, Chris Gabriel, Gerald Gabriel, Maria Garcia (sister of Elisa Mireles), Virginia Gatlin (sister of Gene Brison), Ronnie Gauny (friend of Gary & Mary Sue Cheatham), Bob Gwyn, Christine Haeussler, Ted Haeussler, Alexander Herrmann (nephew of Anita & Frankie Hail), David Herritt, Lutz Hoener (friend of Anita & Frankie Hail), Joyce Holder, Ricky Islas (friend of the Cheatham family), Jackie Lagrimanta, Marsha Marmolejo, Rick Martin, Darci Matzke (sister-in-law of Millie Sunstrom), Patsy McDowell, Bryan Morrison (from Rick Martin), Winona Oberkampf, Nicole Pelle, Ian Phillips (nephew of Melanie Douglas), John Sekoch (father of Jennifer Kimmet), Jack Sevcik, Mark Waldrep (brother of Darren), Walter Winkelmann, Nancy Young (mother of Ellen Langemeier), and Robert Young (father of Ellen Langemeier). Additional prayer: We pray for our congregation, and our school ministry, that we come through this period of change stronger than we went in, and more united as one in ministry, mission, and Christ. We pray for our nation and—as Scripture encourages—for leaders and others in authority, specifically that our President, Congress, and Judiciary would see and follow the light and truth of God’s Word. We remember our state and local governments as well, praying for unity and love, peace and forgiveness. We continue to pray for the protection of human life in all its stages—from womb to tomb. We pray for the Stephen Ministry at Cross and the people who give and receive care. We pray for our year around stewardship management of all of life and life’s blessings—which come from our gracious and loving Lord. We pray for the persecuted Church around the world. We pray for all missionaries—here and around the world; we pray for our armed forces, including the deployed and their families. Standing on the promises, we pray all of this in the name of the risen Lord Jesus Christ.

**SPEND SOME TIME WITH GOD** The Scripture readings for next Sunday, (*December 17th; Third Sunday in Advent*), will be Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; and John 1:6-8, 19-28. Take time this week to read and meditate upon God’s Word. *You’ll be glad you did!*

**ALTAR FLOWERS**—The flowers in our Chancel were given to the glory of God by Mary Counselor in memory of her husband, son, and daughter.

**WORSHIP SERVICE RECORDED AND BROADCAST** – Each Sunday morning, under normal circumstances, the 8:30 a.m. Worship Service is recorded as well as broadcast live on the internet. You may watch the live stream on either Facebook or YouTube by searching “CrossNBTX” to find our page. Our live stream is also available for you directly through our website at [www.crossnbtx.org/online-worship](http://www.crossnbtx.org/online-worship)

#### Growing in Participation & Service...

**MITE BOX SUNDAY**—The next Mite Box Sunday will be December 31st. Please remember to bring your Mite Boxes on that Sunday and empty them into the Mite Box in the Narthex. We are also adding “Loose Change Sunday” to our ingathering. When we have a Mite Box Sunday, please consider dropping off some loose change in the Mite Box. Each month, in the Cross Ties, we will be posting a current “Mission Project” that has been funded in Texas, the United States, or a foreign country, all from Mites collected by the LWML, with your help. Any questions call Carolyn – 210-389-7720.

**HELP WITH THE ETERNITY CANDLE**—We need someone to take over the duty of refilling the eternity candle every week. This would be ideal for a high school student who needs volunteer hours, but anyone can do it! We are looking for someone to train this month because we only have people to do it until the end of December. Contact Amy Blankenship at 512-787-1054 if you are interested.

**GERMAN ADVENT SERVICE**—This year’s German Service will be held on Sunday, December 17th at 3 p.m. in our Sanctuary with a reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall.

**SENIOR YOUTH ADOPT A FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS**—We will be ‘adopting’ a family through Communities In Schools and hope to provide most of the gifts on their wish list for their son and two daughters. If anyone from the congregation would like to donate money towards the gift list, please contact one of the youth board members. The youth will meet at church on December 10th at 2 p.m. to go shopping and then come back to wrap the presents. We will end the afternoon with snacks and ask the kids to bring a white elephant present (\$10 limit) for a gift exchange!

**LADIES BIBLE CLASS**—The Women’s Bible Study is meeting Wednesdays at 9 a.m. in the Youth Room, please come join in the fellowship and learning time. Contact Kathy Paulson with any questions!

**SOS FOOD BANK**—The Spirit of Sharing Food Bank reported 148 pounds of food donated, thank you for your generosity!

**FAMILY IN NEED**—There is a family joining Cross Lutheran that is looking for a care giver for their mother, who is elderly but in fairly good health. This is a paid position, and currently part time but could become full time in the future. A guest house is available for overnight stays when needed. Please contact Steph or Pastor Joeckel if you are interested in getting connected with them.

**CHRISTMAS MARKET TIME**—Our annual Christmas Market is just around the corner. Each year, small handmade and other donated items are gathered by our Christmas Market Elves and a little Christmas Shop is set up on campus. Students are given the opportunity the week before Christmas Break begins to shop for family members and loved ones and to purchase items from the shop in which everything is less than \$5. We are still taking donations for the market. Please feel free to drop donations off in the office through December 11th.

