



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA
– 2nd SUNDAY of ADVENT
10:30 AM CST
Contemporary Worship
Sunday, December 4, 2022
With Holy Communion

Prayers Requests

Please Text-in-Church 314.329.0487

or Email Carrie at

Office@holycrosselca.com

Lifted during Prayer Time

GATHERING The Holy Spirit calls us together
as the people of God



Opening Songs

Days of Elijah see page 6

The Lord Reigns see page 6

WELCOME AND VISION MOMENT

GREETING OF EACH OTHER *(Sharing a Sign of God's Peace with Each Other)*

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

TODAY'S THEME for Advent 2: *Great Expectations - Life Expectancy*

Pastor: When you cut down a tree, you think it's the end. The tree, we assume, cannot thrive from a dead stump. We needed that tree gone for some reason—it may have been unhealthy; it may have been a threat to our dwelling; it may have obscured our view. What happens when the tree, which is dead and gone, just won't give up?

John the Baptizer tells us that the axe is lying at the root of the trees that do not bear fruit. Into the fire those trunks and branches will go. Again, it sounds like the end. But is it? This is not an all-consuming fire; rather, this is a purifying fire of life. It is something new. Out of the former comes God's way of life for us: the wolf lying down with the lamb; the child playing with the asp; the God of creation raising up children from stones. Our patterns and behaviors become life expectant...shoots burst forth from dead stumps.

Advent Candle Lighting (New Members 8:30 AM – Kyle Klobas and 10:30 AM – Lisa Sandberg)

L: Sometimes we see endings—axes razing trees and vines; predators stalking prey.

C: Yet, God still calls us to expect life, even from what once seemed beyond hope:

L: a shoot springs forth, fresh and new

C: the ash of a fire nourishes seedlings

L: the wolf and the lamb can rest together

C: for a peaceable world emerges, life expectant even from our hearts of stone.

L: And so we light this candle to shine forth with peace, for we know a new day is dawning even if the timing is unexpected.

C: We live in anticipation, awake to divine possibilities.

WORD - Prayer —... *Pastor free floats prayer*

God of great expectations, We have been closed off to your reign of justice, strayed from your paths, and even expect war instead of peace.

We lower our expectations for life, dishonor one another and your creation.

Purify us with your refining fire! Help us to find your expectant way of peace and love!

Guide us to bear fruit and welcome your coming among us.

We have put on ✝ Christ, and our sins have been washed away.

Rejoice in the way of our God, where and when we least expect it.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ (*holy pause*).

Make lifeless stones a living people (*holy pause*)

Prepare us for reconciliation (*holy pause*)

Fill us with joy, peace, and hope (*holy pause*)

We ask this in the name of the One who brings salvation near. And Today we pray for...

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Led by the Worship Asst.

Keith DeCamp,

Marian Newport,

Adam Jackson,

Leah Leimbach,

Betty Kent,

Preben Christensen,

Sionie Elavsky,

Lois Ristau,

Wally Kern (in assisted living for short-term duration),

Patrice & Family,

Sandy Andrews (lung cancer, fractured sternum, COPD and trouble walking, friend of Sandy Kalin),

Rich (diagnosed with leukemia, praying for 60%-70% chance of remission, Pastor's cousin's partner),

Frank Barnhart (recovering from eye issues and has new condition to manage),

Mary Bailey (test positive for covid),

Jeanna (surgery on 12/21 for throat cancer, friend of Susan and Mike Rockwell),

Susie Garrett (back discomfort),

Ginger Prellwitz (our new member is getting chemo-therapy),

Aunt Dorothy (Gary Prellwitz's Aunt),

Dave and Jane Ristau and their dog, Riley (university consultation and surgery for cancer and to remove eye, the Ristau's dog),

Congratulations to Dave & Jane Ristau on the birth of their granddaughter, Evelyn Jane Bragg, on Nov. 22nd!

Family of Riley Stone (he went to be with Jesus on 11/10, he is the son of Rick Stone and grandson of Rocky & Donna Stone),

The people of Ukraine and the people of Russia and all those affected by war.

moment of silence

Pastor: Trusting that God knows our deepest longings, we offer our prayers with great expectation.

AMEN! *The assembly is seated.*

WORD God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

FIRST READING Isaiah 11:1-10 Read by Worship Asst.

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

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 Read by Worship Asst. and **ALL (in BOLD)**

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.

First, Gathering with the Kids for the Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12 Read by Pastor

*Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come. READING from the **SPARK STORY BIBLE** - pp 234-239*
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

ADVENT 2022 MESSAGE - GREAT EXPECTATIONS- LIFE Expectancy!

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Song after Message *Prepare The Way* see page 7

PEACE The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you".
The assembly is seated.*

MEAL God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING *Please offer to Holy Cross what you desire to give to God through YOUR 2023 PLEDGE! (JUST DROP IN THE BASKET / PLATE AS IT IS PASSED.)*

- *E-giving through Vanco online*
- *Send your check directly to Holy Cross at 13014 Olive Blvd. in Creve Coeur, MO 63141*
- *Go to our Website & hit "DONATE NOW" <http://www.holycrosselca.com/site/cs/links.asp>*

The presiding minister instructs those communing at home to gather their bread / cracker / wine/ grape juice elements to hold up during the Words of Institution

OFFERING INSTRUMENTAL

OFFERING PRAYER Led by Worship Asst.

God of Peace,

As we have received your abundance,

so we welcome one another to the feast you spread.

Use what we have gathered here for the flourishing of life. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Illuminating God, source of creation,

You are our Salvation and our Peace, We remember

Isaiah envisioned a blossoming desert;

Mary proclaimed a world turned upside down;

John the Baptist cried out for repentance.

At this expectant hour, your Son Jesus came to bring us extraordinary love
and to heal all the suffering world.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AT THE TABLE

[Please lift up your elements for Communion when Communing at Home or with Fellowship Cups]

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life among us, his death as one of us, and his resurrection, the first of all of us, we anticipate his coming in righteousness and peace. Send your Spirit on us and on this meal we share to bring Peace and Wholeness to this world. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Unexpected and mysterious, Christ comes to us in this feast of grace.

Eat, drink, and be filled. **Amen.**

The assembly may be seated. The bread may be broken for Home Communion.

COMMUNION *When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond Amen. *The ministers commune after others commune.*

COMMUNION SONG *More Precious Than Silver* see page 7

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *The assisting minister leads...*

In this meal we have experienced God with us

Ordinary made extraordinary: familiar made holy

As we are called forth from the table, may we awaken to divine justice

That these expectant days may be alive with (hope, peace, joy, love)

We pray this in the name of the one who has promised to come again,

Christ Jesus, our Savior. Amen

SENDING **God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world**

BLESSING *Pastor offers:* The God of Peace, who creates all things and calls them good, who makes us alive in Jesus, and who breathes on us the Spirit of Hope, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL Go in peace, with Christ beside you. **Thanks be to God.**

SENDING ADVENT SONG *My Soul Magnifies The Lord* see page 8

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WE ARE GRATEFUL!

Worship Assistant – Renate Hawn/Greg Miller

Organist - Jack Hamill

Singer – Linda Tyahla

Praise Band: Dave Reinking, Brandon Clay, Marty Little, Jason Cooper, and Matt Davis

AV/Camera Volunteers - Donovan Lucas, David Ristau, Philip Paul & Marcus Benson

Media Shout – Jane Ristau & Carrie Curnutte

Deacon - John Hanson/Donna Jackson

Days Of Elijah

Verse 1

These are the days of Elijah
Declaring the Word of the Lord
And these are the days
Of Your servant Moses
Righteousness being restored
And though these are days
Of great trials
Of famine and darkness and sword
Still we are the voice
In the desert crying
Prepare ye the way of the Lord

Chorus

Behold He comes
Riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun
At the trumpet call
So lift your voice
It's the year of Jubilee
And out of Zion's hill
Salvation comes

Verse 2

And these are the days of Ezekiel
The dry bones becoming as flesh
And these are the days
Of Your servant David
Rebuilding a temple of praise
And these are the days of the harvest
The fields are as white in the world
And we are the labourers
In Your vineyard
Declaring the Word of the Lord

Bridge

There is no god like Jehovah
There is no god like Jehovah
There is no god like Jehovah
There is no god like Jehovah (hey)

CCLI Song # 1537904

CCLI License # 1787498

The Lord Reigns

Verse

The Lord reigns let the people shout
He reigns in righteousness
Let the heavens be glad let the earth rejoice
The Lord reigns let the people clap their hands
Angels shout the redeemed have come to dance
To celebrate to celebrate He reigns

Chorus

The Lord reigns the Lord reigns
The Lord reigns we will sing and shout
You reign You reign
You reign forever King of all

Bridge

Let all the people sing of
Your awesome pow'r in all the earth
Let darkness tremble at Your Name
Why do the nations rage when
The King is on His throne
Now and forever You will reign

CCLI Song # 4659820

CCLI License # 1787498

Prepare the Way

Verse:

Prepare the way
make straight the path for Him
Let the King of glory enter in
Let the King of glory enter in
Who is this King of Glory?

Chorus:

The Lord strong and mighty
The Lord mighty to save
The earth is full of His glory
Creation calls prepare the way
His love endureth forever
His power without an end
His strength is victory's treasure
Let all who call His name prepare the way

Bridge:

Let the King of Glory enter in
Let the King of Glory enter in
Let the King of Glory enter in
Let the King of Glory enter in
Who is this King of Glory?

CCLI Song # 4455347

CCLI License # 1787498

More Precious Than Silver

Chorus 1

(Oh) Lord You are
More precious than silver
Lord You are
More costly than gold
Lord You are
More beautiful than diamonds
And nothing I desire
Compares with You

Verse

And who can weigh the value
Of knowing You
Oh who can judge the worth
Of Who You are
Lord who can count the blessing
Of loving You
Who can say just how great You are
How great You are

Chorus 2

(Oh) Lord You are
More precious than silver
Lord You are
More costly than gold
Lord You are
More beautiful than diamonds
And nothing I desire
Compares with You
Ooo nothing I desire
Compares with You
Ooo nothing I desire
Compares with You

CCLI Song # 11335

CCLI License # 1787498

My Soul Magnifies The Lord

Verse 1

Good news of great joy
For ev'ry woman ev'ry man
This will be a sign to you
A baby born in Bethlehem
Come and worship do not be afraid

Verse 2

A company of angels
Glory in the highest
And on the earth a peace among
Those on whom His favor rests
Come and worship do not be afraid

Chorus

My soul my soul magnifies the Lord
My soul magnifies the Lord
He has done great things for me
Great things for me

Verse 3

Unto you a child is born
Unto us a Son is giv'n
Let ev'ry heart prepare His throne
Let ev'ry nation under Heav'n
Come and worship do not be afraid

Bridge

Of His government there will be no end
He'll establish it with His righteousness
And He shall reign on David's throne
And His name shall be from this day on

Bridge

Wonderful Counselor
Everlasting Father
Wonderful Counselor and His name shall be
Everlasting Father oh yeah

Tag

My soul my soul magnifies the Lord

Tag

He has done great things for us

Ending

Oh yeah
He has done great things
He has done great things

CCLI Song # 5601671

CCLI License # 1787498