

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church**  
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**2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS    +    +    +    JANUARY 3, 2021**  
**EPIPHANY SUNDAY**

+    *God Gathers Us In His Presence*    +

**WELCOME:**

**OPENING PRAYER:**

**OPENING HYMN:**    *“Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”*    LSB 375

1 Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the  
2 Christ, from heav'n to us descending And in  
3 Ja - cob's star in all its splen - dor Beams with  
4 From the bond - age that op - pressed us, From sin's

Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; Loud - ly sing His love a -  
love our race be - friend - ing; In our need His help ex -  
com - fort sweet and ten - der, Forc - ing Sa - tan to sur -  
fet - ters that pos - sessed us, From the grief that sore dis -

maz - ing, Wor - thy folk of Chris - ten - dom.  
tend - ing, Saved us from the wi - ly foe.  
ren - der, Break - ing all the pow'rs of hell.  
tressed us, We, the cap - tives, now are free.

5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing  
When by faith we grasp this blessing,  
And to You we come confessing  
That Your love has set us free.

6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,  
From Your lowly manger cheer us,  
Gently lead us and be near us  
Till we join Your choir above.

### **OPENING VERSICLES:**

Leader: This is the day which the Lord has made;

**People: let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Leader: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**People: the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

Leader: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

**People: Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.**

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord.

**People: Make His paths straight.**

Leader: Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.

**People: Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.**

Leader: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**People: the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

# + *God Gives Us the Gift of His Word* +

## **FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: *1 Kings 3:4-15***

**K**ing Solomon went to Gibeon to sacrifice because it was the most important place of worship. Solomon sacrificed 1,000 burnt offerings on that altar.

In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night. He said, “What can I give you?”

Solomon responded, “You’ve shown great love to my father David, who was your servant. He lived in your presence with truth, righteousness, and commitment. And you continued to show him your great love by giving him a son to sit on his throne today.

“LORD my God, although I’m young and inexperienced, you’ve made me king in place of my father David. I’m among your people whom you have chosen. They are too numerous to count or record. Give me a heart that listens so that I can judge your people and tell the difference between good and evil. After all, who can judge this great people of yours?”

The LORD was pleased that Solomon asked for this. God replied, “You’ve asked for this and not for a long life, or riches for yourself, or the death of your enemies. Instead, you’ve asked for understanding so that you can do what is right. So I’m going to do what you’ve asked. I’m giving you a wise and understanding heart so that there will never be anyone like you. I’m also giving you what you haven’t asked for—riches and honor—so that no other king will be like you as long as you live. And if you follow me and obey my laws and commands as your father David did, then I will also give you a long life.”

Solomon woke up and realized it had been a dream. He went to Jerusalem and stood in front of the ark of the LORD’s promise. He sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings and held a banquet for all his officials. – GW®

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: *Ephesians 1:3-14*

**P**raise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Through Christ, God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing that heaven has to offer. Before the creation of the world, he chose us through Christ to be holy and perfect in his presence. Because of his love he had already decided to adopt us through Jesus Christ. He freely chose to do this so that the kindness he had given us in his dear Son would be praised and given glory.

Through the blood of his Son, we are set free from our sins. God forgives our failures because of his overflowing kindness. He poured out his kindness by giving us every kind of wisdom and insight when he revealed the mystery of his plan to us. He had decided to do this through Christ. He planned to bring all of history to its goal in Christ. Then Christ would be the head of everything in heaven and on earth. God also decided ahead of time to choose us through Christ according to his plan, which makes everything work the way he intends. He planned all of this so that we who had already focused our hope on Christ would praise him and give him glory.

You heard and believed the message of truth, the Good News that he has saved you. In him you were sealed with the Holy Spirit whom he promised. This Holy Spirit is the guarantee that we will receive our inheritance. We have this guarantee until we are set free to belong to him. God receives praise and glory for this. – GW®

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORY:

Leader: Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord,  
when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

**People: This is the name by which He will be called:  
The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

Leader: He shall reign as king and deal wisely,  
and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

**People: This is the name by which He will be called:  
The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

Leader: Glory be to the Father, and to the + Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**People: This is the name by which He will be called:  
The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**



1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind-ness of the Lord,  
 2 What Ad-am lost, none could re - claim, And Par - a - dise was barred  
 3 He came to that which was His own, But He was not re - ceived;  
 4 Lord Je - sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A - mong us here on earth



E - ter - nal Word made flesh and bone So we could be re - stored.  
 Un - til the sec - ond Ad - am came To mend what sin had marred.  
 Yet still through Him God's glo - ry shone, And some His name be - lieved.  
 As God with us, Em - man - u - el, To bring this ho - ly birth.



Up - on our frail hu - man - i - ty God's fin - ger chose to trace  
 For when the time was full and right God sent His on - ly Son;  
 To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav'n a - bove,  
 Though rich, You will - ing - ly be - came One with our pov - er - ty,



The full-ness of His de - i - ty, The i - con of His grace.  
 He came to us as life and light And our re - demp-tion won.  
 Born not of hu - man an - ces - try But born of God in love.  
 That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty!

### THE HOLY GOSPEL: *John 1:1-18*

***In*** the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was already with God in the beginning.

Everything came into existence through him. Not one thing that exists was made without him.

He was the source of life, and that life was the light for humanity.

The light shines in the dark, and the dark has never extinguished it.

God sent a man named John to be his messenger. John came to declare the truth about the light so that everyone would become believers through his message. John was not the light, but he came to declare the truth about the light.

The real light, which shines on everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into existence through him. Yet, the world didn't recognize him. He went to his own people, and his own people didn't accept him. However, he gave the right to become God's children to everyone who believed in him. These people didn't become God's children in a physical way—from a human impulse or from a husband's desire to have a child. They were born from God.

The Word became human and lived among us. We saw his glory. It was the glory that the Father shares with his only Son, a glory full of kindness and truth.

(John declared the truth about him when he said loudly, "This is the person about whom I said, 'The one who comes after me was before me because he existed before I did.' ")

Each of us has received one gift after another because of all that the Word is. Laws were given through Moses, but kindness and truth came into existence through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. God's only Son, the one who is closest to the Father's heart, has made him known. – GW®

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

**APOSTLE'S CREED:** (*\* catholic means the universal Christian Church*)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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 THE CHURCH:**

## 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, forever and ever.  
Amen.**

MESSAGE: *"Finding Jesus"*

*+ We Give Thanks for God's Word +*

## OFFERING:

### PRAYER:

Leader: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For the gift of divine peace and of pardon,  
with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world,  
and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For this nation, for our cities and communities,  
and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous,  
and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:**       **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader:       For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless,  
for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**People:**       **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader:       For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**People:**       **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader:       For ... (*additional prayers inserted here*)... let us pray to the Lord:

**People:**       **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader:       Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**People:**       **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

#### **COLLECT FOR THE WORD:**

Leader:       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.

**People:**       **Amen.**

### **+   *The Service of Holy Communion*   +**

*The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Holy Cross in the joyful confession that our Lord gives us His very Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins in this sacrament. God intends this gift for His children who recognize their sin, trust in Christ as their Savior, desire to live for Him alone and join in this joyful confession.*

#### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION:**

#### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER:**




+ *God Sends Us Forth for Lives of Love and Service* +

CLOSING HYMN:


“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

LSB 388

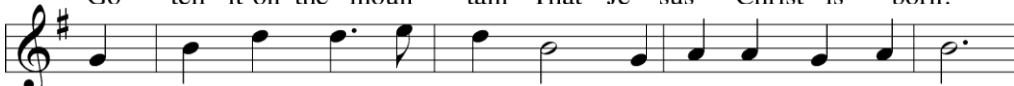
*Refrain*



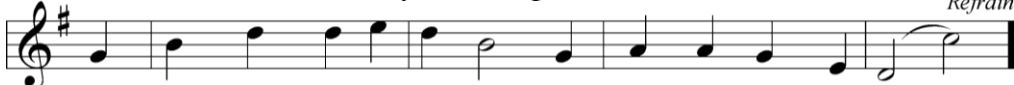
Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;



Be - hold, through - out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.  
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

*Refrain*

**THE BLESSING:**

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Leader: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**People: Amen.**

**SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY**

Preacher: Pastor Nader Hanna

Liturgist: Pastor Mark Siegert

Scripture Reading: Ashlyn Bowman

Organist: Ken Culley

Usher: Mark and Liz Ruhl

Recorder of Service: Carol Doss

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“Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising” LSB 375

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, alt.

Tune: German, 14th cent; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text © 1941 Concordia Publishing House.

Music: Public Domain. Created by Lutheran Service Builder

“O Sing of Christ” LSB 362

Text: Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955. Tune: English. adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958; setting:

Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958, alt. Text: ©1996 Stephen P. Starke; admin. Concordia Publishing

House. Tune: Public domain. Created by Lutheran Service Builder

“Go Tell It on the Mountain” LSB 388

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work II, 1873-1925, stanzas, alt.

Tune: African American spiritual; setting: Hugh Porter, 1897-1960. Text and music: Public domain

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**(The deadline for bulletin announcements is "Tuesday" morning this week. Thank you!)**

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Sunday at Holy Cross begins at **10:00 am** with Adult Bible Study (Parish Hall) and Sunday School (Youth Room for 7th - 9th Graders & Classroom 3 for elementary students).
- Worship Service then follows, beginning at **11:00 am** outside the Parish Hall.



### Stop at the table

### outside of the Parish Hall today!

If you have not yet done so, pick-up your 2021 Offering envelopes and the Portals of Prayer (Jan-Mar 2021).



## Support Holy Cross through Scrip!

We have scrip that can be purchased for gifts as well as for your use all year long. Over 75 to choose from, including Applebees, Arby's, Auto Zone, Barnes and Noble, Bath & Body Works, Bear Bucks, Bed Bath & Beyond, Best Buy, Boston Market, Burger King and various Gas cards (Arco, Chevron, Exxon, Shell).



Just contact Liz Ruhl ([mruhl7777@aol.com](mailto:mruhl7777@aol.com)) or the church office. (Please note correction to Liz' email address)

## Making Time for Prayer



**In the Holy Cross Prayer Room (Room 7) there is worship through music, Scripture, and prayer.** On Tuesday mornings, a **555 team meets**. Five people, praying for five people, five days a week, for five weeks. We do not pray for our five people at this time, but we worship through music, study Scripture and declare God's promises upon each other.

Outside this time, **we pray for each other** for 1 minute a day for **their health**, another day for **their labors**, another day for **their emotional well being**, another day for **their Spiritual well-being**, and the fifth day for **their social well-being**.

The prayer room is available except on Tuesday morning. Church members desiring to "**make time for prayer**" in the **Prayer Room** for your family, church family or a 555 group, please contact Sue to obtain access. She is available for prayer with you as well as to answer any questions you have regarding 555.

Sue Fuqua

Director of Evangelism at Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
[susanfuqua58@gmail.com](mailto:susanfuqua58@gmail.com)

714/732-9672





**Tuesday through Thursday (9:00 AM to 1:00 PM)**  
(Remember to wear face mask upon entry to Church Office.)

**\*Note: The Church Office will be closed  
 this Wednesday and Thursday (January 6 and 7).**

**This week at Holy Cross Lutheran Church**

(following HC published "Safe Together" Protocol)

Today	1/3	10:00 am	Sunday School, Youth Group and Bible Study
		11:00 am	Traditional Service with HC (outside)
		3:00 pm	Boy Scouts
Monday	1/4		
Tuesday	1/5	9:00 am	Deadline for bulletin announcements is "Tuesday" morning this week
		9:00 am - noon	555 Team - Making Time for Prayer (Room 7)
		10:00 am - noon	Food Pantry
		10:00 am	MAC
		4:00 pm	Choir and Confirmation
		4:00 pm	Confirmation (Church Office Conference Room)
Wednesday*	1/6	1:00 pm	Living Way Bible Study
Thursday *	1/7	5:30 pm	Salam Ministries
Friday	1/8		
Saturday	1/9	8:00 am	Men's Bible Study
Sunday	1/10	10:00 am	Sunday School, Youth Group and Bible Study
		11:00 am	Traditional Service (outside)
		3:00 pm	Boy Scouts (to be confirmed - plan is to move to Monday at 6:30 in Parish Hall)

**Any additional events require prior approval by the Leadership Board.**