

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

Second Sunday of Christmas January 2, 2022

Zoom Meeting Instructions on Page 7

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PRELUDE Janey Ranlett

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Kevin Brown

“WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS TO ME”

OPENING HYMN “Good Christian Friends” #288 vs. 2,3

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

L In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.
Silence is kept for reflection.

L Holy God,
C we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.

C God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. In Christ our sins are forgiven and we are clothed in peace. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

L Let us pray...
C Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN “The First Noel” #300

READINGS AND GOSPEL

First Reading: Sirach 24:1-12

- ¹Wisdom praises herself,
and tells of her glory in the midst of her people.
²In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth,
and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory:
³“I came forth from the mouth of the Most High,
and covered the earth like a mist.
⁴I dwelt in the highest heavens,
and my throne was in a pillar of cloud.
⁵Alone I compassed the vault of heaven
and traversed the depths of the abyss.
⁶Over waves of the sea, over all the earth,
and over every people and nation I have held sway.
⁷Among all these I sought a resting place;
in whose territory should I abide?
⁸“Then the Creator of all things gave me a command,
and my Creator chose the place for my tent.
He said, ‘Make your dwelling in Jacob,
and in Israel receive your inheritance.’
⁹Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me,
and for all the ages I shall not cease to be.
¹⁰In the holy tent I ministered before him,
and so I was established in Zion.
¹¹Thus in the beloved city he gave me a resting place,
and in Jerusalem was my domain.
¹²I took root in an honored people,
in the portion of the Lord, his heritage.”

FIRST SPEAKER

Lauretta Graham

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

SECOND SPEAKER

Sue Fossum

HYMN "Angels We Have Heard on High" #289

GOSPEL: John 1:1-5, 14-18

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

THIRD SPEAKER

Merete Glick

HYMN "What Child is This" #296

APOSTLE'S CREED

(stand)

L Let us confess our faith as expressed in the words of the Apostle's Creed.

C **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

L Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

L You make yourself known in the gift of language in diverse forms. Draw our attention to those who communicate through sign, braille, and technology. Make your church a place where all methods of communication are celebrated. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

L Creating God, the sun greets us anew each morning. Thank you for waking us up today to witness and share your abundance. Awaken us always to your wisdom and deepen our care for your natural world. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

L Emmanuel, in your name we are assured that you are with us. Train nations and peoples to honor and respect one another, especially those whose names and identities have been mistreated, neglected, or oppressed. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

L You adopt us as your beloved ones. Accompany parents and children navigating the adoption process, especially those in the foster system. Sustain those struggling with infertility or pregnancy loss. Tenderly embrace all in need. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

L You choose those regarded as lowly to tell the good news of your love. Pour out your mercy and care on all who are sick, grieving, struggling, and the elderly who live alone. Send your Spirit to all who are imprisoned, struggling with addiction, unwell, or in any need this day.

(As we remember those for whom we pray now, a single candle on the altar will be lit, in lieu of us congregating at the back table to light individual candles...)

L Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

L You journey with us through change. Guide those assuming new roles in this congregation or making transitions in their families, workplaces, or communities. As the seasons and the

calendar change, equip us for unexpected challenges. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

L We give you thanks for all who modeled lives of loving service. Lead us in your grace until, with all your saints, we enter the fullness of your glory. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

L Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

HYMN

“Joy to the World”

#267

COMMUNION – *The Ushers will pass out the Communion Kits and we will be eating the bread and drinking the juice at the same time as instructed in the Service.*

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

L Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might: heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

C You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

C You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

**Today we commune as the priesthood of all believers, saying the Words of Institution as One Body of Christ.*

C We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

C Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we take
this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us
worthy
to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into
one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy
Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and
glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all
glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy
Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever. Amen.

L Let us pray together the prayer our Lord has taught us.

The 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L In Christ's manger, at Christ's table, come, see what God
makes known for you. Turn to your neighbor and say:

C Body of Christ given for you.

C Blood of Christ shed for you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

C We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in
these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast
of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

OFFERING - *Please place your Offerings in the basket in the pew
on your way out of the Church.*

C Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to
the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts,
prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offered at this
table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus
Christ our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING

L The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so
that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Go Tell It on the Mountain" #290

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY

DISMISSAL

L Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

C Thanks be to God.

WE LEAVE TO BE THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD!

READER: Ken Brown

LAY LEADER: Kevin Brown

NOTE:

Memorial Service for Gerri Scheuer’s son, Steve, will be Saturday, January 15th at 11:00am at Cross. Women of the ELCA will provide a lunch reception following the Service. See Kevin Brown if you can help.

PRAYER REQUESTS AND ANSWERED PRAYERS

Judy Kaylor

Dick Ransom who had to have a transfusion and Deanna Ransom who is having complications from her heart procedure.

Dee Stone and family on the passing of husband, Jack on March 31st.

Pastor Lloyd Hanson and Family on the death of Donna Hanson from liver cancer on December 24th. Memorial Service is being planning at Cross.

Gerri Scheuer on the death of her son, Steve. Memorial Service will be Saturday, January 15th at 11:00am.

Congratulations to Whitney and Chris deKerguelen on the birth of a baby boy on October 27th, Dean Michael Paul deKerguelen. Grandparents, Craig & Candy Paul.

Peter and Merete Glick are proud grandparents of a baby boy. Oaken Erik was born 11/20 under an oak tree, under the stars. Baby, mom, and the entire family are doing well.

Michelle Palmer, mother of Ken Brown’s grandson, Ian, who was diagnosed with multiple myeloma cancer, which is incurable.

Roni Nagle, the Brown’s daughter-in-law, and her mother, Wava, who is in hospice.

Pastor Dee, her son and daughter-in-law, Ben and Avra, on the birth of twins, Theo and Hazel on Sept. 4th. Both babies are home.

Nina Paaskesen, sister-in-law of Merete Glick, who passed away August 27th. Prayers for comfort for her adult children, Anders, Christian and Lise, and the rest of Merete’s family.

Jackie Walters who is slowly recovering from surgery. Also, Hans, Jackie’s husband who has Parkinson’s. And their friend Dwayne Donahue who had a stroke.

Chuck Hines, whose ablation to remove cancer from his liver was successful. He will be closely monitored for the next year. He thanks you for your prayers and thanks God for answering them.

Also, on the death of his wife, and our long-time member Ruth Ann Hines, early Christmas morning. We will deeply miss all she has done for us and for our Missions, especially.

Buffy (friend of the Hines) successfully completed chemotherapy and stem cell replacement and is now enduring a balancing of anti-rejection drug therapy. She and her parents, thank you for your prayers.

Joanne Anger, homebound member of Cross.

Julie Andrews whose brother Conrad Becker, passed away. And to Pat Becker, his wife, their son Raymond, and the rest of their family.

Julie Nemes' friend Elizabeth Moitoza who is grieving the death of her husband in December. Also, friend Jerry Eason who has had spinal fusion surgery and had hip replacement surgeries last year.

Health care workers, including Laura, Jessica, James, Angela, Jenny, Kennedy, Chantel, Alisa, Seychelle, Merete, and others.

Grocery workers, including Whitney, Chris, Brittany, Robin, and others.

Those affected by COVID-19, especially those with depression, anxiety, or stress while coping during these times of staying at home.

Bruno Deter, former member and his family on the death of Audrey Deter, his wife, who was an integral part of Cross for years.

Our various ministries locally, including St. John's, WIND, Sac Food Bank. And Navajo Mission at Rock Point, AZ, especially impacted by COVID-19. **PLEASE CONTINUE TO SEND MONETARY SUPPORT TO CROSS, ESPECIALLY FOR ROCK POINT NAVAJO MISSION.**

CHURCH OF THE CROSS

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Facebook: Lutheran Church of the Cross-Sacramento

Website: www.cotcsac.org

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87598987747?pwd=d3VlM3VzYkptSGxNT2tqRWprc1BBQT09>

Phone number: 1-669-900-9128 Meeting id: 87598987747#

Password: worship