



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

WARDA, TEXAS - LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

(979) 242-3333 | holycrosswarda.com | holycross@cvctx.com

600 FM 1482, Giddings TX 78942

PO Box 69, Warda TX 78960

THE DAY OF
THE LORD IS... *Darkness?*



1873-2023

150 Years of God's Grace

Sharing with Everyone the Good News of Salvation Through Jesus Christ!

Divine Service
9:00 a.m.
Holy Communion
1st & 3rd Sundays

Bible Class &
Sunday School
10:15 a.m.

Welcome to
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
WARDA, TEXAS - LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
PO Box 69 Warda TX 78960
979.242.3333 holycrosswarda.com

Sunday, November 12, 2023

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

✠ IN NOMINE JESU ✠
(In the Name of Jesus)

GUESTS & VISITORS: Welcome to Holy Cross and to today's worship service. We are glad you are here! Please register your attendance in the Fellowship Book in the pew (be sure to include the name of any children with you today). We invite you to come and worship with us again. If you have any questions, or have an interest in joining Holy Cross, please speak with Pastor or one of our Elders.

IN TODAY'S READINGS:

The Gospel Prepares Us for Our Heavenly Bridegroom's Coming

The Day of the Lord is "*darkness, and not light*" (Amos 5:18, 20) for all who trust in their own righteousness and piety. The Lord will not accept their "*burnt offerings and grain offerings,*" nor will He look upon their "*peace offerings*" (Amos 5:22). Instead, He desires a heart of faith that trusts in Him, which lets "*justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream*" (Amos 5:24) in love for the neighbor. In order for the "lamps" of our lives to burn brightly with such love, we must be filled with the "oil" of forgiveness through faith in our Bridegroom, Jesus Christ (Matt. 25:1–4). Therefore, as we await His coming, wisdom directs us "*to the dealers*" (Matt. 25:9), that is, to the ministers of His Gospel. Thus we wait upon the Lord, and we "*encourage one another with these words*" (1 Thess. 4:18). Waking or sleeping, we are prepared to meet Him when He comes "*with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God,*" and "*we will always be with the Lord*" (1 Thess. 4:16, 17).

PRELUDE - *Selected*

THE RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

Hymn 72

[Please stand]

INVOCATION

pg. 5ff

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

C **♪ Amen.**

Matthew 28:20

CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness. *[Hebrews 10:22]*

P Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C **♪ Who made heaven and earth.**

Psalm 124:8

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C **♪ And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

Psalm 32:5

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end, that by Thy grace, we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy up on and hath given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgiveth us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He giveth power to become the sons of God and hath promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C **♪ Amen.**

[John 20:19-23]

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT - *Psalm 84:1, 9-12; antiphon: v. 3*

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,

at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

How lovely is your dwelling place,

O Lord of hosts!

Behold our shield, O God;

look on the face of your anointed!

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor.

No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

O Lord of hosts,

blessèd is the one who trusts in you!

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,

at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

GLORIA PATRI

Pg. 6ff.

☩ **♪ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

KYRIE

☩ **♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Mark 10:47

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

☩ **♪ Glory be to God on high: And on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heavenly King. God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

SALUTATION AND COLLECT FOR THE DAY

☩ The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

☩ **♪ And with thy spirit.**

☩ Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☩ **♪ Amen.**

[Please sit]

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Amos 5:18-24

¹⁸Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why would you have the day of the Lord? It is darkness, and not light, ¹⁹as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. ²⁰Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? ²¹“I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. ²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. ²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5

These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Blessèd are those whose strength is in you,

in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

EPISTLE READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

[Please stand and face the pastor in the center of the nave, a sign of Christ's presence among His people]

VERSE

Matthew 25:13

C **♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

P Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

C **♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:1-13

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C **♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **♪ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED

pg. 12

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY *“Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying”*

Hymn 609

SERMON *“Watching for the Day of the Lord”*

[Please stand]

OFFERTORY

pg. 12

☐ **♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

Psalm 51:10-12

[Please sit]


RECEIPT OF OFFERINGS

PAUSE TO PONDER: Matthew 25:4 – “But the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.” Why did they take flasks of oil with them? Because they listened to the Bridegroom’s words and believed what He said. Our actions always start with and flow from our beliefs. What do your actions in the realm of stewardship say about what you believe?


OFFERING HYMN

“Christ is Surely Coming”

LSB Hymn 509



1 Christ is sure - ly com - ing Bring - ing His re - ward,
2 See the ho - ly cit - y! There they en - ter in,
3 Grace be with God's peo - ple! Praise His ho - ly name!



Al - pha and O - me - ga, First and Last and Lord:
All by Christ made ho - ly, Washed from ev - 'ry sin:
Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, Ev - er - more the same;



Root and Stem of Da - vid, Bril - liant Morn - ing Star;
Thirst - y ones, de - sir - ing All He loves to give,
Hear the cer - tain prom - ise From the e - ter - nal home:



Meet your Judge and Sav - ior, Na - tions near and far!
Come for liv - ing wa - ter, Free - ly drink, and live!
"Sure - ly I come quick - ly! Come, Lord Je - sus, come!"

[Please stand]

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

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

Lord, You are our help and deliverer. We bring to You the prayers and petitions of Your people, that You may grant us all things needful and guard us against all things harmful. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, preserve Your people from believing that You are pleased with us because of our works or ceremonies. Grant that what we do in worship and prayer may proclaim salvation in Christ Jesus alone. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, You bestow favor and honor and withhold nothing from those who walk uprightly. Bless parents and those who teach children Your ways, that generations to come would love Your promises, walk in Your truth and dwell in Your house. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous God, You despise corruption and command justice. Embolden our rulers and all in authority to enact and defend measures that preserve peace and provide justice for all. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, show mercy to those who cry aloud as they await Your Son's coming in glory including Nelda, Wilma, J.C., Douglas, Bernice, Wesley, Louis, and all those we name in our hearts this morning. Answer them with strength and healing, comfort and hope. Make them confident in Christ, who will raise His people on the Last Day. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord, grant that we may not grieve as those who have no hope but rejoice and encourage each other in the promise of the resurrection to life everlasting. Especially strengthen and comfort the families of Christine Buscha and all who have recently lost a loved one. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our salvation, we know neither the day nor the hour of Christ's return, but we know that He has died and is risen again to open the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Until that day, preserve us in faith and guard us from temptation. Do not let us be caught unprepared for His coming. Let us live our days in loving service and joyful expectation of the life of the world to come; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

Matthew 6:9-13

COLLECT FOR THE WORD

pg. 14

P Blessed Lord, who hast caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of Thy holy Word we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which Thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who liveth and reignth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

C **♪ Amen.**

BENEDICTION

pg. 14

P The Lord bless Thee and keep Thee. The Lord make His face shine upon Thee and be gracious unto Thee. The Lord lift up His countenance upon Thee † and give Thee peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

C **♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN*"The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us"*

LSB Hymn 514



1 The Bride-groom soon will call us, "Come to the wed-ding feast."
 2 There shall we see in glo - ry Our dear Re-deem-er's face;
 3 There God shall from all e - vil For - ev - er make us free,
 4 In that fair home shall nev - er Be si - lent mu - sic's voice;



May slum - ber not be - fall us Nor watch - ful - ness de - crease.
 The long - a - wait - ed sto - ry Of heav'n - ly joy takes place:
 From sin and from the dev - il, From all ad - ver - si - ty,
 With hearts and lips for - ev - er We shall in God re - joice,



May all our lamps be burn - ing With oil e - nough and more
 The pa - tri - archs shall meet us, The proph - ets' ho - ly band;
 From sick - ness, pain, and sad - ness, From trou - bles, cares, and fears,
 While an - gel hosts are rais - ing With saints from great to least



That we, with Him re - turn - ing, May find an o - pen door!
 A - pos - tles, mar - tyrs greet us In that ce - les - tial land.
 And grant us heav'n - ly glad - ness And wipe a - way our tears.
 A might - y hymn for prais - ing The Giv - er of the feast.

POSTLUDE

OUTREACH THOUGHT: Matthew 25:1-13: Are you prepared? You might respond, "It depends on what I'm preparing for." Since God promises to dwell among us to make His home among us in His new heaven and new earth, isn't all of life a preparation for our homecoming? Unfortunately, we find ourselves preparing for everything but that, thinking that we will prepare for "that" when "that time" comes. God's Word tells us that the time to prepare is always "NOW!" We are to encour-

age one another all the more as the Day approaches even nearer. We have a **WORD** to share with the world that literally unpacks our bags and wants us to stay a while rather than helps us prepare for the blessings of our homecoming. The world makes us “unprepared” by draining us of the oil we need to be prepared by taking from us the one thing needful: Jesus Christ! Boldly share Christ with the world, for when they have Him and Him alone, they are prepared for the Day when He returns for His bride, His Church.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday Morning Bible Class is studying the book of Revelation. Dragons, beasts, and plagues...armies of angels, martyrs, and a slaughtered lamb...If you've never studied Revelation, or if it's a book that intimidates you, this will be a class you won't want to miss. We'll talk about the importance of Revelation; its place in the Bible; why it's not really a scary book for Christians; what some of the strange visions and images are really all about; and more. This study will provide an overview of the book and a chapter by chapter survey of the material. Please plan to join us as we take up the last book of the Bible and learn of the great comfort and hope that it imparts!

Youth group will meet again today at 11:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall. They will be having an "Is it Cake" challenge. All youth, ages 5th-12th grade, are invited to attend!

A freewill bake sale will be held TOMORROW in conjunction with the Amanda Knox Memorial Scholarship Fund pulled pork taco dinner. **(A few Taco tickets are still available this morning.)** Baked goods will be available for pickup at the picnic grounds when you pick up your taco plates. If you would be willing to donate an item or two, you can bring your items to the picnic grounds by 3pm tomorrow, the 13th. The Amanda Knox Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to provide full tuition to Faith Lutheran High School to an incoming freshman. For questions or more info, contact Cyndy Zoch at 979-966-3166.

GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays - Immanuel Lutheran Church in Giddings will again sponsor a two-hour special seminar entitled "Surviving the Holidays" for anyone facing the holidays after the death of a loved one next Sunday, November 19th, from 3-5 pm in the Fellowship Hall of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Giddings. When you are grieving a loved one's death, the holiday season can be especially painful. Our Surviving the Holidays seminar helps participants discover: • How to deal with emotions • What to do about traditions • Helpful tips for surviving social events • How to find hope for the future. Everyone is welcome to attend!

GEMS: All girls 5th-12th grade are invited to attend our monthly GEMS (Girls Embracing Mission Service) meeting on Sunday, November 26, at 2:00 here at Holy Cross. This month, we will have a special service project as we color Christmas bookmarks and assemble gift bags to give away to seasoned LWML members. Please join us for this time of fellowship, service, and fun! Contact Ruth Meyer at 979-540-9868 with any questions.

The Friendship Circle at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Giddings is taking orders for tamales for Christmas. They will come from the Delicious Tamale Factory in San Antonio. Pork or Spicy Pork for \$15/doz. Pick up hot on Wednesday, Dec. 13, from 3:00-5:30 p.m. at Immanuel. (Christine can deliver them to Warda on Thursday.) Order by Dec. 7th by calling Christine Hunt at 979.540.0703 or emailing cjhuntavon@gmail.com. Proceeds will go toward a scholarship for an Immanuel Lutheran Church member student to attend Faith Lutheran High School next school year. Thanks for your support!!

FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Shadow Days

Shadow days are a great opportunity for prospective students to follow us for a day and experience what FLHS is all about. Parents, call us at (979) 242-2889 today to set up a shadow day for your child.

Pie Sale

FLHS will have a Pie Sale on Sunday, November 19th with pick up at Holy Cross, Immanuel, St. Paul Serbin and Mt. Calvary. All pies are a generous 10-inch size and deep-dish. PreOrders only. **Pecan pies** are \$30 each and **Pumpkin pies** are \$25 each. Place your order by calling FLHS at 242-2889. Deadline to order is **TOMORROW**.

Thanksgiving Chapel and Feast

Join us Thursday, November 16th, beginning at 10:30 am for our 7th Annual Thanksgiving Celebration. Rev. Thomas Obersat will be leading us in worship. Stay and fellowship with us during our pot-luck Thanksgiving feast lunch, immediately following chapel.

“Faith at Christmas” Program

FLHS students will present a Christmas concert, “Faith at Christmas,” on Tuesday, December 12th at 7:00 pm at FLHS. Program will include a collection of choir pieces, handbell pieces, hymns, scripture readings and more. Refreshments will be served following the program. Please join us!!!

*This event will also be live streamed on Facebook, for those who would prefer to view the sounds of Christmas from home.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Nelda Winkler, hospitalized with pneumonia

Wilma Kaiser, at home, recovering from an infection

J.C. Kaiser, doing well at home

Douglas Beck, dad of Pastor Beck

Bernice Zoch, friend of Lee & Cindy Heselmeyer, recovering from successful surgery this week

Wesley Cervenka, brother of Debbie Knox, cancer has spread

Louis Jakiel (son of Wendy Wagner's co-worker) making good strides in recovery following a serious motorcycle accident several weeks ago

Our sympathy to Edward Buscha and the Buscha family on the death of +Christine Buscha+ on November 5th. Her funeral was here at Holy Cross on Friday.

Those who serve today: November 12, 2023

Rev. Dustin Beck
Mrs. Ann Bamsch
Mrs. Jane Chapman
Mr. Mike Tabbert
Carter Mrozek

Pastor
Organist
Greeter
Audio/Video System
Acolyte

Elders on Duty
Mr. Doug Lehmann
Mr. Brian Varner
Mr. Ron Zoch

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

TODAY	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School
	11:15 a.m.	Youth Group
TUESDAY	9:00 a.m.	Pastor's Circuit Mtg. in Serbin
WEDNESDAY		Church Office Open
		NO Chapel today
	11:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	Jr. Confirmation
	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study (last one for this year)
THURSDAY	10:30 a.m.	FLHS Chapel & Thanksgiving Lunch
FRIDAY		Church Office Closed
Next Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service w/Holy Communion
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School
	11:15 a.m.	Jr. Confirmation

Attendance Last Sunday

Divine Service: 127 Bible Class: 46 Sunday School: 16

Soli Deo Gloria

(To God alone be Glory)