



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

Arise, Shine,



FOR YOUR LIGHT
HAS COME.

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.

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

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

Sunday, January 8, 2023

Epiphany (Observed)

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 Lord God Is Manifested in the Incarnate Son*

The Feast of the Epiphany centers in the visit of the Magi from the East. In that respect, it is a "Thirteenth Day" of Christmas, and yet it also marks the beginning of a new liturgical season. Where Christmas has focused on the incarnation of our Lord, that is, on God becoming flesh, the Season of Epiphany emphasizes the manifestation or self-revelation of God in that same flesh of Christ. For the Lord Himself has entered our darkness and rises upon us with the brightness of His true light (Is. 60:1–2). He does so chiefly by His Word of the Gospel, which He causes to be preached within His Church on earth, not only to the Jews but also to Gentiles (Eph. 3:8–10). As the Magi were guided by the promises of Holy Scripture to find and worship the Christ Child with His mother in the house (Matt. 2:5–11), so does He call disciples from all nations by the preaching of His Word to find and worship Him within His Church (Is. 60:3–6).

PRELUDE - *Selected*

THE RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

"Arise and Shine in Splendor"

Hymn 126

[Please stand]

INVOCATION

pg. 5ff

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

☩ **♪ 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** Upon this your confession, I by virtue of my office, as a called an ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
- C** **♪ Amen.** *[John 20:19-23]*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 45:6–8a; antiphon: v. 17

I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;

therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;

you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;

your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.

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

I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;


therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

KYRIE

Pg. 7ff.

- C** **♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.** *Mark 10:47*

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS


C  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

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C  And with thy spirit.

P O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; 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 sit]

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Psalm 117:1-2a, 96:8

Praise the Lord, all nations!

Extol him, all peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us,

and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;

bring an offering, and come into his courts!

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 3:1-12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—
²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

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 2:2b



Where is He who has been born king of the Jews?

For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him!



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

C **♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

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 *"How Lovely Shines the Morning Star"*

Hymn 343

SERMON "Your Light Has Come"

[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 2:11 – “And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.” For the wise men and for us, worshipping and offering gifts go together. How could this not be since our God is the great Giver of gifts? We receive His gifts in worship and then, being conformed to His image, we imitate His generosity.

OFFERING HYMN *"As with Gladness Men of Old"*

Hymn 127

[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.

O God, You have made Yourself known to all nations in the person of Your Son. Grant us a right knowledge of Him, that we would abandon the darkness of this world and embrace the joy of His heavenly light. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Giver of all wisdom, You guided the Wise Men from the East to Your holy Son, that they might worship their King. Preserve us in the faith, that we would not be led astray by cultural trends or man-made philosophies. By Your Holy Word, strengthen us to believe that Jesus is the Christ, Your Son and our Savior, and grant that we may make use of Your gifts according Your will and with thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You prepared a place for Your Son, Jesus, in the womb of the Virgin Mary and in the home of Mary and Joseph. Bless our homes and all who dwell in them, that Your Word would be heard and Your mercy be shown therein. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

May Your light shine in the world for the correction of error and the promotion of virtue. Bless Joseph, our president; Greg, our governor; and all elected and appointed civil servants. Guide them in the pursuit of justice and peace for all the people. Guard those who protect and defend us against all enemies. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

From distant lands and far off places, You gather a people to bear Your name and live in the light of Your Word. Bless the Church, that she may be united in doctrine, live in harmony and peace, and labor to bring the light of Christ to those still dwelling in darkness and death. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give to all people the comfort of Your presence, healing according to Your will, relief of suffering, and an end to the terrors of mind and heart, especially those for whom our prayers have been requested: Linda, Nancy, Carol, Nellie, Edward, Christine, Mark, Ann Marie, Emma, Rachel, Theresa, Donald, Jeanette, and those we name in our hearts. Sustain the weary with Your Word, the wounded with hope and the dying with peace. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

May Your light shine on us and bring forth the fruits of repentance in our daily lives. Give us confidence in Your Word, that we would embrace Your holy will without fear. Hear and answer us, we pray, through Jesus Christ, 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.**

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

pg. 14

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C **♪ And with Thy spirit.**

P Bless we the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]

C **♪ Thanks be to God.**

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

Numbers 6:24-26

C **♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“O Christ, Our True and Only Light”

Hymn 512

POSTLUDE

OUTREACH THOUGHT: Matthew 2:1-12: The celebration of Epiphany is the Gentile Christmas Day. With the sending of the star to mark His Son's birth, God announced to the world His desire for everyone to be saved, and He did something about it. He sent His Son in recognizable form: human flesh. The celebration of Epiphany reminds us that our mission is to let Jesus shine for all the world to see, so that everyone might be saved. Pray for God to fill your heart with mission zeal and to recognize the next opportunity to bear His shining truth.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP in the New Testament: We're continuing our study in Adult Bible Class, walking through passages that pertain to WORSHIP. What is it? Why does it matter? How does it inform what we do every week in church? Please join us today in the Fellowship Hall to hear more about the nature of God-pleasing Worship.

The Youth Group will have a brief meeting this morning after Sunday School and Bible Class to talk about their upcoming Valentine fundraiser on February 11th. All youth and their parents are asked to attend.

The Wednesday night Bible Study group is currently studying the Old Testament book of Judges. It's not too late to come learn more about the faithfulness of God, despite the forgetfulness of His people. You'll read about and learn from some of the more well-known judges, like Deborah, Gideon, and Samson, as well as some you may not be familiar with - Othniel, Ehud, and Jephthah. There is no cost to join this study and all are welcome! Note that during Lent we will adjust the hours of the class so that it does not interfere with the regular Lenten services on Wednesday nights. For more information or to register, please contact Cyndy Zoch at cyndy.zoch@gmail.com or 979-966-3166

GriefShare - No matter the circumstances, grief recovery is a painful process. GriefShare is a nondenominational program featuring Christ-centered, biblical teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one.

The DVD presentations feature nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion regarding the DVD topics. Participants may share as little or as much as they choose, and confidentiality is taken seriously. You will find this to be a place where you will be around people who understand the pain of your loss.

A workbook is an integral part of the program. Some of the topics are "Is This Normal?", "Why?", "Guilt and Anger", and "Complicating Factors."

Beginning January 19, the 14-week sessions will be held on Thursdays from 6-8 PM in the fellowship hall of Immanuel Lutheran Church, 300 N. Grimes in Giddings. You are welcome to begin attending the group at any session.

For more information or to register, please call Kathy Bartels at 512-461-5442 or email monniebartels@gmail.com

St. John Lutheran Church in Dime Box will have a Fried Chicken Dinner and Auction next Sunday, January 15th, at Diamond I Venue in Dime Box. All plates are \$12 each. Drive-thru serving begins at 10:30, eat-in starting at 11:00, and the auction will begin at noon. Everyone is invited to come enjoy a great meal and support their ministry!

Camp Lone Star Women's Retreat - Ladies, join Camp Lone Star for their annual Women's Renewal Retreat Feb. 3-5! The weekend is a time set aside to reflect on Christ and His Word, be in fellowship with other sisters in Christ, and spend time in His creation. For more information or to register, visit www.camplonestar.org or call the camp office if you have any questions.

The Warda Bunch (supporters of the Lee County Junior Livestock Show exhibitors) will have their organizational/appreciation luncheon at the Picnic Grounds on Sunday, February 12th beginning at 11:00 a.m. The committee will furnish fried chicken and members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to complete the meal. If you are interested in joining this group, please attend this meeting or call (979) 542-8372 if you have any questions or need further information.

Blessed 
EPIPHANY

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. 8th Grade parents, call us today at (979) 242-2889 to set up a shadow day for your child.

New Student Registration

Any new student who registers for FLHS prior to Friday, March 10, 2023 will only pay \$100 in registration fees. Register early to take advantage of this savings! You can receive registration materials by calling (979) 242-2889 or visiting our website at www.flhstx.org.

Raffle Items

The Spring Raffle is just around the corner. The Board of Directors is currently looking for valuable items or monetary donations to be used in the raffle. Please contact Nikki Kueck if you have something to donate! Thank you!

Free Wednesday mornings?

Join us for our weekly Chapel Worship Service every Wednesday, beginning at 10:30 am.

End of Year Giving

Thank you for your support of Faith Lutheran High School during our End of Year giving. We were blessed through generous contributions from many of you. We are still accepting donations if you missed out but would like to support the ministry and growth of FLHS.

Thank you!

Everyone at FLHS is blessed by each gift that we receive from our supporters. It's not about the size of the gift, but the cheerful attitude that gives thanks to God (2 Corinthians 9:7). Whether your gift seems big or small, it is greatly appreciated and makes a bigger impact than you know!



PRAYER REQUESTS



PRAYER REQUESTS FOR TODAY

Linda Hobratschk, thankful diagnosis was modified, waiting on additional tests

Nancy I. Pietsch, undergoing chemo treatments

Carol Jurk, recovering from a broken leg following a fall

Nellie McBride, hospitalized in Kansas City following a stroke

Edward & Christine Buscha, various health issues

Mark Landry, son-in-law of Calvin & Gale Mersiovsky, recovering from leg amputation

Jeanette Schramm, still undergoing health issues.

Ann Marie Heinrich, daughter-in-law of Roger Heinrich, dealing with serious health issues

Emma & Rachel Soenksen, granddaughters of Rev. Al & Kathy Gallmeier, both

Theresa Krause, wife of Billy Krause of Serbin, undergoing treatments for cancer

Donald Pietsch, Jr., son of Donald Pietsch, Sr., recovering from bleeding ulcers

Our sympathy to Mary Sledge, her daughter, Leesa, and their families as they mourn the loss of Leesa's husband Ennis, who passed away on Wednesday following a battle with Alzheimer's.

Attendance

New Year's Eve: 62

1/1/23 Worship Service: 108

Our Response to God's Blessings

January 1, 2023

Estimated General Fund Weekly Need

\$ 4,610

Offering Received

\$ 3,260

Short/Over

\$ (1,350)

Those who serve today: January 8, 2023

Rev. Dustin Beck	Pastor
Mrs. Ann Bamsch	Organist
Mr. Curtis Wedgeworth	Lector
Mr. Shea Kasper	Audio/Video System
Kaitlynn Lehmann	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
	11:00 am.	Brief Youth Group Meeting
TUESDAY	9:00 a.m.	Pastors Circuit Mtg. in Winchester
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
WEDNESDAY	10:30 a.m.	FLHS Chapel
	6:00 p.m.	Jr. Confirmation
	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study
THURSDAY	9:00 a.m.	Sewing Circle
FRIDAY	7:00 p.m.	Couple's Club
Next Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service w/Holy Communion
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School

Soli Deo Gloria
(To God alone be Glory)