



# Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Warda, Texas | Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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And the Word  
became flesh.



1873-2024

151 Years of God's Grace

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

Divine Service with  
Holy Communion  
9:00am

Bible Class and  
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](http://holycrosswarda.com)

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

Christmas Day

✠ 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.

**OUR COMMUNION POLICY:** Communicant members of LC-MS congregations are welcome to join us for Communion. Please mark the Fellowship Book, providing us with your address and the name of your home congregation. In keeping with our confessional heritage, we practice "close communion." If you are not a member of an LC-MS congregation and wish to commune, we ask that you please visit with Pastor or one of our Elder's before partaking of Holy Communion. Thank you.

**IN TODAY'S READINGS:**

***The Living and Life-Giving Word of God Dwells Among Us in the Flesh***

The Lord sends out His ministers of the Gospel to make disciples "*of all the nations,*" so that "*all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.*" For the Lord has "*bared his holy arm*" in the incarnate Christ (Is. 52:7, 10). The Child in the manger, born of the Virgin Mary, is the very Word of God, the only begotten Son of the Father, "*whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world*" (Heb. 1:2). As "*all things were made through him*" (John 1:3), so are all things redeemed and made new in Him. In His body of flesh and blood, we behold "*the radiance of the glory of God*" (Heb. 1:3), "*glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth*" (John 1:14). He dwells among us in peace that we might have life and light and salvation in Him. For by His Word of the Gospel, we are born again as the children of God, bearing His name and sharing His eternal life.

PRELUDE - *Selected*

THE RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

*Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful*

*Hymn 102*

*[Please stand]*

INVOCATION

*pg. 15ff*

**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*

**C** **O almighty God, merciful Father, I a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them, and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

**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 98:1-4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6*



*For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is | given;\**  
*and the government shall be upon His | shoulder,*  
*and His name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,\**  
*Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of | Peace.*

**Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous | things!\***  
**His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for | Him.**

**The LORD has made known His sal - | vation;\***

**He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the | nations.**

*He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.\**

*All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our | God.*

*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the | earth;\**

*break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!*

**Glory be to the Father and to the | Son\***

**and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be - | ginning,\***

**is now, and will be forever. A - | men.**

*For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is | given;\**

*and the government shall be upon His | shoulder,*

*and His name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,\**

*Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of | Peace.*

## KYRIE

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

*Mark 10:47*

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*Rejoice, Rejoice, This Happy Morn*

*Hymn 79*

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT FOR THE DAY

**☩** The Lord be with you.

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**☩** **♪ And with thy spirit.**

- ☐ Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever
- ☐ 🎵 Amen.

*[Please sit]*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 52:7-10*

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” <sup>8</sup>The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. <sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

- ☐ This is the Word of the Lord.
- ☐ Thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL

*Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1*

To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given;  
**and the government shall be upon His shoulder.**  
And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
**Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**  
Sing to the LORD a new song,  
**for He has done marvelous things!**

## EPISTLE READING

*Hebrews 1:1-12*

<sup>1</sup>Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup>He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say,  
“You are my Son, today I have begotten you”?  
Or again,  
“I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”?

<sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,  
“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

<sup>7</sup>Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.”

<sup>8</sup>But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,  
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

<sup>10</sup>And,

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

<sup>11</sup>they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment,

<sup>12</sup>like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed.

But you are the same, and your years will have no end.”

**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

*John 1:14*

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

**P** The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory  
as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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

## HOLY GOSPEL

*John 1:1-18*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

**C** **♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**


<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) <sup>16</sup>And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C**  **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

## NICENE CREED

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**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds. God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He will come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life  $\text{✝}$  of the world to come. Amen.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Of the Father’s Love Begotten*

*Hymn 98*

**SERMON**

“Jesus, Our Salvation”

*[Please stand]*

## OFFERTORY

pg. 22

☐ 🎵 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** - *Offering plates are available before and after service in the narthex*

**PAUSE TO PONDER:** John 1:12 – “But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.” In the beginning we were made in God’s image. When Adam and Eve sinned, the image was tarnished, and in some ways, it was even lost. But Christ has come to restore us, to make us God’s children again, to restore the image of God within us. The Christian life is a life of growing into that image, of struggling against sin and striving to imitate our Lord in His mercy, generosity, love, faithfulness and kindness.

*[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 God, heavenly Father, as You have caused Your eternal light to dawn on our darkness in the incarnation of Your only begotten Son, cause His glory to shine on us in the grace and truth of His Word, that we may receive Him with joy and believe in His name. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Support all pastors, Lord, in their proclamation of Christ. Be pleased through their work to bring the good news of joy and salvation to all who hear them. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be near to those who suffer persecution for the sake of Your Son. As oppression seeks to quench His light in them, sustain them in the truth that the darkness cannot overcome Him. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As our families gather in this holy season, give us patience, that we may be slow to judge and quick to forgive. Comfort the lonely with Your presence, and help us extend the welcome of our homes and the friendship of Your grace. Make us mindful of those less fortunate, who celebrate this blessed feast in poverty and want, and teach us to be generous. Accept with our offerings the living sacrifice of our bodies



to Your service and our voices in praise and thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your Son took up our flesh so that He might heal and restore it, according to Your good purposes; let His healing hand be upon the sick and those who suffer in our midst. Comfort those who grieve this day with the truth that the Babe of Bethlehem was born so that the dead might live. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant that we may come worthily to receive the body and blood of Jesus with faith in His bodily presence for us, that we may depart with grace upon grace from His fullness. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Joining in heaven's eternal praise for the revelation of Your love in Your Word made flesh, we boldly lay all our petitions before You, dear Father, trusting that You will hear us for His sake, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Page 24ff.*

### PREFACE AND PROPER PREFACE

**P** The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

**C** **♪ And with thy spirit.**

**P** Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*

**C** **♪ We lift them up unto the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God. *[Psalm 136]*

**C** **♪ It is meet and right so to do.**

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord: For in the mystery of the Word made flesh Thou hast given us now revelation of Thy glory that, seeing Thee in the person of Thy Son, we may be drawn to the love of those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Thy glorious name, evermore praising Thee and saying:

### SANCTUS

**C** **♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory; Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, Blessed is He, Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.** *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

## 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*

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24  
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

## PAX DOMINI AND AGNUS DEI

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always!

*John 20:19*

**C** ♪ **Amen.**

*If you are unable to climb the chancel steps without assistance, please come forward at this time.*

**C** ♪ **O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.** *John 1:29*

## Silent Prayer before Communing:

*Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul at the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

## DISTRIBUTION

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

*Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising*

*Hymn 90*

*Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord*

*Hymn 91*

*O Lord, We Welcome Thee*

*Hymn 93*

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

*Hymn 94*


## Silent Prayer after Communing:

*Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.*

*[Please stand]*

## NUNC DIMITTIS

*pg. 29ff*

**C**  Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation: which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel. 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.

*Luke 2:29-32*

## THANKSGIVING AND POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

**P** Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

**C**  **And His mercy endures forever.**

*Psalm 107:1*

**P** We give thanks to Thee, Almighty God, that Thou hast refreshed us through this salutary gift; and we beseech Thee that of Thy mercy Thou wouldst strengthen us through the same in faith toward Thee and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.


**C**  **Amen.**

## BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

*pg. 31*

**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 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

*Joy to the World, the Lord is Come*

*Hymn 87*

## POSTLUDE

*Those who serve today:*

Rev. Dustin Beck

Pastor

Mrs. Ann Bamsch

Organist

Mr. Shea Kasper

Audio/Video System

Bryn Henderson

Acolyte

Mr. Cory Knox & Mr. David Weishuhn

Elders on Duty

## *Christmas Poinsettias*

In memory of Helen "Nene" Schlotterbeck by Dylan, Michaela, and Tinsley Schlotterbeck  
In memory of David Schramm and my parents, Monroe and Verna Mae Becker, by Allene Schramm and family

In memory of my husband, Wallace Lehmann, by Carol Lehmann

In memory of Roy and Ruth Lehmann by Roland and Betsy Guettler

In memory of my mom, Delphine Shepherd, by Karen Stephenson

In memory of Bill and Emily Gallmeier and Rev. Gerhard and Dorothy Bode by Al and Kathy Gallmeier

In memory of Buddy Whited, Harold and Irene Kasper, and Ralph Kasper by Margie Whited and family

In memory of Otto and Alice Kunze and Glenn Kunze by Allen Kunze, Charles Kunze, and Karen and Mark Gerdes

In memory of Elmo and Adele Schulze and Kenneth Wiederhold by Dennis and Diann Pietsch

In memory of Elmo and Helen Pietsch and Daniel Pietsch by Dennis and Diann Pietsch

In memory of Jimmie Lehmann and Carolyn Lehmann Buscha by their children and their families

In memory of our loved ones by Danny and Judy Jurk

In memory of John and Renata Teinert by Dee Herbert

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. John Comeaux and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Heselmeyer by Lee and Cindy Heselmeyer

In memory of Billy and Jo Ann Lange by Patrick, Meghan, Rayden and Rylen Lange, and Kevin, Sandra, Alexa and Raina Lange

In memory of Wallace Lehmann by Gary and Diane Becker

In memory of Wallace Lehmann by Sophie Becker and Chesston, Abby, and Scarlett Melcher

In memory of Clarence and Martha Urban, Robert and Della Mae Lehmann, Clarence (Buddy) Urban and Rebecca (Becky) Urban by David and Linda Lehmann

In memory of Evelyn Buscha and Barbara Buscha by the Buscha Family

In memory of Carolyn Buscha by Bobby Buscha, Sr.

In memory of George and Eunice Dunk and Freddie Zoch by Daryl and Patty Schulze

In memory of Wallace Lehmann, Robert Hentschel, Sr., Lois Hentschel, Frances

Hentschel, Ronald Hentschel, and Donald Hentschel by Ricky, Janis, Brianna, and Brooke Lehmann

In memory of Peggy Varner by Brian Varner and family

In memory of Ted Tonn by LaVerne Tonn and family

In memory of Larry Joe and Mary Jane Briscoe by Tucker, Leann, Alyssa and Jolee Briscoe

In memory of Richard Rucker by Mary Ann Rucker

In memory of our parents, Victor and Mary Schimank and Otto Becker, Jr. by the Clyde Schimank family

In honor of Janiece Becker by the Clyde Schimank family

In honor of Harry and Patricia Lehmann by Tucker, Leann, Alyssa, and Jolee Briscoe

In honor of the Holy Cross Sunday School teachers by Daryl and Patty Schulze

To the glory of God for my children and grandchildren by Allene Schramm

To the glory of God by Delbert and Judy Zoch