

The Old Testament Reading.Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. . . .For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

The Epistle Reading.1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

The Gospel Reading.John 1:6–8, 19–28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
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“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”



Third Sunday in Advent
December 13, 2020

Rev. Frank G. Frye, Senior Pastor
Website: <http://holycrosskc.org>
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Receiving the Lord's Supper at Holy Cross

Our Lord gives both directions and warnings in Scripture when it comes to the precious gift of Holy Communion, which we take great care to follow. A small brochure is available in the pew which describes the importance of the Biblical and historic practice known as "Closed Communion." If you are not under the spiritual care of Holy Cross, please speak with the pastor before communing so that our unity with Christ and with one another may be genuine. Our aim is not to insult, but to instruct and prepare those who earnestly desire to join our communion. So, if you or your children are not yet communicants, you may come forward for a blessing tied to baptism, and you are encouraged to signify this by crossing your arms over your chest as the pastor comes by. The Blood of Christ is offered either in individual glasses, or simply hold out your hand to take the chalice by the base as you drink from it.

Notes on the service: As we approach more closely the celebration of our Savior's birth, the mood of Advent today is one of rejoicing. We rejoice because of the Light that shines in the darkness of this world. There are many decorations on the streets of our communities and homes. They are, however, lights which will eventually burn out and be replaced. There is a Light which we have been given that shines forever. It is the Savior to whom John the Baptist bore witness. Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself later said, "I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life." We pray that this Light may always shine brightly in our lives.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY:

P: Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Organist. Linda Rusche
Communion Elders. . . . (10:45 A.M.) Randy Wilson & Steve Hoffman
December Elders. David Johnson & Luther Salonen

Psalm 85



Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,*

and grant us your sal- | vation.

Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,*

**For he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let
them not turn back to | folly.**

Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,*

that glory may dwell | in our land.

Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,*

and our land will yield its | increase.

Righteousness will go be- | fore him*

and make his foot- | steps a way.

*8:00 A.M.—Matins: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son...***

*10:45 A.M.—**Divine Service continues with the
Gloria Patri on page 186.***

Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,*

and grant us your sal- | vation.

Note: Standing and Kneeling are optional

8:00 A.M.—Matins LSB 219

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Hymn—LSB #333

Opening Verses—LSB 219

Isaiah 85—(printed at left)

Office Hymn—LSB #396

The Lessons: (printed on back)

Common Responary - LSB 221

Catechetical Instruction— The Sacrament of
Holy Baptism-LSB 325

Sermon Hymn—LW #18 (on insert)

Sermon - "Sent to Bear Witness to Jesus"

Text: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Canticle—Benedictus - LSB 226-227

Offering

Prayer—LSB 227

Benediction—LSB 228

Closing Hymn— LSB #357, stanzas 1, 5 & 6

10:45 A.M.

Divine Service Setting Three LSB 184

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Hymn—LSB #333

Confession and Absolution LSB 184

Service of the Word LSB 186

Introit - Psalm 85—(printed at left)

Gloria Patri - LSB 186

Kyrie - LSB 186 (*Gloria omitted during Advent*)

The Lessons: (printed on back)

The Nicene Creed - LSB 191

Hymn of the Day - LW #18 (on insert)

Sermon - "Sent to Bear Witness to Jesus"

Text: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Offertory & Offering - LSB 192-193

Prayer of the Church - LSB 193

Service of the Sacrament LSB 194

Sanctus - LSB 195

Lord's Prayer - LSB 196 (Spoken)

Agnus Dei - LSB 198

Distribution - LSB 199

Hymns—LSB #636, #395, #396

Nunc Dimittis - LSB 199

Benedicamus & Benediction - LSB 201-202

Closing Hymn— LSB #357, stanzas 1, 5 & 6