

The Old Testament Reading. Micah 5:2–5a

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

The Epistle Reading. Hebrews 10:5–10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’ “When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Gospel Reading. Luke 1:39–56

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.” And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
2003 N.E. Englewood Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64118
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**“Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb!”**



**Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 19, 2021**

**Website: <http://holycrosskc.org>
Email: church@holycrosskc.org**

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: We are inching ever closer to Christmas. There is appropriately a great air of anticipation as we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. The sense of excitement is well captured by the story of our Lord's conception in the womb of the Virgin Mary, a portion of which is the day's *Gospel*. We share Mary's joy and eagerness in the *Introit*. After already twice in previous weeks praying that God would "stir up" something, this Sunday's *Collect* now seems to suggest that the time is well due: "stir up...and come" in order that our sins may be lifted "quickly." The preacher of Hebrews reminds us why our Lord came to earth in the first place: to do the will of the Father on our behalf (*Epistle*).

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY: (The theme prayer of the day.)

P: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Organist. Diane Lutman
Communion Elders. Luther Salonen & Randy Wilson
Ushers. Steve Hoffman & Dave Senne

1 Samuel 2



My soul magni- | fies the Lord,*
and my spirit rejoices in God my | Savior,
My mouth derides my | enemies,*
because I rejoice in your sal- | vation.
There is none holy like | the LORD;*
there is none besides you; there is no rock | like our God.
The barren has borne | seven,*
but she who has many children | is forlorn.
The LORD kills and | brings to life;*
He brings down to Sheol and | raises up.
The LORD makes poor | and makes rich;*
He brings low and | he exalts.

Note: Standing and Kneeling are optional

10:00 A.M.

Divine Service Setting Three LSB 184

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Hymn—LSB #347

Confession and Absolution LSB 184

Service of the Word LSB 186

Introit - 1 Samuel 2—(printed at left)

Gloria Patri - LSB 186

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

Collect of the Day—LSB 189

The Lessons: (printed on back)

The Nicene Creed - LSB 191

Hymn of the Day - LSB #934

Sermon - Rev. Perry Copus

Offertory & Offering - LSB 192-193

Prayer of the Church - LSB 193

Service of the Sacrament LSB 194

Preface & Sanctus - LSB 194-195

Lord's Prayer - LSB 196 (Spoken)

The Words of Our Lord—LSB 197

Agnus Dei - LSB 198

Distribution - LSB 199

Hymns—LSB #357

LSB #352

LSB #602

Nunc Dimittis - LSB 199

Benedicamus & Benediction - LSB 201-202

Closing Hymn—LSB #933

Postlude