

WE ARE TRANSFORMED IN CHRIST

to Share the Hope of Eternal Life. Twenty third Sunday after Pentecost November 16, 2025



Holy Cross Lutheran Church THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

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Office Phone 573-883-5361
holycrossstegen@gmail.com
Website: holycrossstegen.org
Facebook: facebook.com/holycrossstegen
Bulletin can be found on Facebook site
Needs for pastoral care in our area, call one of our EldersRick Hutson 573-780-9390,
Randy Ruzicka 314-210-4279 or Wayne Schremp 573-883-6060

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

The ringing of the bells starts at 9 a.m. Pastor/Seminarian prepares for a long set of bell tones before walking up to altar.

Words written in **Bold** generally signify congregation response.

The Greeting

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We are transformed in Christ **To share the hope of eternal Life.**

Welcome, let us stand and share the sign of peace and conversation.

Sit

Confession and Absolution

873 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **C** who made heaven and earth.
- **P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **©** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
- Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.
- Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 121:1-2, 5, 7-8; antiphon: Luke 21:33

Heaven and earth will pass away,

but my words will not pass away.

I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my help come?

My help comes from the LORD,

who made heaven and earth.

The LORD is your keeper;

the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

The LORD will keep you from all evil;

he will keep your life.

The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

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.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Kyrie

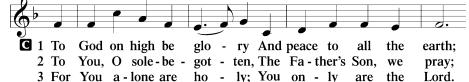
LSB 204



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Gloria in Excelsis (intro)

LSB 204





Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!

O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.

For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry, You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King. Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa-ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **P** Let us pray.

O Lord, almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may live and abide forever in Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 4:1-6

¹ "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ²But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

⁴"Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and just decrees that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

⁵"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and

the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98; antiphon: v. 9b

¹Oh 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.

²The LORD has made known his salvation;

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

³He 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.

⁴Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

⁵Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody!

⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it!

⁸Let the rivers clap their hands;

let the hills sing for joy together

⁹before the LORD, for he comes

to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

Epistle

2 Thessalonians 3:1–13

¹Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, ²and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. ³But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. ⁴And we have confidence in the Lord

about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. ⁵May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

⁶Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. ⁹It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. ¹¹For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ¹²Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

¹³As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse (intro)



Holy Gospel Luke 21:5–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁵While some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, [Jesus] said, ⁶"As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." ⁷And they asked him, "Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?" ⁸And he said, "See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is at hand!' Do not go after them. ⁹And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once."

¹⁰Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. ¹²But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. ¹³This will be your opportunity to bear witness. ¹⁴Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, ¹⁵for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all for my name's sake. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your endurance you will gain your lives.

²⁰"But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. ²¹Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, ²²for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. ²³Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. ²⁴They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

²⁵"And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to

take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

- **P** God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- 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 Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

Sit

348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

Sermon "Your Redemption is Drawing Near." Pastor Peter Kirby

For today's prayer requests, please write them on the attendance card provided during the service. Once completed, fold the card and either hand it to an usher or place it on the offertory plate. The Pastor or Seminarian will include these requests during the Prayers of the Church.

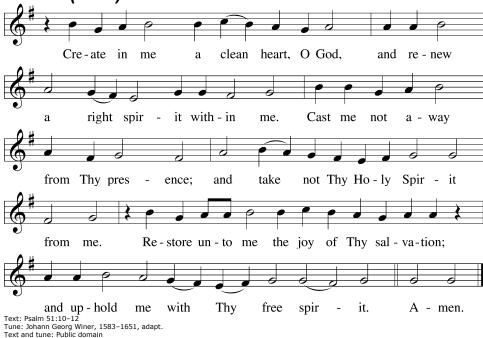
We honor the Lord with our tithes and our gifts. Please Stand as the offering is brought forward and sing

Stand

Three ways to give:

- 1) offering plate—cash or check.
- 2) online at holycrossstegen.org Click the "Give" icon.
- 3) by mail.

Create in Me (intro)



Prayer of the Church

November 16,2025

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

O Lord, with You there is forgiveness; therefore, You are feared. In love, You have forgiven the debt of our sin through the cross of Your Son. Create in us hearts that forgive our brother for his offenses against us, that Your love would lead to grateful love in us also. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, inspire Your Church by the mercies of Christ to live in forgiveness with one another and to hold out Your forgiveness for all people. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You establish our families on the foundation of Your forgiveness toward us and of us toward one another. Fix our hearts together on the sacrifice of Christ, and lead us after His humble example. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Almighty God, You guide the nations and judge the peoples with equity. Give those who govern wisdom to enact laws without sinful bias and to foster charity among the citizens of our land. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious Lord, as You have restored our souls by Your forgiveness, extend Your remedy to those whose bodies are suffering [especially _______]. Stir up in them the praise of Your temporal and eternal healing. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Mighty God, You have shown us Your great mercy through the death of Your Son. May all who partake of His Supper come with repentant and humble hearts to taste the body and blood of Christ, which was given and shed for our life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

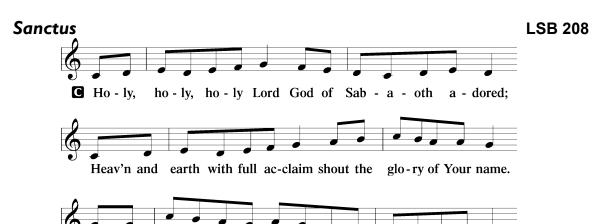
Holy Father, our prayers are filled with joy because of the good work You have begun in us through Baptism, making us partakers of Your grace and adorning us with Christ's righteousness. By Your Holy Spirit, grant us to grow in knowledge and discernment of Your Word and to abound in love, that we may approve what is excellent and be pure and blameless before You. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O almighty God, we confess that we are poor sinners and could not give an answer if You should contend with us. Yet do we thank You with all our hearts that You have taken our guilt from us and laid it upon Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, who has atoned for it. Graciously sustain us in this faith. Govern us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may live according to Your will in love and service to our neighbors. Do not let us give way to wrath or revenge, and so incur Your wrath, but let us always find in You a gracious Father; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

Preface LSB 208

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **C** We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san-na to the Lord;



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a lifegiving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

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.

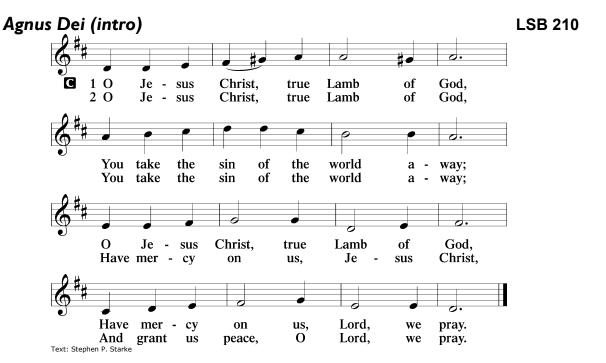
The Words of Our Lord

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.



Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart → in peace.
- C Amen.

733 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

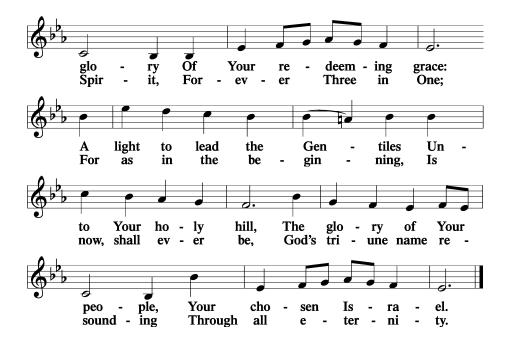
633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

Text: Latin, c. 5th-10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814-68, alt. Text: Public domain

508 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near

Stand





Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus LSB 212

- **A** Let us bless the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.

 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

 The Lord look upon you with favor and

 → give you peace.
- C Amen.

918 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER EVENTS

The fresh flower arrangement on the altar, given by Anonymous this Sunday. The occasion, for God's strength to be given to his people.

We are putting together the children's Christmas boxes after the service today; can you join us? We would love your company.

Operation Christmas Child's National Collection Week is November 17–24, 2025; contact Donna Ringwald at 573-535-4630 for more information.

Thanksgiving Eve service will be on Wednesday, November 26th at 6:00 PM.

Church decorating is scheduled for Saturday, November 29th at 8:30 AM—join us to help and get into the Christmas spirit.

Annual Christmas Concerts will be held during the Sainte Genevieve Christmas Festival December 6th and 7th; volunteer and cookie sign-up sheets will be available in the Narthex soon.

Key December dates:

- December 16th: general cleaning and prep,
- December 17th, 10:30 AM–12:30 PM: poinsettia display for the altar,
- December 18th, 1:00–8:00 PM: annual Christmas Country Church Tour (sign up to guide tours; cookies will be served).

Please refer to the bulletin board in the Narthex and along the corridor leading to the restrooms for information regarding upcoming events within our local and neighboring Lutheran communities.

We kindly request that you reserve time in your schedule to assist us with upcoming seasonal activities at Holy Cross. Your participation as a volunteer would greatly contribute to the success of our events.

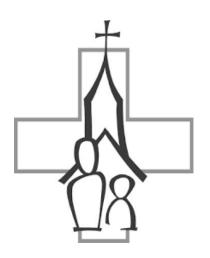
WEEKLY CALENDAR/UPDATES

Vacancy pastoral hours upon request

Secretarial hours Wednesday/Thursday/Friday 11:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Sunday's church doors open at 8:00 AM service begins at 9:00 AM following with a Bible Study coffee and pastries generally served.

Tuesdays Bible study starting at 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM



SERVING TODAY

Pastor: Peter Kirby Scripture Reader: Randy Ruzicka Ushers: Wayne Schremp & Rick Hutson Communion Servicer: Linda Ruzicka Concordia Organist iPad

Up-coming November 23rd

Pastor: Conner Wondrasch Scripture Readers: Meaghin Schremp Ushers: Wayne Schremp & Rick Hutson Communion Servicer: Randy Ruzicka Concordia Organist iPad

Sunday Church Attendance	Attendance
First Week	39
Second Week	38
Third Week	
Fourth Week	
Fifth Week	

Your Financial Support of Your Church	11/09/25	Year-to-Date
Weekly Budget Requirement	\$2,777.00	\$124,965.00
Actual Offerings—including online offerings (budget)	\$4,395.00	\$105,697.35
Ahead/Behind Budget Requirement	+\$1,618.00	-\$19,267.65
% Ahead/Behind	58.3%	-15.4%

In Our Prayers This Week and Celebrations

Throughout the week, please keep these people in your daily prayers. As a model for prayer, consider going through the A.C.T.S. of prayer. <u>Adoration</u>: praising God for who He is. <u>Confession</u>: confessing your sins to God, especially those that weigh on your heart. <u>Thanksgiving</u>: thanking God for specific blessings. <u>Supplication</u>: asking God for help.

For those who are homebound Barb Jones, Sharon Estes, Doug Arnold, Doris Bayuk, Nick Krege, Pansy Meyer, Val Rakey.

For healing and continued recovery Bill Staffen (Bonnie Keir's brother, cancer), Dustin Hutson (recovering from a brain bleed), Pastor Jim Kirk (treatment for myeloma), Carol Steiger-Rudoff getting ready to have surgery (Connie Schwent's Sister In-law), Laura Pruneau Fallert (Cancer treatment). John George Jr. (Debbie George's son) has been diagnosed with cancer and will be seeking a 2nd medical opinion regarding the next steps in treatment. Continued prayers for healing for Wayne Phillips.

For those celebrating birthdays in November Cathy Dew (Nov. 3), Lisa Schlueter (Nov. 13), Bill Surman (Nov. 20), Bonnie Zerwig (Nov. 24) Randy Ruzicka (Nov.7).

For those celebrating wedding anniversaries in November Carl and Cheryl Noll (Nov. 2), Jim and Stacy Bell (Nov. 26).

For Those Who Mourn please keep the Phillips family in your hearts to give them comfort through this difficult time.

For local, state, and national elected officials that they uphold goodness and work humbly for those they serve.

For our community that more people believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

For our circuit congregations & missionaries

For our church family that we are transformed in Christ to share the hope of eternal life

For all prayer requests not listed here but in our hearts.

To submit a prayer request for inclusion in the bulletin, contact Connie, the church secretary, at 573-535-0084, or the church office at 573-883-5361 or holycrossstegen@gmail.com. Please provide your request by Wednesday noon to ensure it appears in that week's bulletin. Prayer requests will continue to be listed until removal is requested by the submitting family. If you would like the Pastor or Seminarian to read a request aloud during the service, write it on the attendance card, fold the card, and either give it to an usher or place it in the offering plate.