• Winter Clothing Drive - We're collecting winter clothing items to distribute to neighbors at WinterFest, a neighborhood gathering hosted by Cross of Glory and CAPI on Fri, Jan 10 from 5-7 pm. New or gently used winter hats, scarves, mittens, boots, coats can be donated at the drop-off bin near the Welcome Desk. AND...if you're interested in lending a hand at WinterFest (greeting neighbors, serving hot chocolate, etc.), let Pastor Ali know.

• **Confirmation Sock Drive** - We're collection new socks during the month of February to distribute to the North Memorial Care Cart. A donation box will be placed at the Welcome desk. All sizes welcomed.

• **Pastoral Care & Visitation** - If you're in need of care, prayer, or conversation, reach out to the office to be connected with the pastor or our Care & Visitation Team. We also invite you to stop by our Community Prayer Wall located just outside the sanctuary.



Please join us in lifting up these brothers and sisters in prayer:

Mavis Wold Norma Gilbertson Audrey Swanberg Jeannie Kuzmich Eric Thompson & family Luella Hinnenkamp Rob Schoffstall

To be added or removed from the weekly prayer list, please contact the church office (office@crossofglory.us) or call 763-533-8602.

You are welcome to stop at our community prayer wall just outside the sanctuary to place a written prayer in the wall. Further instructions are at the prayer wall.

Hope Has Come In a Manger Throne

A Service of Advent Lessons & Music Led by Cross of Glory's Music Ensembles

> **December 15, 2024** Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

Brooklyn Center, MN



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE WELCOME

P: Welcome! Today we rejoice as we await the unfurling of the prophesies of a Messiah to come, as we prepare for the glorious night when Jesus came to earth, arriving as a tiny baby to be with us. This was a moment so filled with joy that angels could not stay in heaven but overflowed from heaven to earth and sang. This was the coming of the Lord, whose love completes the prophesies, frees the oppressed, and fulfills our hope for a Savior.

ALL: Lord, we sing of your coming. We join the prophets and angels in anticipating your presence among us. We thank you for including us in your love and light.

NARRATION

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Reader #1: What a glorious God, who loves us so much that the "light of the world" would come to earth as the promised Savior of all.

Reader #2: Amazing things that were foretold would come to pass happening in a humble place, beginning with the "yes!" of a young woman whose soul magnified the Lord. The world was longing for a Savior, and anticipating the dawn of a new light to come.

CHOIR

As the Dark Awaits the Dawn Schalk

As the dark awaits the dawn, So we await your light. O Star of promise, scatter night, Loving bright, loving bright, Till shades of fear are gone.

As the blue expectant hour Before the silv'ring skies, We long to see your day arise, Whole and wise, whole and wise, O lucent Morning Star. As the moon reflects the sun Until the night's decrease, May we your healing light release, Living peace, living peace, Unto your holy dawn.

Shine your future on this place, Enlighten ev'ry guest, That through us stream your holiness, Bright and blest, bright and blest; Come dawn, O sun of grace. • **Coffee Hour** - All are welcome to a time of food and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall following worship!

• **Cookie Plates -** Cookie plates will be assembled after worship TODAY! Come lend a hand in the fellowship hall after worship. Thanks to all who help make this amazing ministry of care possible.

• Advent Devotionals & Calendars - Help yourself to Advent resources, intended to guide us through this season as we await Jesus' birth. Devotionals and calendars are located on the Welcome Desk.

• **Stewardship** - A final invitation for those who are still planning to submit a pledge card but haven't yet to submit those, as our church leadership finalizes budget planning for the new year these next few weeks. Thank you again for generously supporting God's gift of life together!

• **Welcoming Guest Preacher -** We look forward to welcoming Rev. Mark Tranvik, Professor of Reformation History and Theology at Luther Seminary, into the pulpit next Sunday, Dec 22.

• **Carol Sing-Along** - Stick around after worship next Sunday, Dec 22...as part of our coffee fellowship hour, our worship staff will lead us in a Christmas carol sing-along.

• **Christmas Eve Worship** - Mark your calendars for 4 pm on Dec 24th, when we'll be celebrating the birth of Jesus here at Cross of Glory. All neighbors, family, friends are warmly welcome! On Dec 29th, we look forward to continuing to tell and sing the Christmas story at our 5th Sunday Service of Lessons & Music.

• Like to Paint? We will be sanding and painting window sills/trim in Progeny classrooms as well as removing/replacing carpet in one of the classrooms during Dec 27-30. If you can help with these projects, please see the Sign-up Sheet near the Welcome Desk or send an email to facilities@crossofglory.us.

• Art Gallery Talk - Join us on Sunday, Jan 5th after worship in our art gallery. Keith will be leading an art talk about our new exhibition, which is a collection of prints produced by the Concordia University Art Department over the last 35 years. Cross of Glory is now the owner of this collection of about 20 fine art prints due to a donation from a church member.

BLESSING

P: And so, we shout it out that the Lord Almighty reigns, and we celebrate the coming of the Christ-child. The promise foretold so long ago has become our living hope, Emmanuel—God with us. Let us be joyfully thankful for God's miraculous gift of an incarnate Savior, the Light of the World. And let's share the reason for Christmas day with those around us—the King has come down to a manger throne.

All: Hope has come! Joy to the world! Amen.

POSTLUDE

MUSIC CREDITS

The Order of Service is from Evangelical Lutheran Worship which is commended for use in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Ali Tranvik Director of Choirs: Keith J. Williams Worship & Tech Director: Mark Trease Worship Team Vocalists: Becca Floyd, Johnetta Freeman, Erik Haugland, Kim Jacobson, Laura McClanahan, Kris Simon, Eric Thompson Guitar: Steve Sebald, Josh Smith Violin: Rev. Ali Tranvik Cross of Glory Choir: Abby Simon Kelley, Amanda Smith, Becca Floyd, Carol Stejskal, Deb Olson, Dennis Olson,

Erik Haugland, Kathy Swendiman, Kris Simon, Marcy Hartlage, Marie King, Pam Gilbert, Ruth Brateng, Kim Jacobson **Greeters:** Lori and Arlene Kosek **Readers:** Erik Haugland, Pam Gilbert, Gayle Merritt, Kris Simon **Ushers:** Steve Ferley, Jeffline Tolbert, Don Halverson, Josh Day **Fellowship:** Tom and Kris Simon **Technical Team:** Dawn, Ryan & Bill Bailey **Ministers:** The people of Cross of Glory

Today's worship liturgy was written by Mark Trease and Keith Williams. A special thanks to them for crafting the service and leading the musical ensembles, and to all those who took part in reading, singing and playing. The gift of your storytelling and music is greatly appreciated! **Please stand as you are able**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Reader #3: We gather in the name of the Creator, and of the Son who came to live with us, and of the Holy Spirit with us now. **All: Amen.**

Reader #4: As we await the fullness of Christ's coming and the dawning of this Star of Promise, we confess our need for God's presence in our lives.

Silence for reflection and repentance

ALL: Lord, we are not the people you created us to be in your world. We confess our need for the gift of your coming. We ask that you come to us quickly and return daily because we cannot live fully and freely without your presence in our lives.

P: God does not weary of forgiving us. Through God's grace and promise, fulfilled in Jesus, we receive the entire forgiveness of all our sins. We rejoice in the freedom and the new life brought by our Savior's coming.

All: Amen.

Please be seated MUSIC Hark, the Glad Sound #239 vss.1 & 4 Verse 1 Verse 4 Hark, the glad sound! Our glad hosannas, The Savior comes, Prince of Peace. The Savior promised long. Your welcome shall proclaim, Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne And heav'n's eternal arches ring And ev'ry voice a song. With your beloved name.

FIRST READING - Isaiah 12:2-6

Reader #1: "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; For the Lord God is my strength and my song, And he has become my salvation." With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the lord, call upon his name; Make known his deeds among the nations, Proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously: Let this be known in all the earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

Reader #1: The word of the Lord. ALL: Thanks be to God.

NARRATION

Reader #2: The world longed and waited for the arrival of the promised Messiah, the one who would be Emmanuel, "God With Us." They did not know the day nor the hour he would come, but they waited expectantly... watching for the Savior foretold by the prophets, who would come and save the world.

CHOIR	Keep Your	Lamps!	Arr. Thomas
Keep your lamps trim burning, keep your la The time is drawing r Children don't get we til your work is done.	mps nigh. eary, '	Christian Jo The time is Keep your l	urney soon be over, ourney drawing nigh. amps trimmed and ep your lamps

SECOND READING - Isaiah 11:1-10

Reader #3: A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. ² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD³ and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes or decide by what he hears with his ears; ⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

RESPONSIVE NARRATION

- **Reader #1:** Please join in reading responsively: We adore this one in the manger. A child has been born for us.
 - All: God's grace has been given to us.

Reader #2: Our Savior has come.

We have seen the glory of the Lord,

All: Revealed in the face of the Christ child.

Reader #3: Tell the world. Treasure the storv. Ponder it in your heart.

All: We worship and praise God, For all we have heard and seen!

Reader #4: We rejoice!

Come bless His name.

Light of the world,

For He is good, for He is good;

The reason for Christmas day.

He was born to conquer the grave.

All: We rejoice for the love that is to come!

Adapted from <u>http://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/4459/worship-elements-option-1-</u>

For the Lord, our God,

Light of the world,

(Chorus 2x)

Almighty reigns. (Repeat)

The reason for Christmas day.

		<u>Chinsunas-eve-2015</u>
MUSIC	Christmas Day	Cash/Cash/Cash/Cash/Bergthold
<i>Verse 1</i> Joy to the world On a night like no other. Emmanuel, God is with	Over us. The	s we have seen r deserts and oceans. darkness was deep,
<i>Verse 2</i> Beggars and kings, Let us come and adore	Red	never hopeless. emption came His name is Jesus! <i>(Chorus)</i>
Rest in His peace And bow before Him.		n the mountains,
Chorus Sing all you people! The Lord almighty reign Sing ev'ry creature of G	s. almi	will shout it out he Lord, our God, ghty reigns. s with us, He is with us now,

Arr. Thomas

The time is drawing nigh.

NARRATION

Reader #1: This child was born before we had anything to offer him, before we lifted our voices in praise or our hands to His work, before we even thought to worship Him— in fact, even before we were ever created, God was pursuing us out of love.

Reader #2: We don't deserve the Love of God. We search after everything but God, and God still comes after us, seeking us out with unending love.

Reader #3: God's love was born as a baby in a manger. This baby, Jesus, left heaven and grew and lived among us to show what real love, God's love, looks and feels like. To show us a love that never leaves, love that never disappoints, a love that fills us with new life.

Reader #4: In this time, in this place, let us dwell on that love. Let us put aside thoughts of decorated trees and gifts and online shopping and meals - to ponder God's love.

Pastor: God is with us right now. God is close to us, dwelling with us, delighting in us, and loving us. Today is one more reminder of that love. No matter where we come from, no matter what is going on in our lives, God has sought us out, and brought us here to say, "I love you. I am with you. You are mine."

Adapted from http://www.nailscars.com/drama/dramatic-readings/a-reading-for-christmas/

MUSIC **Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus**

#254 (tune #631)

Verse 1

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set thy people free; From our fears and sins release us; Born to reign in us forever, Let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art, Dear desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Verse 2

Born thy people to deliver, Born a child, and yet a king; Now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Sprit Rule in all our hearts alone: By thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Reader #4: ⁵ Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. ⁶The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. ⁷ The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. 9 They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

The word of the Lord. ALL: Thanks be to God.

	La Haura Daga Elar Diagmina	#070 was 4 0 0 A
MUSIC	Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming	#272 vss. 1, 2 & 4

Verse 1

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung. Of Jesse's lineage coming As seers of old have sung, It came a flow'r so bright, Amid the cold of winter, When half-spent was the night.

Verse 2

Isaiah had foretold it. The rose I have in mind: With Mary we behold it,

NARRATION

Reader #1: We anticipate and celebrate the coming of the Savior at a time of year when the days are short and the nights are long.

Reader #2: And here, in this Minnesota winter, we anticipate and celebrate the coming of the Savior at a time of year when the air often stings with cold, and the length of winter begins to settle in.

The virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright, She bore to us a Savior. When half-spent was the night.

Verse 4

O Savior, child of Mary, Who felt our human woe: O Savior, king of glory, Who dost our weakness know: Bring us at length, we pray, To the bright courts of heaven And into endless day.

12

Reader #3: Yet, it is into this holy darkness that Christ will come to dwell among us and rescue us, whose love will come to warm the coldness of the world.

Reader #4: In the least expected and least obvious place, the Son of God will be born. Born as a child to the humblest of women, a king whose throne was a bed of hay—a manger throne. *Inspired by a guote from Frederich Borsch & David Napier at*

http://godweb.orgchristmasprayers.htm

MUSIC

Manger Throne

Wickham/Wood/Smith

Verse 1

You could have stepped into creation With fire for all to see, Brought ev'ry tribe and nation to their knees. Arriving with the host of heaven In royal robe and crown, The rulers of the earth all bowing down. But you chose meekness over majesty, Wrapped Your power in humanity. **Chorus** Glory be to You alone, King who reigns

from a manger throne. My life, my praise, everything I own To Jesus, the King on a manger throne.

Verse 2

You could have marched in all Your glory Into the heart of Rome, Showed them splendor Like they'd never known. But you wrote a better story In humble Bethlehem, Creator in the arms of common men. You will die for our redemption, And You'll rise so we can live. (Chorus)

Bridge

From heaven to the cradle. From cradle to the cross. Let heaven and nature sing. "This is our King." But the grave couldn't hold Him; Our God has overcome. Let heaven and nature sing. "This is our King." (Repeat) All hail the King. All hail the King. All hail the King. (Chorus) My life, my praise, Ev'rything I own To Jesus. The King on a manger throne, To Jesus. The King on a manger throne.

MUSICAngels We Have Heard on High#289 vss. 1 & 2

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains, And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song? Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

- **P:** Let's pray responsively: Lord, "When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
- All: When the kings and leaders are home, when the shepherds are back with the flocks,
- P: Then the joy and the work of Christmas begins:
- All: To find the lost, to heal those broken in spirit,P: To feed the hungry,
 - to release the oppressed, to rebuild the nations,
- All: To bring peace, in your name, to all peoples, to make music with all hearts and voices...
- P: And to radiate the Light of Christ, every day, in all that we do and say. Then the work of Christmas begins.
- All: Lord, help us be your light to those around us, those we love and those we encounter, to those with whom we work, worship and live, to those in our city, our nation and our world. Amen.

-- Adapted from quote by Howard Thurman, from <u>http://godweb.org/christmasprayers.htm</u>

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

NARRATION

Reader #1: Christ's humble beginnings made him accessible. Going into a throne room to see a king would be intimidating, but there's nothing intimidating about going into a stable and approaching a feeding trough. You don't need special credentials; you don't need to have an appointment. The shepherds could just come in.

Reader #2: In fact, an angel appeared to that group of shepherds and told them exactly how to find this tiny baby. They were given this good news by an amazing assembly of heavenly beings in order to seek him out.

Reader #3: Once the host of angels left, the shepherds knew what they had to do. They said, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." And they hurried to see Jesus.

Reader #4: My friends, the message of the season is not, "Let it snow" or "Let us shop." The message of Christmas is, "Come! Let us worship." And "Let there be God's peace in the world." That is why the shepherds went with haste and excitement...to share and live out the good news of God's love; that is what we are called and compelled to do too.

** Please stand as you are able **

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.All: And always with you.P: Let's share a sign of God's peace with one another.

** Please be seated **

OFFERING

The Spirit moves through the offering we joyfully share. We invite you to leave an offering in the plates, click the "Give" button on crossofglory.us, or scan the QR code here to make a secure, online gift. Thank you!



** Please stand as you are able**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 1:18-24

Pastor: The Gospel according to Matthew, the first chapter. **All: Glory to you O Lord.**

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Marv was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her guietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

** Please be seated **

CHOIR

To A Virgin

Arr. Johnson

To a virgin meek and mild, came an angel holy, Greeting her, the undefiled, in her chamber lowly. "Hail to thee O blessed one, chosen mother of God's son, Through a wondrous birth He shall come to earth. And shall reign as a king, as a king forever, Jesus blessed savior." By the sages long foretold, now the day is nearing. Promises of God unfold, in the Son appearing. He, the child of Bethlehem, branch divine of Jesse's stem, Shall have great increase as the Prince of Peace, And the earth shall be filled with the Lord's salvation, hope of every nation.

Come into this heart of mine, Jesus, guest from heaven.

NARRATION

Reader #1: And so, God's Son became human and came to earth to save us. God had promised to send a Messiah, one who would save His people.

Reader #2: He could have easily burst on the scene as a fully grown adult, a tall warrior with fiery eyes and arms of steel. This was what many people were looking for, but it wasn't how God did it.

Reader #3: He came humbly, as an infant. His mother wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, like any peasant of the time. This great gift came in simple wrapping. The one who would be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father" —the Creator—came down to be born as a baby. It's amazing, and the more you think about it, the more staggering it becomes.

Reader #4: On that night, as foretold by the prophets, God sent a Savior. He was born to a young girl of no status or wealth. He was wrapped in rags, given from the heart of God. The perfect gift. God gave us Jesus to bring us hope. God, in love, gave us Jesus to be with us.

//Adapted from <u>http://thoughts-about-god.com/christmas /christmas-story</u> and https:// www.crosswalk.com/devotionals/christmas-devotionals/why-a-manger-christmas-devotionalnovember-26.html

MUSIC

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

#276

Verse 1

Infant holy, infant lowly, For his bed a cattle stall; Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all. Swiftly winging, angels singing, Bells are ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

Verse 2

Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new Saw the glory, heard the story, Tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, Praises voicing, greet the morrow: Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!!

LORD'S PRAYER

P: We seek you, O God. Come among us as we pray the prayer our Savior taught us...

All: 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.

WORSHIP TEAM

God The Son

1 Bergthold/Taylor/Redman/Trotter

God the Son, Remaining what he was, Became what He was not, oh. Flesh and blood, Heart and breath and bones; Just like one of us, oh.

Chorus 1

Verse 1

Son of God, Son of Man, O come let us adore Him. So holy His name, so humble His crown, O come let us adore Him now.

Verse 2

From everlasting, Born here into time, Grace and truth arrived, oh. Completely human, But still completely God, Still perfectly divine, oh. (Chorus 1) Adore Him now. (Chorus 1) *Verse 3* So, love came down, From pow'r and majesty, Took on our frailty, oh. Eternal One, Invisible now seen, Incarnate deity, oh. God the Son.

O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.