

# Christmas at Cross of Glory

All are welcome to join us in celebrating the birth of Jesus on Dec 24, at 4:00 pm at our Christmas Eve Worship. Coffee and cookies will be provided after the service.

Silent night,  
holy night,  
Son of God,  
*love's pure light.*



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**December 21, 2025**

**Cross of Glory Lutheran Church  
Brooklyn Center, MN**

# Prophetic Hope

In the midst of what often seems like a hopeless world, God is speaking. Advent is a time to listen, to be alert, to pay attention to what God is saying. But where--and in whom--do we listen for God's voice? This Advent season, as we await the arrival of God's Word incarnate, we listen again to the words of ancient prophets who proclaim messages of justice, peace, and hope. And we listen to the prophets speaking those same messages in our world today. Through these prophets, we are reminded of our own call to be prophetic witnesses to the Hope, named Jesus Christ, that is born among us.

## Gathering

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

### CONFESSION + FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose home is heaven and earth,  
whose salvation is sure.

**All: Amen.**

P: We are called in this holy season to prepare and to pay attention.  
We begin by tending to our sins. Let us take a moment of silence now  
for reflection and repentance...

*\*\* Silence for confession \*\**

P: Long-expected God,

**A: We confess that we are not awake to you:**

**We cling to false comforts and put our faith in false gods.**

**We neglect the cries of our neighbors, the groans of the earth, the words of the prophets proclaiming another way.**

**Have mercy on us, O God. Free us from our sin, and awaken us to your advent among us, so that your justice and mercy and love would be born anew in us. Amen.**

P: People of God, listen to the words of the prophets: Jesus is coming!  
And in him † our sins are forgiven.

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

•**Coffee Fellowship Hour** - All are welcome to stick around after worship for a time of food and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall. Today, we kick off the week of Christmas with a few carols.

•**Monthly Isaiah 43 Update TODAY** - Join us after worship for the 3rd Sunday Isaiah 43 team update. This is the team comprised of leaders across COG, Faith Lilac Way, and First Lutheran who are leading the exploration of becoming a new creation. At the monthly update, you can hear more about where the exploration is at, ask questions, and share feedback, questions, and ideas. These monthly updates take place during coffee fellowship hour.

•**Carols Sing-Along** - Join members of all Wildfire churches for a Christmas sing-along event at Wicked Wort Brewery in downtown Robbinsdale on Monday, Dec 29th from 6-8 pm. Tables are reserved for the group. Friends and family (including leashed dogs!) are welcome. Join us for a fun night of food, drinks as you wish, fellowship, and singing.

•**Holiday Food Drive** - We'll continue to collect food through the end of Dec to share with neighbors through CAPI and CEAP. All non-perishable food items accepted, see Welcome Desk for a list of highest need items. Monetary gifts may also be made toward Second Harvest, which will support food shelves throughout the metro area. Thank you!

•**Care around Christmas** - Need a place to go for Christmas dinner this year? Or, are you willing to host another person at your table this year? Let Pastor Ali know if you're looking to join a table or willing to host someone, and we'll work to connect you. What a gift to share life together!

•**Synod Youth Choir** - Kids ages 5-18 are invited to take part in synod-wide choir. This is a great way to grow in relationship with one another, in musicianship, and in faith! Youth will gather at 10 AM on the last Sat of the month January-April 2026 (rotating location). They'll sing at Synod Assembly on May 2nd and have a spring concert on May 17th. Reach out to Pastor Ali to get involved!

•**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.

## WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Ali Tranvik  
Director of Choirs: Keith J. Williams  
Worship & Tech Director: Mark Trease  
Vocalists: Kim Jacobson, Laura McClanahan  
Guitar: Josh Smith  
Technical Team: Ryan Bailey, Dawn Bailey, Bill Bailey

Greeters: Marcy Hartlage, Kim Schoffstall  
Reader: Carol Stejskal  
Communion: Kim Schoffstall, Carol Stejskal, Kathy Stejskal-Swendiman  
Ushers: Cheryl Anderson, Don Halverson, Jeffline Tolbert, Gayle Merritt  
Fellowship: Laura and Mike McClanahan  
Ministers: The people of Cross of Glory



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

*Mavis Wold  
Norma Gilbertson  
Audrey Swanberg  
Jeannie Kuzmich  
Eric Thompson & family  
Claudia Reitan*

*Becca and Donald Floyd  
Mark Trease  
Sharon Quick  
Jackie Fryhling  
Josh Day*

*To be added or removed from the weekly prayer list, please contact the church office ([office@crossofglory.us](mailto: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.*

In him, we are free to be people of hope-- people who dream of and work to bring about the world that God hopes for. The world being birthed into being.

**A: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*\*\* Please rise as you are able \*\**

## PROCESSION OF LIGHT

**Haugen**

*\*\*All children are invited to grab a light at the usher's table in the back of the sanctuary and join in the procession of light, which will end at the front of the sanctuary with the lighting of the Advent candle(s). Kids are invited to put their lights on the altar to help adorn the sanctuary in light--a reminder of God's presence among us.*

Leader: Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

**All: The light no darkness can overcome;**

L: Stay with us now, for it is morning;

**A: and the day is just beginning;**

L: let your light scatter the darkness,

**A: and shine within your people here.**

## MUSIC

**Joyous Light**

**Haugen**

### Verse 1

Joyous light of heavenly glory,  
loving glow of God's own face,  
you who sing creation's story,  
shine on every land and race.

Now as morning breaks around us,  
we shall raise our songs to you,  
God of daybreak, God of shadows,  
come and light our hearts anew.

### Verse 2

In the stars that grace the darkness,  
in the blazing sun of dawn,  
in the light of peace and wisdom,  
we can hear your quiet song.

Love that fills the night with wonder,  
love that warms the weary soul,  
Love that bursts all chains asunder,  
set us free and make us whole.

### Verse 3

You who made the  
heaven's splendor,  
every dancing star of night,  
make us shine with gentle justice,  
let us each reflect your light.  
Mighty God of all creation,  
gentle Christ who lights our way,  
loving spirit of salvation,  
lead us on to endless day.

## PRAYER

P: Let us pray together:

**ALL: O God, through the prophetic song of Mary, we learn of the world that you turn upside down. Help us to continue singing the song of your salvation until all the lowly are lifted up, and all the hungry are filled with good things. In the name of God, Emmanuel, we pray, Amen.**

*\*\* Please be seated \*\**

## CHOIR ANTHEM

### What Can We Bring

### Patterson

*If I could be a shepherd on the night that Christ was born,  
I would go to Bethlehem to see the baby boy.  
If we could be the wisemen who traveled from afar,  
We would go to the King by following the star.  
We would bring him gifts of gold, and all that the world could afford.  
Then we would kneel at his manger bed and worship Christ the Lord.  
Ancient shepherds, eastern kings, and a manger filled with hay.  
That was all so long ago in a time and a place far away.  
What can we do for the Savior now? How can we give Him praise?  
What can we bring this holy child to honor him today?  
We can sing "Alleluia, glory to the God above."  
We can go like shepherds and tell the world Christ has come.  
Though we have no gifts of gold or treasures we can bring,  
We can bring a heart full of love as we worship Christ the King.  
We can bring a heart full of love as we worship Christ the King.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Word

## SCRIPTURE READING

### Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and shouting.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.

and hold on to hope,  
knowing that Hope already has a hold on you.  
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

## RECESSION OF LIGHT

*\*\* Please rise as you are able \*\**

*During the sending song, kids are invited to get a light from the front altar and join in the recession of light, which will end at the back of the sanctuary--a reminder that we're called to take our lights out into the world, and a reminder that God's light goes with us.*

## MUSIC

### Prayer of Good Courage

### Gustavson

O God, you have called us  
to ventures where we  
cannot see the end.  
By paths never yet taken  
Through perils unknown.  
Give us good courage.  
Not knowing where we go,

To know that your hand  
is leading us  
wherever we might go. *(Repeat)*  
Amen!

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

## 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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## MUSIC

### Verse 1

A fam'ly hiding from the storm  
Found no place at the keeper's  
door.  
It was for this a child was born:  
To save a world so cold and hollow.  
A sleeping town, they did not know  
That lying in a manger low  
A Savior king who had no home  
Has come to heal our sorrows.

### Chorus 1

Is there room in your heart?  
Is there room in your heart?  
Is there room in your heart  
For God to write His story.

### Verse 2

Shepherds counting sheep at night.  
Do not fear the glory light.  
You are precious in His sight.  
God has come to raise the lowly.  
(Chorus)

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.  
Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear  
good fruit in the name of Jesus.

**A: Amen.**

*Sending*

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BENEDICTION

Stay awake to God's presence,  
pay attention to the words of the prophets,

## Make Room

### Chorus 2

You can come as you are.  
It may set you apart,  
When you make room in your heart  
And trade your dreams  
For His glory.  
Make room in your heart.  
Make room in your heart.

### Verse 3

A mother holds the promise tight.  
Ev'ry wrong will be made right,  
The road is straight,  
The burden's light,  
For in His hands he holds tomorrow.  
(Chorus 1, Chorus 2)

## Maher/ Hall

Strengthen the weak hands  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you."  
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.  
A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.  
No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Leader: The word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

*\*\*Silence for prayerful reflection\*\**

## REFLECTION

**MUSIC****Canticle of the Turning**

#723

**Verse 1**

My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
 that the God of my heart is great,  
 and my spirit sings  
 of the wondrous things  
 that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 You fixed your sight  
 on your servant's plight,  
 and my weakness  
 you did not spurn,  
 so from east to west  
 shall my name be blest.  
 Could the world be about to turn?

**Refrain**

My heart shall sing  
 of the day you bring.  
 Let the fires of your justice burn.  
 Wipe away all tears,  
 for the dawn draws near,  
 and the world is about to turn.

**Verse 3**

From the halls of pow'r  
 to the fortress tow'r,  
 not a stone will be left on stone.

Let the king beware  
 for your justice tears  
 ev'ry tyrant from his throne.  
 The hungry poor  
 shall weep no more,  
 for the food they can never earn;  
 there are tables spread,  
 ev'ry mouth be fed,  
 for the world is about to turn.  
*(Refrain)*

**Verse 4**

Though the nations rage  
 from age to age,  
 we remember who holds us fast:  
 God's mercy must deliver us  
 from the conqueror's  
 crushing grasp.  
 This saving word  
 that our forebears heard  
 is the promise which  
 holds us bound,  
 till the spear and rod can be  
 crushed by God,  
 who is turning the world around.  
*(Refrain)*

**May we neither profit from nor ignore evil.  
 But ever work to thwart it with your peace.  
 as by your grace, may we work to create the realm  
 of peace in this world. Now and each day.  
 Amen.**

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

Here is life. God Emmanuel is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

*Come to the table, where God's gifts of grace and love are poured out for all, and where all are welcome. If you're worshipping onsite, you're invited to come forward when an usher cues your row. You'll be offered bread from the first server (gluten-free option available), and grape juice at the second station. Communion is served intinction-style: you may dip the bread into the juice. If you'd like to take communion in your seat, simply cue an usher and we'd be glad to bring it to you.*

P: The body of Christ is given for you.  
 The blood of Christ is shed for you.

**MUSIC****The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came**

#265

**Verse 1**

The angel Gabriel from  
 heaven came,  
 with wings as drifted snow,  
 with eyes as flame:  
 "All hail to thee,  
 O lowly maiden Mary,  
 most highly favored lady." Gloria!

**Verse 2**

"For know a blessed mother  
 thou shalt be,  
 all generations laud and honor thee;  
 thy son shall be Emmanuel,  
 by seers foretold,  
 most highly favored lady." Gloria!

**Verse 3**

Then gentle Mary meekly  
 bowed her head;  
 "To me be as it pleaseth God,"  
 she said.  
 "My soul shall laud and magnify  
 God's holy name."  
 Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

**Verse 4**

Of her, Emmanuel,  
 the Christ, was born  
 in Bethlehem all on a  
 Christmas morn,  
 and Christian folk throughout the  
 world will ever say:  
 "Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Grant weather that nourishes all of creation  
Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from danger  
For all the beloved who rest in your mercy  
Help us, comfort us, all of our days.  
**ALL: Keep us, hold us, gracious God.**

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## Table

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### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

L: The Lord be with you.

**A: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**A: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

### **ADVENT LORD'S PRAYER**

P; God, remember us in your love and teach us to pray:

**All: Gracious Spirit,**

**whose home is heaven and earth,**

**whose realm is being born among us, and within us, now.**

**We pray that your compassion guides us in every action.**

**Give us what we need for each day,**

**and help us to be satisfied with the miracle of that alone.**

**Forgiver, whose embrace brings us to wholeness without our asking,**

**may we reconcile ourselves to one another in humility.**

**And may we cancel the crushing debts**

**that imprison us and our neighbours so that communities  
of joy and health may flourish.**

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

**Luke 1:39-55**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name;

indeed, 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 imagination of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones

and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things

and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his child Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Leader: The word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

*\*\*Silence for prayerful reflection\*\**

### **REFLECTION**

## MUSIC

### Light Dawns on a Weary World

#726

#### Verse 1

Light dawns on a weary world  
when eyes begin to see  
all people's dignity.  
Light dawns on a weary world:  
the promised day of justice comes.

#### Refrain

The trees shall clap their hands;  
the dry lands, gush with springs;  
the hills and mountains shall break  
forth with singing!  
We shall go out in joy,  
and be led forth in peace,  
as all the world in wonder echoes  
shalom.

#### Verse 2

Love grows in a weary world  
when hungry hearts find bread  
and children's dreams are fed.  
Love grows in a weary world:  
the promised feast of plenty comes.  
*Refrain*

#### Verse 3

Hope blooms in a weary world  
when creatures, once forlorn,  
find wilderness reborn.  
Hope blooms in a weary world:  
The promised green  
of Eden comes.  
*Refrain*

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

*\*\* Please stand as you are able \*\**

### Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**A: And also 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 or scan the QR code here to make a secure, online gift. Thank you!*



## MUSIC

### All Who Are Thirsty

### Brown/ Robertson

#### Verse

All who are thirsty,  
All who are weak,  
Come to the fountain.  
Dip your heart in the stream of life.  
Let the pain and the sorrow  
Be washed away  
In the waves of His mercy,  
As deep cries out to deep.  
(We sing)

#### Chorus 1

Come, Lord Jesus, come.  
Come, Lord Jesus, come.  
*(repeat)*

#### Chorus 2

Jesus, Savior, come.  
Jesus, Savior, come. *(repeat)*

#### Interlude

As deep cries out to deep.  
As deep cries out to deep.  
As deep cries out to deep, we sing

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Refrain (sung by all after each verse):*

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

Leaders:

In peace, in peace we pray to you  
For peace and salvation, we pray to you  
For peace between nations, peace between peoples  
For we who are gathered to worship and praise you  
For all of your servants who live out your gospel  
For all those who govern that justice might guide them  
For all those who labor in service to others