

The Fourth Sunday In Advent



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

*Mavis Wold
Norma Gilbertson
Audrey Swanberg
Jeannie Kuzmich
Eric Thompson & family
Dick Mero
Martha Krueger*

*Sherry Mattfield
Dolores Narey
Loved ones of Penny Lindblom
Loved ones of Richard Kosek
Loved ones of Debbie Sjoquist*

*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.*



Love That Sets Us Free and Makes Us Whole

December 24, 2023

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

Gathering C

PRELUDE

Joel Sebald (cello) & Archer Dahl (Clarinet)

WELCOME

Welcome to Cross of Glory! For those who would like to follow along with the Holden music, booklets are available in the back at the usher's desk. Please return them after the service. If you are a visitor, we invite you to fill out a "Welcome" card and place it in the offering plate so we can extend the welcome.

HANDBELL CHOIR

NOEL

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose presence draws near to us in the evening and the morning,
whose birth we await, who is alive among us now.

Amen.

We are called in this holy season to stay awake and to pay attention. We begin by tending to our own sins: those done and left undone, those known and unknown, those committed individually and those we are complicit in corporately.

Silence is kept for confession.

P: Holy God,

ALL: We confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts, and fool ourselves into thinking they are our own. We neglect the poor and vulnerable in our midst. We do not see your beautiful image in ourselves or in one another. We are infected by a selfishness and sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation.

Amen.

Beloveds, the Love for which we wait is wide and welcoming, it is forgiving and it's freeing. In † Jesus, your sins are forgiven.

In Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the beginning, when the Spirit danced over the deep darkness and God made us in love, and for love.

All: Amen.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

•**Coffee Hour** - Please join us after worship in the fellowship hall for a time of food and fellowship.

•**Christmas Eve Worship** - Join us for Christmas worship later this afternoon at 4 pm as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Friends, family, and first-timers are warmly welcome!

•**Stewardship & End of Year Giving Statements** - Thanks for your generosity this past year and pledged for the year ahead as we work to live out God's call to life together! If you haven't submitted your 2024 pledge, please drop it off/mail it into the office ASAP. If you'd like a giving statement to see where you're at on your 2023 pledge, please let the office know.

•**Winter Clothing Drive** - Mark your calendars for Fri, Jan 26 from 5-7 pm when we'll host WinterFest, a neighborhood block party celebration hosted in conjunction with CAPI. In addition to free food, music, covid and flu vaccines, games for kids, etc., we'll be distributing winter clothing (new or gently used coats, hats, scarves, mittens, etc.). Please drop off donations anytime between now and Jan 26 in the box near the welcome desk. Thank you!

•**Bible Study** - The CoG Bible Study will continue to meet onsite and online on Tuesdays at 9:30 am, except for the following dates (due to holidays): Dec 26 and Jan 2.

•**Visitation** - If you're interested in receiving a visit from Pastor Ali or a CoG friend, or would be willing to serve as a visitor (who makes either in-person or phone call visits to homebound members), let Rachel in the office know.

•**Want to Know More About COG?** - We're so glad you're worshiping with us! Welcome. If you're interested in learning more about life together at COG, reach out to Pastor Ali (atranvik@crossofglory.us).

PRAYER OF GOOD COURAGE

Please rise as you're able and face the back doors as we prepare to go into the world with good courage. You're also invited to join hands with or put your hand on a neighbor near you as a reminder that we do not go forth alone.

**ALL: O God, you have called us to ventures
of which we cannot see the ending,
By paths as yet untrodden,
Through perils unknown.
Give us faith to go out with good courage.
Not knowing where we go,
But only that your hand is leading us,
And your love supporting us,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen!**

POSTLUDE

MUSIC CREDITS

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WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Ali Tranvik
Reflection: Chellie Sebald
Director of Choirs: Keith J. Williams
Worship & Tech Director: Mark Trease
Cantor: Kris Simon
Vocalists: Kim Jacobson, Laura McClanahan

Guitar: Steve Sebald, Josh Smith
Technical Team: The Bailey Family
Greeters: Gordy and Maggie Johnsrud
Ushers: Tom Simon, Cheryl Anderson,
Don Halvorson, Josh Day
Fellowship: Cheryl Anderson
Ministers: The People of Cross of Glory

PROCESSION OF LIGHT

Haugen

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

The Advent candle will be lit during this song, a visible reminder of God's presence as we await Christ's birth.

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.

THANKSGIVING

Haugen

Leader: May God be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

L: Let us sing our thanks to God.

A: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

L: Blessed are you, Creator of the universe. From old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness

bright. For your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

A: Amen.

MUSIC

PSALMODY

Haugen

This song draws on the words of Psalm 144 and begins in unison then as a round in 2 parts. Those seated on the pulpit side of the sanctuary join in on Part I. Those seated on the piano side join in on Part II (those online may sing either!)

Refrain (begins in unison):

Let my prayer rise up
like incense before you,
the lifting up of my hands
as an offering to you.

Keep watch within me, God;
deep in my heart
may the light of your love
be burning bright. (Refrain)

Part I & II (sung in round):

O God, I call to you,
come to me now;
O hear my voice when I cry to you.
(Refrain)

All praise to the God of all,
Creator of life;
all praise be to Christ
and the Spirit of love. (Refrain)

SILENCE FOR PRAYERFUL REFLECTION

PRAYER

P: Let us pray together:

ALL: May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that together with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives. Amen.

*** Please be seated ***

Word

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

10: For all the beloved who rest in your mercy

L: Help us, comfort us, all of our days.

ALL: Keep us, hold us, gracious God.

Pastor: Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live your Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

Table

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

Sending

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Haugen

*** Please rise as you are able. ***

Leader: Let us bless our God.

All: Praise and thanks to you.

L: May God, Creator, bless us and keep us, may Christ be ever light for our lives, may the Spirit of love be our guide and path, for all of our days.

A: Amen.

You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus,
the Chosen One of God most high.”
And Mary said, “I am a servant of my God, I live to do your will.”

**ALL: My soul proclaims your
greatness, O God,
and my spirit rejoices in you,
You have looked with love
on your servant here,
and blessed me
all my life through.
Great and mighty are you,
O Holy One,
strong is your kindness
evermore.
How you favor
the weak and lowly one,
humbling the proud of heart.
You have cast the mighty
down from their thrones,
and uplifted the humble of heart,**

**you have filled the hungry
with wondrous things,
and left the wealthy no part.
Great and mighty are you,
O Faithful One,
strong is your justice,
strong your love,
As you promised
to Sarah and Abraham,
kindness forevermore.
My soul proclaims
your greatness, O God,
and my spirit rejoices in you,
You have looked with love
on your servant here,
and blessed me
all my life through.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Refrain (sung by all after each verse):

A: God of mercy, hold us in love.

Leaders:

1. In peace, in peace we pray to you
2. For peace and salvation, we pray to you
3. For peace between nations, peace between peoples
4. For we who are gathered to worship and praise you
5. For all of your servants who live out your gospel
6. For all those who govern that justice might guide them
7. For all those who labor in service to others
8. Grant weather that nourishes all of creation
9. Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from danger

Haugen

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.
On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the
nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Leader: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM Come to the Manger, Emmanuel Liebergen

Come to the manger Emmanuel; come to the manger on earth to dwell,
Shepherds and wise men await your birth;
now bring us Your peace to all the earth,
Come to the manger as child and king, O Lord, to You we sing.
Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus shall lay down His head.
The stars in the sky shall look down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus will sleep on the hay.
Be near us Lord Jesus, we praise Your name;
stay by us forever, Your name we proclaim;

A song from our hearts we sing on high,
the angels announce that Your birth is nigh.
Give glory to God with joyful voice, all gather together to sing and rejoice;
Prepare for the Savior so meek and mild,
and follow the star to the holy child.
Come to the manger Emmanuel; come to the manger on earth to dwell,
Glory to God who reigns above, O holy child come in peace and love.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 11:2-11

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

P: The Gospel according to Matthew the eleventh chapter.

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

P: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

*** Please be seated ***

SPECIAL MUSIC

Manger Throne

Mark Trease

THE STORY OF ADVENT

Chellie Sebald

At this time, our Children's Ministry Leaders will retell the Advent story as we prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ. The narration will be accompanied by a Godly Play reenactment at the front of the sanctuary. Children and their families are invited to come forward during the story and be seated in the first and second pews for a closer view.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Silent Night

Kim Jacobson & Steve Sebald

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostle's Creed

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

**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!



THE ANNUNCIATION + MAGNIFICAT

Haugen

Leader: An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary.

The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you.