



WE ARE TRANSFORMED IN CHRIST  
TO SHARE THE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE.

**The First Sunday After Christmas  
December 29, 2024**

*Giving  
Jesus Back  
To God*

A MESSAGE ON  
Luke 2:22-40





# *Holy Cross Lutheran Church*



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

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**The First Sunday After Christmas**

**December 29, 2024**

**Welcome to Holy Cross! We're glad you're here!**  
**Guests and visitors, we invite you to worship with us again soon!**

**As We Gather** • Are you ready for a New Year, a new week, or even a new day? Don't you wonder how Joseph, Mary, Simeon, Anna, and a host of others might have answered that question when the 8 day old little boy was circumcised and given the name Jesus. A newborn son to care for, a trip to the temple for the setting aside of this one set aside by His Father to be our Savior. People of all ages are in this story. They each have a witness for the ages.

We also have a witness as we have seen this Christ Child through the eyes of faith as He travels from Bethlehem to Jerusalem as an infant, from Jerusalem to Egypt and back because of the wickedness of the world. He would then live physically in this world for three years before He would take on all of our sins and the sins of the world. We see not only the Christ Child, but the Savior of the world. As we await His return, we live this life one day at a time looking to Him the author and perfecter of our faith.

**The flowers on the altar during Advent will be the Advent Poinsettia. Week 1 is given by Wanda Bollinger in memory of her parents J.N. and Ada Mae Myers. Week 2 is given by Bonnie Keir in memory of her parents. Week 3 is given in memory of Mike Fitzsimmons 60<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Week 4 is given by Bill and Vicky Surman.**

**Bible Class.** There will be no Bible Class on Tuesdays until after the New Year.

**Upcoming dates available for flowers for the altar: The January Flower Chart is now up. Thank You!** Please clearly print your name and occasion on the flower chart on the wall by the narthex above the water fountain. Please put **\$25** in an envelope; mark it: "Flower Fund"; and place it in the offering plate.

# The Order of Service

## The Greeting

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

**P** We are transformed in Christ  
**C** to share the hope of eternal life.

## Welcome

## The Sharing of the Peace of God that Christmas Brings!

### Opening Hymn • 384

### “Of The Father’s Love Begotten”

*△ Stand on the Last Verse*

## The Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

**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?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

**P** 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.

**The Kyrie** ∞ *Lord, Have Mercy*

*Mark 10:47*



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

**The Gloria in Excelsis** ∞ *Glory to God in the Highest*

*Luke 2:14; John 1:29*



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



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.

## The Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## Collect of the Day

**P** We all join in praying:

**C** **Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## The First Reading

**Exodus 13:1-3a; 11-15**

### Consecration of the Firstborn

<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>“Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.”

### The Feast of Unleavened Bread

<sup>3</sup>Then Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the Lord brought you out from this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten.

<sup>11</sup>“When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, <sup>12</sup>you shall set apart to the Lord all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the Lord's. <sup>13</sup>Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. <sup>14</sup>And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. <sup>15</sup>For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

<sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Alleluia and Verse***John 20:31*

**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



**C** These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

### **Jesus Presented at the Temple**

<sup>22</sup> And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” <sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup> And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup> he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, <sup>29</sup> “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” <sup>33</sup> And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup> (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.” <sup>36</sup> And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup> and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

### **The Return to Nazareth**

<sup>39</sup> And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **The Object Lesson**

**The Sermon**

**Pastor Rux**

**The Apostle’s Creed**

**C** 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.

**The Offering**

*Please stand as the offering is brought forward.*

*Three ways to give:*

- 1) offering plate—cash or check.
- 2) online at [holycrossstegen.org](http://holycrossstegen.org) • Click the “Give” icon.
- 3) by mail.

**The Offertory Hymn • 781**

**“We Give Thee But Thine Own”**

**The Prayer of the Church**

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

**P** Almighty God, You have chosen us from the foundation of the world to be Your people. Strengthen our hearts by Your grace and open our lips to sing Your praises, that Your Holy Word would dwell richly within us from generation to generation. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** Hear our prayer

**P** Heavenly Father, grant Your blessing to the whole Church on earth, that Christ’s people may set their hearts and minds on the things above and be clothed with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** Hear our prayer



**P** Lover of mankind, bind our families together in perfect harmony and rule our hearts with the peace of Christ. Cause His Word to dwell richly among us, Let our songs, words and deeds be done in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, with thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer**

**P** Gracious Father, as blessed Anna waited in the temple for the consolation of Israel, give to Your people who await the second advent of our Savior endurance in the vocations of our earthly lives, that we would do the good works You have prepared in advance for us to do. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer**

**P** Merciful Lord, You wounded Your own Son to bring us the eternal healing of Your love. Bless all who suffer wounds of body and soul [*especially \_\_\_\_\_ and those we name before You in our hearts*]. Grant them healing according to Your will, and sustain them unto the day of the resurrection of all flesh. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer**

**P** Heavenly Father, There is nothing outside your scope of care. Please be with those who are ill and in need of your tender care, especially \_\_\_\_\_. Be with those who care for the ill as well, especially those who are working all hours of the day, on the holidays and on weekends when many others are free from such duties. Lord in your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer**

**P** O Lord, as Your earthly mother Mary treasured all things in her heart, grant us to know what is worthy of our attention and what will pass away, that approaching The Lord's Supper today, we may be prepared to receive with repentance and faith His Body and Blood that cleanses us from all our sin. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer**

**P** All these things we pray, O Lord, in confidence of Your mercy, trusting that You will grant us all things needful and prevent all things harmful to our faith, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

# Service of the Sacrament

## The Preface

**P** The Lord be with you.

*2 Timothy 4:2*

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

*Colossians 3:1*

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*Psalms 136*

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** 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:

## The Sanctus *∞ Holy, Holy, Holy*

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



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



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## **The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**P** 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 life-giving 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:

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Matthew 6:9–13*

**C** 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**

*Matthew 26:26-28*

**P** 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."

### **The Pax Domini** ✠ *The Peace of the Lord*

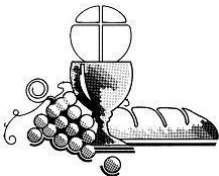
*John 20:19*

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

# The Agnus Dei ∞ The Lamb of God

John 1:29

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.



**Holy Communion** □ *The Bible teaches that Jesus gives us His very body and blood along with bread and wine. We believe the Lord's Supper is a means of grace in that it provides forgiveness of sins and strengthening of our faith. The Bible also teaches us to examine ourselves prior to receiving the meal.*

*Participants are encouraged to ask these questions: Do I believe that I am a sinner and am truly sorry for my sins? Do I believe Jesus Christ is my Savior and that it is His true body and blood given to me along with the bread and wine? Do I intend with the help of God to repent of sin as I seek to follow Him?*

*If you have not been instructed in this teaching on Holy Communion, are in doubt, or hold to a different confession of faith, please come forward and cross your arms to indicate that you would like a blessing.*

**Communion Hymn • 618**

**"I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"**

**Communion Hymn • 718**

**"Jesus Lead Thou On"**

# The Nunc Dimittis *∞* The Song of Simeon

Luke 2:29-32

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## The Post-Communion Collect

**P** 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.

## The Benediction

*Numbers 6:24-26*

**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.

## Closing Hymn • 733

## "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

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**Pastor: Jarold Rux**

**Organist: Faustina Blumenfeld**

**Ushers: Rick Hutson**

**Wayne Schremp &**

**Randy Ruzicka**

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***Living with God in faith on earth is the beginning of living with Him in heaven.***

# Our Father's Business

<b>SUNDAY</b> December 29	<b>TUESDAY</b> December 31	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> January 1	<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b> January 5
<b>9:00 AM                      WORSHIP                      SERVICE</b> Holy Communion	Bible Study Postponed until Jan.7,2025 New Year's Eve	<i>Welcome 2025</i> <i>Happy New Year!</i>	<b>9:00 AM                      WORSHIP                      SERVICE</b> Holy Communion
<b>If pastoral care is needed, please call our elders:</b> <b>Rick Hutson (573-780-9390)</b> <b>Randy Ruzicka (314-210-4279)</b> <b>Wayne Schremp (573-883-6060)</b>			
<b>Three ways to give:</b> <b>1) offering plate—cash or check.</b> <b>2) online at <a href="http://holycrossstegen.org">holycrossstegen.org</a> • Click the "Give" icon.</b> <b>3) by mail.</b>			

**Perry County Lutheran Chorale.** Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church (57 Church St, Altenburg, MO 63732) presents Chorale with full orchestra with familiar favorites like “I Wonder as I Wander”, “Gesu Bambino”, and “God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman” as well as works of Bach and Haydn. Something for everyone – Please join us! The Lutheran Heritage Center and Museum (next door to the church) will once again serve refreshments following the concert and you will still be able to see their Christmas displays. Admission is free. A free-will offering will be taken in support of the Chorale.



## In Our Prayers This Week



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**. **Adoration**: praising God for who He is. **Confession**: confessing your sins to God, especially those that weigh on your heart. **Thanksgiving**: thanking God for specific blessings. **Supplication**: asking God for help.

***For those who are homebound*** • Val Rakey, Barb Jones, Sharon Estes, Wanda Bollinger, Doug Arnold, Doris Bayuk, Nick Krege, Caryl Phillips, Pansy Meyer.

***For healing and continued recovery*** • Pete Rust (Archer Mills' grandfather, cancer), Bill Staffen (Bonnie Keir's brother, cancer), Dustin Hutson (recovering from a brain bleed), Pastor Jim Kirk (treatment for myeloma), Sue Schweiss (Cathy Dew's sister, back problems), Race and Clarissa (Connie Schwent's niece's children). Kelly Sullivan (Recovering from knee replacement), Ray Beckham (Recovery from arm surgery), Bonnie Zerwig, Betty Schremp and Maryann Roth.

***For those celebrating birthdays in December*** • Nevaeh Schlueter (Dec. 15), Nick Krege (Dec. 16), Helen Vickers (Dec. 20), Kara Inman (Dec. 23), Owen Schlueter (Dec. 30).

***For those celebrating wedding anniversaries in December*** • Ron & Linda Bollinger (Dec. 9), Jeff & Paula Boland (Dec. 19), Bill & Vicky Surman (Dec. 20).

***For those who mourn.***

***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.***

If you desire a prayer request to be printed in the bulletin, please contact the church office at 573-883-5361 or [holycrossstegen@gmail.com](mailto:holycrossstegen@gmail.com) by noon on Wednesday. Other prayer requests may still be prayed for during the church service by writing the request on the attendance card, folding your card in half, and giving it to an usher or placing it in the offering plate. Additionally, if you would like a prayer request removed, please contact Kelly, or contact the church office. Please note that if no update is given after a month, the prayer request will be removed from the list.