



Christmas Cookie Distribution is Next Sunday!

The Christmas Cookie tradition continues! We need your help to bring fresh baked, store bought, or candy next Sunday, Dec. 10, to prepare plates for homebound, grieving, and sick members this holiday season. Fill out the sheet on the ushers table to sign up to take part in either baking or delivering! Feel free to bring in your goodies anytime during office hours. We will keep them safe and fresh for Sunday December 10th!



•**Bible Studies** - 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.



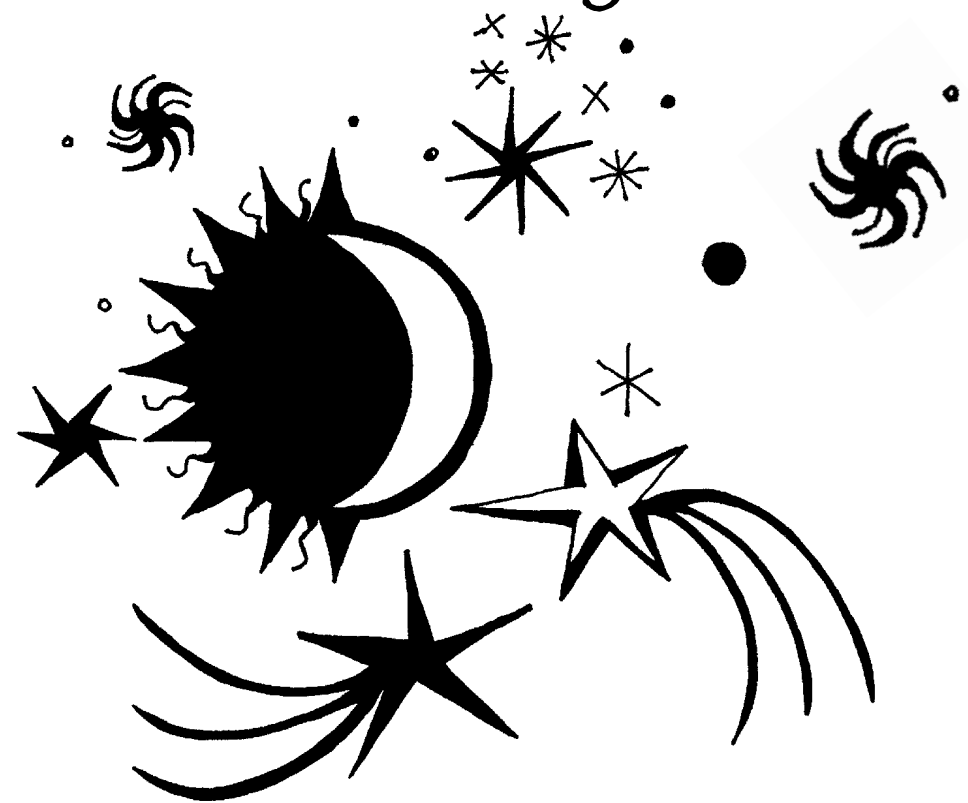
Please join us in lifting up these brothers and sisters in prayer:

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Mavis Wold</i> | <i>Dick Mero</i> | <i>Marian Priest</i> |
| <i>Norma Gilbertson</i> | <i>Martha Krueger</i> | <i>Maggie Johnsrud</i> |
| <i>Audrey Swanberg</i> | <i>Penny Lindblom</i> | <i>Dan Aulwes and family</i> |
| <i>Jeannie Kuzmich</i> | <i>Sherry Mattfield</i> | |
| <i>Eric Thompson & family</i> | <i>Debbie Sjoquist</i> | |

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.

The First Sunday In Advent



Love that Fills the Night with Wonder

December 3, 2023

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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 unknown 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 rise as you are able ***

PROCESSION OF LIGHT

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

All: The light no darkness can overcome;

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

•**Stewardship** - Thanks to all for your generosity as we work to live out God's call to life together this next year! These giving estimates help us prepare our budget for the year ahead. If you haven't submitted your 2024 pledge card, we invite you to drop it off/mail it into the office this next week. Thanks!

•**"Love that Warms the Weary Soul"** - Mark your calendars for Dec 10, when musical ensembles at CoG will tell the Christmas story through words spoken and sung. It will be a full and festive morning of worship. Invite some neighbors and friends.

•**Advent Devotional** - Alongside the "Holden [Morning] Prayer" liturgy we'll sing this Advent, which explores the God who dwells with us both morning and evening, you're invited to take part in "Creator of the Stars of Night," a daily devotional written by Luther Seminary faculty that explores these same themes. Pick up a copy on the Welcome Desk or request an electronic version from the office.

•**December Neighborhood Listening Session** - As we work to discern what God's call to life together looks like at CoG, we're gathering with neighbors from the BC community once a month for a Neighborhood Listening Session. Join us from 5:30-6:30 pm as we share a meal and get to know our neighbor(hood)! *Note: This month's session, featuring neighbors from CAPI, will take place on Dec 13 (second Wed), not Dec 20 (third Wed), due to Christmas.

•**Site Visits** - As we work to further discern God's call, we're learning from neighboring churches who have reimagined ways to share space for the sake of God's work. If you're interested in taking part in a site visit or two in the next few months and haven't yet taken part in the short orientation, reach out to Kris Simon ASAP.

•**CoG Kids** - On Wed, Dec 6th, kids and families are invited to First Wednesday activities. All are welcome to a meal at 5:30 pm. Following that, kids of all ages are invited to study buddies and storytime. Confirmation students will meet at 7 pm.

•**Preparing Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas** - If you're willing to lend a hand from 9-10 on Saturday, Dec 16 to help assemble the poinsettia garden for the season, the Worship, Music, Arts Team would be grateful for the help!

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
Director of Choirs: Keith J. Williams
Worship & Tech Director: Mark Trease
Cantor: Kris Simon
Vocalists: Johnetta Freeman, Erik Haugland, Kim Jacobson
Guitar: Steve Sebald
Technical Team: The Bailey Family

Greeters: Linda Knudsen, Bob Wertz
Reader: Bob Wertz
Communion: Linda Knudsen, Bob Wertz, and Judy Lewis
Ushers: Don Halverson, Cheryl Anderson, Dan Aulwes, Gayle Merritt, Josh Day
Fellowship: Laura and Mike McClanahan
Ministers: The People of Cross of Glory

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.

*** Please be seated ***

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

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

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.

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)

PSALMODY

Haugen

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

Word

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 45:1-7

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:
I will go before you
and level the mountains,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,

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.

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

*** Please rise as you are able. Kids are invited to grab a musical instrument from the basket in the back and make a joyful noise as we sing! ***

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.

MUSIC

Adore

Verse 1

You stepped down from heaven.
Humbly You came.
God of all creation
Here with us.
In a starlit manger, Emmanuel,
Light of the world here to save.

Chorus

Adore,
Come let us adore,
O come, let us adore Him!
The Lord,
Worship Christ the Lord.
Let all that is within us adore.

Adore

Verse 2

Wise men bring their treasures,
Shepherds bow low,
Angel voices sing.
Of peace on earth
What have I to offer
to heaven's King?
I will bring my life,
my love, my all. *(Chorus)*

Bridge

Angels sing, praises ring
To the newborn King.
Peace on earth here with us,
Joy awakening.
At Your feet we fall. *(Repeat)*
(Chorus)

Kendrick/ Chalk

I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I surname you, though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the Lord do all these things.

Leader: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Refrain (sung by all after each verse):

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
- 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.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Every Valley

P. Drennen

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, ev'ry mountain and hill made low.
The crooked straight and the rough places plain;
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed;
And all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 13:24-33

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

P: The Gospel according to Mark the thirteenth chapter.

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.

'But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.

P: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you O Christ.

*** Please be seated ***

REFLECTION

SPECIAL MUSIC **Creator of the Stars of Night** **#245**

Verse 1 (Solo)

Creator of the stars of night,
your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all,
we pray you hear us when we call.

Verse 2 (Solo)

When this old world drew
on toward night,
you came; but not in
splendor bright,
not as a monarch, but the child
of Mary, blessed mother mild.

Verse 3 (All)

At your great name, O Jesus, now
all knees must bend,
all hearts must bow:
all things on earth with one accord,
like those in heav'n,
shall call you Lord.

Verse 5 (All)

To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honor, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally. Amen.

REFLECTION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

P: There is a place for you at God's table. Come and feast and rejoice!

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 worshiping onsite, you're invited to come forward when an usher cues your row. You'll be offered bread from the first server (gluten-free options available upon request), and wine from the second server (grape juice available upon request). If you'd like to take communion in your seat, simply cue an usher and we'd be glad to bring it to you.

The body of Christ is given for you.

The blood of Christ is shed for you.

Amen.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

MUSIC

Remembrance

Maher/ Redman

Verse 1

Oh, how could it be
That my God would welcome me
Into this mystery,
Say, “Take this bread,
take this wine?”
Now the simple made divine
For any to receive.

Pre-Chorus

By Your mercy
we come to Your table.
By Your grace
You are making us faithful.

Chorus

Lord, we remember You,
And remembrance
leads us to worship.
And as we worship You,
Our worship leads to communion.

We respond to Your invitation.
We remember You.

Verse 2

See His body, His blood;
Know that He has overcome
Ev'ry trial we will face.
And none too lost to be saved,
None too broken or ashamed.
All are welcome in this place.
(Choruses)

Bridge

Dying, You destroyed our death.
Rising You restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.
(Chorus)

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. 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.

Table

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.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles 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!

