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# Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

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Christmas Eve

December 24, 2022

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## Welcome to Cross of Christ

**Relax.** At Cross of Christ, our worship is designed to praise God and enrich faith. We aim to make the service clear and appropriately reverent. For your convenience, the service is printed as well as projected on the screens.

**Bring the kids.** Our congregation enjoys the worshiping family. In fact, our worship often includes a children's message with little ones in mind. That's why children who act up are never viewed as a bother to our worship service. However, parents who want to calm a restless child may do so by walking them in the lobby. Worship screens, speakers, and seating areas can be found in the lobby to assist families with their worship. A private parents' room is also available off the lobby, opposite the restrooms.

**Don't feel obligated.** Our members give offerings to the Lord as an expression of our thanks and praise for his amazing love. Visitors, please know that you are our guests. We're happy you came today to hear about Jesus and his Word. You are not expected to give an offering; it's your choice.

**Make yourself at home.** After each service today, we'll have cookies and beverages in the lobby. We'd be honored if you would join us!

**Restrooms** are located to the left and right of the water fountain in the lobby.

**Questions?** If you'd like to know more about our church or our beliefs, feel free to speak with one of our pastors after the service. More information is also available online at [cocidaho.org](http://cocidaho.org).



**CROSS OF CHRIST**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Welcome & Introduction

### Opening Carol

### “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

*Hymn #55:1-3*

### The Meaning of Christmas with “What Child Is This?”

*Hymn #67:1,2*

Pastor: We come on this holy day to worship the Son of God who came to earth, born of a virgin on Christmas. This event changes everything! God became man to set us free from sin and all that is wrong. We celebrate the birth of a child who came to rescue us. He is God. He is the Savior. He is Christ, the Lord.

**Congregation: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.**

**(♩) What child is this who, laid to rest,  
On Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
The babe, the Son of Mary.**

God himself came into this world to save us. He left the throne of his glory to give us a gift we could never purchase: an eternal place in his family. By the perfect life, death, and resurrection of Jesus – Immanuel, God with us – we have indeed been made children of God. That’s why we come on Christmas. “Glory to God!” the angels sang, because on Christmas, God did something astounding. Heaven and earth were reunited as God came down. Peace on earth. Joy for the joyless. Burdens lifted. Sins forgiven. Hope arrived that first Christmas, for you! For me. For all of us.

**Almighty God, shape our lives with this good news. Grant us your Spirit to understand that this “helpless” sleeping baby is also Christ the King – born to die in our place to save us.**

**(♫) Why lies he in such mean estate  
Where oxen now are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through;  
The cross he’ll bear for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The babe, the Son of Mary.**

God of all hope, you gave us the greatest gift when you sent your Son, Jesus. Along with him you gave your promise that “whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” Therefore, we know that there are more and more wondrous gifts to come.

Here and now, may the words of Scripture we hear remind us again that the old story is ever so new.

**Turn our thoughts toward Bethlehem and to the Christ-Child.**

May the carols we sing reveal to us again the mystery of his birth.

**Fill us with hope this Christmas, as we see the gift you gave us lying in a manger.**

And hold us in your loving care until the day we see you in the glory you are preparing for us in heaven. In Jesus’ name, grant us all a merry Christmas.

**Amen.**

## The Gift Promised

Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a light has dawned.

<sup>3</sup> You have enlarged the nation  
and increased their joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as people rejoice at the harvest,  
as warriors rejoice  
when dividing the plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For as in the day of Midian's defeat,  
you have shattered  
the yoke that burdens them,  
the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor.

<sup>5</sup> Every warrior's boot used in battle  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be destined for burning,  
will be fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty  
will accomplish this.

**Carol**

**“Away in a Manger”**

*On screens, st. 1, 3*

**A Gift of Love**

**1 John 4:9-14**

<sup>9</sup>This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

<sup>13</sup>This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

**Carol**

**“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

*Hymn 61:1-3*

## Message from God's Word

## Matthew 1:18-24

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> 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 quietly.

<sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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."

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

### **A Better Gift for Christmas: God Gives Us Himself**

## Song

## "God Made Low"

*Solo, on screens*

## Candle Lighting

*Our Pastor will light the ushers' candles from the Christ Candle. The ushers will then light the candles of the worshipers on the aisles. Please pass your light to the person next to you.*

**PLEASE NOTE: Do not tip lit candles.** Your neighbor's **UNLIT** candle should **BE TIPPED** to be lit. **Parents and adults, please assist children.** We will all return our candles to the boxes in the lobby when we exit after the service. Thank you!

## The Gift Is Given

## Luke 2:1-20

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

## Prayers for Christmas Eve

*The Lord's Prayer follows the prayer spoken by the pastor:*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## Christmas Blessing

May God the Father guide and protect you with his faithful love.

May Jesus, the Savior born on Christmas, fill your heart with peace and joy.

May the Holy Spirit dwell within to comfort and to guide you all your days.

May the almighty God watch over you and all those you love this day, and may he give you a merry Christmas!

**Amen!**

## Closing Carol

**“Silent Night”**

*Hymn #60:1-3*

## Silent Prayer

Heavenly Father, I thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus. Through him I receive all the best, eternal gifts that my heart longs for. Therefore, continue to ignite the fire of faith in my heart that I may always see myself, the world, and my relationship with you in the light of your grace. Amen.

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## Offerings

*If you would like to give an offering to support gospel ministry at and through Cross of Christ, there are offering plates on the table in the lobby where you may place your gift to the Lord. You can also give online at [cocidaho.org/give](http://cocidaho.org/give).*

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## Our Mission

*Cross of Christ congregation exists to joyously proclaim the gospel of free salvation locally and worldwide. Through God's Word and Sacraments, we strive to win lost souls for Christ and nurture believers for lives of Christian service.*

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## **Worship with us again**

Saturdays @ 5:00 PM  
*\*no Saturday service 12/31*

Sundays @ 8:30 & 11:00 AM  
at our Boise campus  
11655 W McMillan Rd, Boise

Sundays @ 9:30 AM  
at our Nampa campus  
6134 Birch Ln, Nampa

## **Cross Connections**

The perfect course to connect to God, purpose, and community.

Thursdays @ 6:30 PM  
Next session starting January 26

Register at [coidaho.org/connect/cross-connections](http://coidaho.org/connect/cross-connections).

# THE COMING WEEK

<b>Dec 25-Jan 1</b>	<b>Boise</b> (11655 W. McMillan Road)	<b>Nampa</b> (6134 Birch Lane)
Sunday	10:30am – Christmas Day Worship w/ Communion <i>(also livestreamed at cocidaho.org/livestream)</i> <i>No Bible studies/Sunday School</i>	9:30am – Christmas Day Worship w/ Communion <i>No Bible studies / Sunday School</i>
Mon-Fri	<i>Preschool on break all week</i>	
Saturday	<i>no Saturday evening worship</i>	
Sunday	8:30am – Worship w/Communion <i>(livestreamed)</i> <i>No Bible studies/Sunday School</i> 11:00am – Worship w/Communion	9:30am – Worship w/Communion <i>No Bible studies / Sunday School</i>