



PEACE
Fulfilled.

Christmas Day 2023

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

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Christmas Day • December 25, 2023

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 worshipping family. In fact, our worship includes a children's message with little ones in mind. That's why children who act up are never viewed as a bother to the worship service. However, parents who want to calm a restless child may do so by walking them in the lobby. Video & audio of the worship service are available in the lobby to assist families with their worship. A private parents' room is located in the alcove to your left as you exit the chapel.

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 our services, we join together in the lobby for coffee and conversation. 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.



CROSS OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Opening Song

“Joy to the World”

Hymn #62:1-2

Christmas Gathering

Pastor: Glory to God in the highest!

Congregation: Glory to God in the highest!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. I know that the day Jesus took on flesh and began to suffer was necessary because of my sin. He came among us as a light shining in darkness. I confess I have not welcomed that light. I am truly sorry for my sins and sincerely repent of them. I ask you for the sake of Christ, my Savior, to be gracious to me, a sinner.

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace, goodwill to all (Luke 2:14). God has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins and has given his Word so “you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:31).

Upon your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word made flesh, announce the grace of God unto all of you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Born for you today in the city of David a Savior, he is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11)! Be of good cheer and certain of your forgiveness, because God has kept his promise and provided you a Savior.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Song of Praise

“Glory to God in the Highest”

On screens



God’s Word

Micah 5:2-5a

²“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”

³Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.

⁴He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵And he will be our peace.”

Song

“Sing We the Song of Emmanuel”

Sung by the choir

God's Word

John 1:1-18

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

Song

"To Shepherds as They Watched by Night"

Hymn #53:1-4,6

Message from God's Word

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

God Shows Up

Song

"O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is"

On screens, stanzas 1-3,5

Statement of Faith

A Lutheran Christmas Creed

We believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

We believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is our Lord. He has redeemed us, lost and condemned creatures, purchased and won us from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. All this he did that we should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

We 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.

Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

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.

The Lord's Supper

The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians, united around a common confession of faith. Therefore, we ask only those who have made that public confession of faith by being a member of our congregation or another WELS or ELS congregation come forward to receive Communion. Guests, please ask one of our pastors if you have questions. We are eager to listen and visit with you about the blessings of this Supper and of that unity at a convenient time.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.
Have mercy on us, and grant us your peace. Amen.**

Distribution Song

"Where Shepherds Lately Knelt"

Hymn #54:1-4

Blessing

May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one fill us with the joy that comes from the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life.

And the blessing of God Almighty – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – be upon you and remain with you forever.

Amen.

Closing Song

“Joy to the World”

Hymn #62:3-4

Silent Prayer

Thank you, God, for the gift of your Son, who humbled himself to become my Brother and live in my place. As I celebrate his birth, I pray that you lead me to live free from the bondage of sin and live a glorious life serving him. Amen.

**Our Mission:
Impacting Lives for Eternity**

Offerings

If you would like to give an offering to support gospel ministry at and through Cross of Christ, offering plates are available in the lobby. You can also give your gift online at coidaho.org/give.
