

The background of the entire page is a soft, artistic illustration. It depicts a landscape with a silhouette of a hill in the foreground. On the hill stands a simple, dark cross. Above the hill, the sky is a warm, golden-orange color, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. Several musical notes and curved lines, resembling a musical staff, are overlaid on the sky and cross, adding a spiritual or musical theme to the design.

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

ST. CROIX LUTHERAN ACADEMY

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, STILLWATER
WELCOMES

St. Croix Lutheran Academy
Sunday, December 4, 2022, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
Second Sunday in Advent

I WILL GREATLY REJOICE

Knut Nystedt

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
For my soul shall exult in my God,
For he has clothed me in the garments of salvation.
He has covered with the robe of righteousness
As a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
And as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
So the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
To spring forth before all the nations.

- Isaiah 61:10-11

Stand

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CONFESSION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

ABSOLUTION

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD HAVE MERCY

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Lord have mercy.

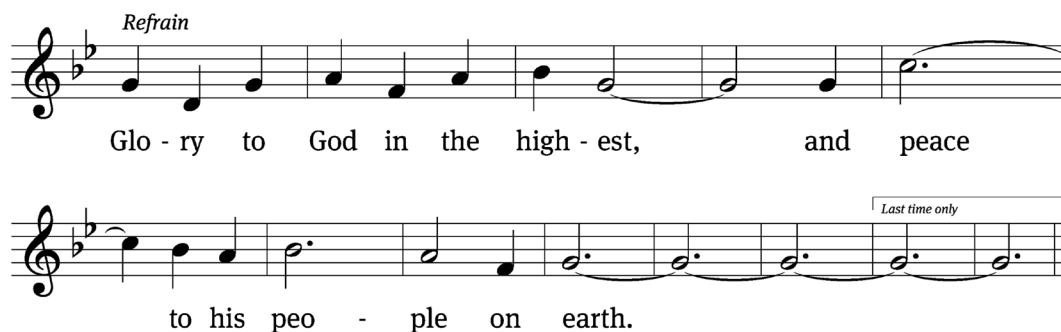
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GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

The choir will sing the verses. Please join in the refrain.

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace

to his peo - ple on earth.

Last time only

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. **Refrain**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. **Refrain**

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Amen. **Refrain**

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SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1–5; 4:5–6

¹“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.

²But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

⁵“So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,” says the LORD Almighty.

⁶“See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. ⁷He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

WAIT ON THE LORD

Rosephanye Powell

Wait on the Lord, be strong and of good courage.

Wait on the Lord, I say on the Lord.

They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength,

they shall mount up with wings as eagles.

They shall run and not be weary,

they shall walk and not be faint

-Psalm 27:14, Isaiah 40:31

SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-13

⁴For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

⁵May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed ⁹and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:

"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles;
I will sing the praises of your name."

¹⁰Again, it says,

"Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people."

¹¹And again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles;
let all the peoples extol him."

¹²And again, Isaiah says,

"The Root of Jesse will spring up,
one who will arise to rule over the nations;
in him the Gentiles will hope."

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 3:4,6

The choir will sing the verse. Please join in the refrain.



Refrain



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

Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.

And all people will see God's salvation.

Refrain

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GOSPEL

Luke 1:5–25

⁵In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. ⁷But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

⁸Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

¹¹Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. ¹⁴He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. ¹⁶He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

¹⁸Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

¹⁹The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. ²⁰And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time."

²¹Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple.

²²When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

²³When his time of service was completed, he returned home. ²⁴After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. ²⁵"The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

CHILDREN'S DEVOTION

302 PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a -



near! Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a
 King! Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread
 King! Your King, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its
 bove. His rule is peace and free - dom and



lev - el road ap - pear! Then greet the King of
 gar - ments! Shout and sing! God's prom - ise will not
 trib - ute too should bring. All lands, bow down be -
 jus - tice, truth, and love. So let your praise be



glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 fore him! All na - tions, now a - dore him!
 sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Refrain
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's Word!

Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.; Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847

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SERMON

Expect the Unexpected

- 1) What are Your Prayers?
- 2) What is Your Purpose?

Luke 1:5–25

Pastor Dustin Sievert

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there 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.

Be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. [Especially bless... here name the person and the cause of the petition.] Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

OFFERING

JESUS CHRIST IS LORD

Philip Stopford

Though he was in the form of God,
he did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited;
But emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death--
even death on the cross!
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ Is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

-Philippians 2:6-11

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

Dan Forrest

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.
3. "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with thee, thy trials to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.
4. "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flames shall not burn thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.
5. "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

Stand

PRAYER

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and \dagger give you peace.
Amen.

Be seated

This Little Light of Mine

Moses Hogan

Soloists: Sophia Enter and Rio Nomura

This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine.

All through the night
I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine.

My God gave it to me.
I'm gonna let it shine
In my home,
All over the world.
Let it shine.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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THE CROIXALIERS

✠President ♦Secretary/Librarian ❖Social Coordinator *Section Leader

Soprano

Emma Frey
Chloe Fuhrmann
Elena Grahl*♦
Rio Nomura
Lydia Schaefer
Anna Schmenk✠
Delia Walters

Alto

Sophia Enter❖
Meiyi (Melissa) Liu
Hanna Myrlie
Ella Oberer
Claire Peterson
Naomi Valteau
Emily Weigand*

Tenor

Owen Burkart
Silas Gawrisch
Noah Ross
Bokai (Sam) Yang*
Yi (Chris) Zhao

Bass

Jordan Carlson
Silas Krueger
Griffin Paulsen
Martin Paulsen
Matthew Quam
Evan Valteau*



CROIXALIERS

Preacher

Rev. Dustin Sievert

Accompanist

Mrs. April Marquardt

Trumpet

Emily Weigand
Sophia Enter

Guitar

Ella Oberer

Keyboard Bass

Emily Weigand

Director

Mr. Mike Marquardt
Mr. Billy Wang

Piano

Lydia Schaefer

ABOUT ST. CROIX LUTHERAN ACADEMY

St. Croix Lutheran Academy is a Christian school of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) serving young men and women in grades six through twelve. Established in 1958, the school offers Bible-based experiential and college-prep curriculums including STEM, accelerated, advanced placement, and college-credit courses. 95% of graduates pursue higher education after graduation. SCLA offers 27 interscholastic activities and competes at the championship level as a member of the Skyline Conference. In addition to athletics, students have opportunities in a wide variety of fine arts, service, and leadership programs. The on-site 152-bed dormitory houses American and 125 international students from 13 countries worldwide. SCLA is committed to training students who know their savior Jesus and live lives of exemplary Christian service.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Middle School Christmas Concert

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 6:30 p.m., Chapel

High School Christmas Concert

Friday, December 16, 2022, 7:00 p.m., Gym

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