

Introit -

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

I will hope continually and will praise you yet more and more.

My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation
. all the day, for their number is past my knowledge.

With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will come;

I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.

O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.

**So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,
until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power
to all those to come**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Old Testament: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸And a highway shall be there,

and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way;

even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return

and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;

they shall obtain gladness and joy,

and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

☞ O Lord, have mercy on us.

☞ Thanks be to God

Epistle: James 5:7-11

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord.

See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

☞ O Lord, have mercy on us.

☞ Thanks be to God

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:2-15

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

☞ O Lord, have mercy on us.

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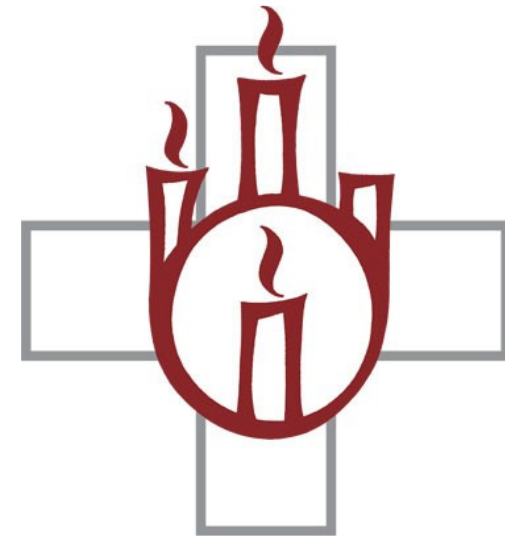
HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Cole Camp, Missouri

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Third Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2019



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Regional Ministry Website: <http://colecampregionalministry.org>

WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS. During the season of Advent we “welcome” Christ to the earth, long after the fact, of course. Your being here, dear visiting friend, gives us opportunity to welcome you as well. Please come and worship with us again!

WE WILL BE CELEBRATING THE LORD’S SUPPER during our worship service next Sunday morning. Please fill out a communion registration card today if you plan to use this Sacrament for the strengthening of your faith and place it in the basket at the back of the church.

THOSE USING THE MEANS OF GRACE LAST SUNDAY

Worship Service: 98; Children’s Sermon: 20; Visitors: 10,
Bible Class: 10, Sunday School: 17.
Dual Parish Mid-Week Advent Service at St. John’s: 34.

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK December 15 thru December 22

TODAY: Children’s Christmas Program Practice at Holy Cross, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Christmas Cantata Choir Practice, 4:00 p.m. in Trinity’s choir loft
Couples’ Club Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

WED.: LSA Chapel Service held at Trinity, 8:35 a.m. All are invited!
Advent Supper at Holy Cross, 6PM – Couples’ Club serving soup and chili!
Dual Parish Joint Advent Service at Holy Cross, 7:00 p.m.

THUR.: Men’s Bible Class at Classic, 7:00 a.m.
Women’s Bible Study at Trinity, 9:30 a.m.
Holy Communion at Good Samaritan, 2:30 p.m. and at Ambrose at 3:30 p.m.

SAT.: Saturday evening worship at Trinity, 6:30 p.m., Bible Class at 7:30 p.m.

NEXT SUN.: Worship Service with Holy Communion at St. John’s, 8:00 a.m.
Bible Class at St. John’s, 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and Bible Class at Holy Cross, 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service with Holy Communion at Holy Cross, 10:30 a.m.
Children’s Christmas Program practice at Holy Cross, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Christmas Cantata Choir Practice, 4:00 p.m. in Trinity’s choir loft

ACOLYTES: Dec 15—Kadence Hargrave; Dec 22—Tyler Howard; Dec 29—Dylana Stoppel; Jan 5—Emily Burdick.

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: December 22 - Randy Harms and Randy Meyer.

HOLY CROSS GREETER: December – Randy Meyer.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Eileen Brandes, Ethelene Jagels, Thomas Eckhoff, Lora Harms, Bill Talbott, Greg Ives, and members and loved ones in nursing homes or restricted to their homes.

HOLY CROSS BUDGET for 2019 is \$13,042.50 per month. November donations were \$12,800.00. Budget was short by \$242.50 and October was short by \$729.17. Our loan balance is \$7398.60.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA PRACTICES are being held each Sunday afternoon in the choir loft at Trinity, beginning at 4:00 p.m. The Cantata will be on December 29th.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE is this afternoon at Holy Cross from 1:30 to 3:30. The Children’s Christmas Eve Program will be held at Holy Cross at 6:00pm on Tuesday evening, December 24.

OUR THIRD MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE will be held at Holy Cross this Wednesday evening, December 18th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. We will join together and continue looking at the “Great O Antiphons” as we prepare for the coming of the Savior, who is Christ, the Lord! Come early for an Advent supper in the church basement, beginning at 6:00 p.m. as the Couples’ Club of Holy Cross is planning a delicious chili & soup supper.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: Our Dual Parish joint Christmas Day worship service with Holy Communion will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Christmas Day at St. John’s. Come and enjoy the Sunday School Children’s Christmas Eve program on Tuesday evening, December 24th, beginning at 6:00 p.m. There will also be a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at St. John’s at 7:30 p.m. Also, please note that beginning on the first Sunday in January, our Dual Parish worship times will change. In 2020, Holy Cross will have the early worship at 8AM with Sunday School and Bible Class at 9AM and St. John’s will have the late worship service at 10:30 a.m. with Bible Class before the service at 9:30 a.m.

2020 DIRECTORY: It’s time, once again, to update our church directory. If you have had a change of address, have an email address you like to use, gotten a new cell phone, or deleted your landline phone, please let Karen Oelrichs know, so we can have a current and up-to-date church directory. Karen’s email is karen.oelrichs@gmail.com, mailing address is 711 S Oak, Cole Camp, MO 65325, call her at 660-668-2425 and leave a message or text her at 660-281-9796. The deadline is Sunday, December 29th. Thanks!

JOB OPPORTUNITY: The Lutheran School Association needs to hire a new head cook. The position is part-time with benefits included. Must be willing to work with children and able to serve large groups of people in an organized manner. Some paperwork and training are required since the school is part of the federal lunch program. Pay is based on experience. Please submit a resume to principal@lsaschool.com if you are interested. The potential candidate must submit to a background check. Job starts in January 2020.

NEW BOOKS at the pharmacy, as part of the Holy Cross project, include The Lutheran Study Bible and Bible commentaries for some books of the Bible. Supplies are limited. Other Bibles and children’s books are also part of our display.

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CANTATA presented by the Cole Camp Community Choir will be held on Sunday evening, December 29th at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cole Camp, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Please join us as we experience through reflective readings and joyous songs a Celtic Christmas Celebration, entitled “Have You Heard?” with music by Joel Raney and orchestration by Ed Hogan. This event is sponsored by the Cole Camp Regional Ministry and EVERYONE is invited! There will be a free-will offering taken at the door to help fund future regional ministry events for the Cole Camp Community.

FOR THE 5th YEAR IN A ROW, the Cole Camp Food Pantry challenges you to participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring! Once again the Pantry is seeking donations of cans of soup and boxes of crackers. (Please, no Ramen noodles.) The congregation or organization in the Cole Camp area that collects the most individual items wins the Souper Bowl traveling trophy for the year, in addition to supporting our local pantry. Items need to be collected by Sunday, February 2nd. On this day, the big win happens when we can take another step toward eliminating hunger in our area. Thank you for your participation!

THE NEXT MARRIAGE AND FAMILY PLANNING TEAM MEETING is scheduled for January 9th at 11:30 a.m. at the Trinity conference room. (No Dec. meeting)

Second Sunday in Advent

Order of Worship

Matins
page 219

Hymn 333

“Once He Came in Blessing”

Hymn of Praise is omitted during Advent

The Readings:

Isaiah 35:1-10—God’s Promise
of Return

James 5:7-11—Patience

Matthew 11:2-15 – Followers of
John the Baptist

Hymn of the Day 345

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

The Sermon

The Collect of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **☩ Amen.**

Closing Hymn: 334

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You ”