

Welcome to Lutheran Church of the Cross!

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**The audio for worship will be muted until
worship begins**

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

Rev. Lyndon Sayers, Pastor

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

***John the Baptist is an example of costly discipleship.
What is the church's role in costly discipleship today?***

December 14, 2025 – 10:00 AM

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Holy Communion Setting Five

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Confession

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,
**we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of
war.**

**We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.**

**Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our
neighbours.**

**Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have
promised. Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.

✝ You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Saviour.

Amen.

Gathering Song

***Now the Heavens Start to Whisper* – No. 901**

Vs. 1 Now the heavens start to whisper,
as the veil is growing thin.

Earth from slumber wakes to listen
to the stirring, faint within:

seed of promise, deeply planted,
child to spring from Jesse's stem!
Like the soil beneath the frostline,
hearts grow soft to welcome him.

Vs. 2 Heavy clouds that block the moonlight
now begin to drift away.

Diamond brilliance through the darkness
shines the hope of coming day.

Christ, the morning star of splendour,
gleams within a world grown dim.

Heaven's ember fans to fullness;
hearts grow warm to welcome him.

Vs. 3 Christ, eternal Sun of justice,
Christ, the rose of wisdom's seed,
come to bless with fire and fragrance
hours of yearning, hurt, and need.
In the lonely, in the stranger,
in the outcast, hid from view;
Child who comes to grace the manger,
teach our hearts to welcome you.

Greeting

The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Kyrie

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.

Amen.

Advent Song
***He Came Down* – No. 253**

Vs. 1 He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.

Vs. 2 He came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
hallelujah forevermore.

Vs. 3 He came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
hallelujah forevermore.

Psalm 146:5-10

⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for
their help,

whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and
all that | is in them;**

who keeps promis- | es forever;

⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and
food to | those who hunger.

The LORD sets the | captive free.

**⁸The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;
the LORD lifts up those who ¹ are bowed down;
the LORD ¹ loves the righteous.**

Refrain: ***The Lord lifts up those who are
bowed down.***

⁹The LORD cares ¹ for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but
frustrates the way ¹ of the wicked.

**¹⁰The LORD shall ¹ reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all
generations. ¹ Hallelujah! *Refrain***

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hymn of the Day

***There Is a Longing in Our Hearts* – No. 1078**

Refrain: There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord,
for you to reveal yourself to us.
There is a longing in our hearts for love
we only find in you, our God.

Vs. 1 For justice, for freedom,
for mercy: hear our prayer.
In sorrow, in grief:
be near; hear our prayer, O God.

Refrain: There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord,
for you to reveal yourself to us.
There is a longing in our hearts for love
we only find in you, our God.

Vs. 2 For wisdom, for courage,
for comfort: hear our prayer.
In weakness, in fear:
be near; hear our prayer, O God.

Refrain: There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord,
for you to reveal yourself to us.
There is a longing in our hearts for love
we only find in you, our God.

Vs. 3 For healing, for wholeness,
for new life: hear our prayer.
In sickness, in death:
be near; hear our prayer, O God.

Refrain: There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord,
for you to reveal yourself to us.
There is a longing in our hearts for love
we only find in you, our God.

Vs. 4 Lord, save us, take pity,
light in our deepest night.
We call you; we wait:
be near; hear our prayer, O God.

Refrain: There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord,
for you to reveal yourself to us.
There is a longing in our hearts for love
we only find in you, our God.

The Apostle's Creed

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.

Prayers of the People

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Peace Sharing

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering Song
***We Are Waiting for Jesus* – No. 905**

Vs. 1 We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.
Sun of justice, shine upon us;
we are trusting in your promise.
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

Vs. 2 We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.
Loving Shepherd, walk beside us;
stir our hearts, and gently guide us.
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

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Great Thanksgiving

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God. **It is right to give our
thanks and praise.**

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace. Amen.

Communion Songs

***On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* – No. 249**

Vs. 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!

Vs. 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.

Vs. 3 We hail you as our Saviour, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flow'rs that wither and decay.

Vs. 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more;
oh, let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.

Vs. 5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

***Creator of the Stars of Night* – No. 245**

Vs. 1 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.

Vs. 2 When this old world drew on toward night,
you came; but not in splendour bright,
not as a monarch, but the child
of Mary, blessed mother mild.

Vs. 3 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.

Vs. 4 Come in your holy might, we pray,
redeem us for eternal day;
defend us while we dwell below
from all assaults of our dread foe.

Vs. 5 To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honour, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally. Amen.

***Deep Peace* – No. 1018**

Deep peace of the running waves,
deep peace of the flowing air,
deep peace of the shining stars to you,
deep peace of the quiet earth.

Sending Song
***People, Look East*— No. 248**

Vs. 1 People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Vs. 2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flow'r may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Vs. 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Star, is on the way.

Vs. 4 Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Dismissal... Thanks be to God.

Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister: Marta Lefsrud

Musician: Carolyn Hoekstra

Kantor: Nathan McDonald

Choral Scholar: DJ McGrath

Livestream: Braeden McKenzie

Communion: Nicky Ni, Iris Schoffer

Ushers: Jack Braniff, Craig Knight

*You are invited to Holy Communion Worship, Sundays,
10 AM PT in-person and online.*

For more information, please check the website

www.lutheranvictoria.ca

for the Crossroads newsletter, calendar and events.

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