

CROSSROADS
Atonement Lutheran Church
Cross of Glory Lutheran Church
Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey



December 21, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent



CROSSROADS PARISH



Proud to be a Reconciling
In Christ Community

Three Churches, One Big Community In Faith. All Are Welcome



**ATONEMENT
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
New Brighton, MN



**CROSS OF GLORY
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
Mounds View, MN



**IGLESIA LUTERANA
CRISTO REY**
Crossroads Parish

Atonement Lutheran Church
1980 Silver Lake Road NW
New Brighton, MN 55112
651-633-2240
AtonementNB.org
Worship at 10:45am

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church
5472 Adams Street
Mounds View, MN 55112
763-784-2528
CrossofGloryMV.org
Worship at 8:30am

Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey
Pastora Ana Becerra
1980 Silver Lake Rd NW
New Brighton, MN 55112
763-225-7079
Servicio en Español al mediodía

THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Pastor Cassie Nault
Pastora Ana Becerra
Ivan Konev – Cross of Glory Accompanist
Matt Verkuilen/ Jon Thomalla – Audio/Visual
Marilyn Goldsworthy - Sunday School
Maani Grace – Crossroads Music Coordinator

Deacon Brad Mills
Dawn Saros-Kirk – Office Administrator
Debora Holmes – Atonement Accompanist
Tony Houfek/Alice Sponholz – Audio/Visual
Dani Gow – Youth Group

	8:30	10:45
WORSHIP ASSISTANT	Dawn Saros-Kirk	Andrea Weatherly
LECTOR	Monika Cook	Jim Nelson
USHER/ACOLYTE	Linda Radtke	Bonnie Anderson
GREETER	Jeanne Boyle	Vicki Klaers
BREAD BAKER		No Communion
COMMUNION SETUP/CLEANUP		No Communion
COMMUNION SERVERS		No Communion
COUNTERS	Bob Reed, Patsy Thorsbakken	Tony Houfek, Royce King

We acknowledge that we gather as Atonement and Cross of Glory Lutheran Churches on the traditional land of the Wahpekute, a band of the Dakota and one of the seven groups of Oceti Sakowin, translated as “the Seven Councils Fire”, also referred to as the Great Sioux Nation as well as Anishinaabe people and other indigenous nations who have called this land home. We further acknowledge that both the State of Minnesota and the United States Government carried out genocide, ethnic cleansing, forced removal and broken promises against indigenous people as a way to acquire land. This calls us to commit to learning how to be better stewards of the land and to support indigenous communities.

ORDER OF SERVICE

TRINITY CHIMES

The singing bowl rings out 3 times to remind us we are gathered in the name of the Triune God.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Please stand as you are able.

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

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 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 neighbors.
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 Savior. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

"He Came Down" vv. 1-4

ELW 253

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, & the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" vv. 1 - 4

ELW 257

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

All: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰ The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³ Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19 (*Please read responsively.*)

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

² **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³ Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴ **O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶ **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷ **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸ And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹ **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

READING: ROMANS 1:1-7

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom

we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name,⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

page 151 ELW

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 1:18-25

The Holy gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do 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 as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Deacon Brad Mills

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" vv. 1-4

ELW 242

Please stand as you are able.

WE ARE NOT ALONE

L: And now we confess our faith together in the words of "We Are Not Alone", a creed from the Church of Canada.

**All: We are not alone,
we live in God's world.
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,**

who works in us and others

by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Response after each petition.)

L: God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us now pray the Lord's Prayer in whatever language is most familiar.

All: Our Father...

REMINDER OF GOD'S PEACE – *During cold & flu season, we refrain from sharing a sign of peace.*

L: May the peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

L: Please be seated.

OFFERING

Offertory Music: "Let Justice Flow Like Streams" vv. 1-3

ELW 717

OFFERING PRAYER

Faithful God of unfolding plans, when our certainty falters and our expectations collapse, you are still at work, inviting us into grace that redefines and redeems. Like Joseph, we bring our gifts and lay down our plans, trusting that your Spirit can shape our offering into something greater than we imagined. Let these gifts and our lives be signs of obedience, humility, and hope. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

May God who comes among us, Father, [☩] Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"Love Has Come" vv. 1-3

ELW 292

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Keep awake.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week at Atonement & Cross of Glory:

Today	8:30 – Worship at Cross of Glory 9:30 – Sunday School/Youth Party and Sabbatical Slide Show at Cross of Glory 10:45 – Worship at Atonement Noon – Cristo Rey at Atonement 3:00 – FCC at Atonement
Monday	8am – Crossroads Bible Study at Atonement 2pm – Puzzles at Atonement 6pm – Girl Scouts at Atonement 6pm – Konev Recital at Cross of Glory
Tuesday	6pm – Zumba at Atonement
Wednesday	4pm – Christmas Candlelight Worship at Atonement 10pm – Christmas Candlelight Worship at Cross of Glory with Cristo Rey
Thursday	Buildings Closed for Christmas
Friday	Buildings Closed for Christmas 5pm – New Birth at Cross of Glory
Saturday	9am – New Birth at Cross of Glory 9am – Mount of Blessings at Atonement
Sunday	9:30 – Lessons and Carols at Atonement 10am – FCC at Atonement LL <u>Noon – Cristo Rey at Atonement</u>

OUR BUILDINGS ARE CLOSED this Thursday-Friday, December 25-26 for Christmas.

SUNDAY SCHOOL/YOUTH HOLIDAY PARTY is today during class time. Pastor Cassie will show a short slide show of her sabbatical adventures. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN US** in the youth room for the sabbatical slide show.

CROSS OF GLORY 2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES – Pick up your 2026 offering envelopes in the narthex this morning. If you didn't receive a box and would like one, please let Dawn know.

ANNUAL MEETINGS – Cross of Glory’s Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 25 and Atonement’s Annual Meeting is Sunday, February 1. We’ll have one 9:30am worship service at the church having their annual meeting followed with fellowship and food.

RALPH REEDER FOOD SHELF – Please bring in non-perishable food donations to benefit families in our community. Monetary donations are even better; for every \$1.00, Ralph Reeder can purchase up to 8 pounds of food. AND there is currently a generous matching holiday challenge from Bell Lumber and Pole. All first-time donations or increased giving by a current supporter over the previous year will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$150,000 through December. Ways to make a monetary donation: By mail; online at RalphReederFoodShelf.org; or drop it off at Ralph Reeder. Food donations can be left at either church.

THE ATONEMENT COUNCIL is seeking 2-3 members for election at the next annual meeting. If interested, please see a member of the Nominating Committee: Andrea Weatherly, Carol Hoiby or Tony Houfek.

CROSS OF GLORY COUNCIL – Please see one of our current council members if you are interested in learning more about being part of our church council. (Paula Reed, Kolleen Olsen, Peg Lindner, Kevin Gaylor, Gretchen Davis, Claire Verkuilen, Brianna Thomalla)

JUSTMove PARTY - SUNDAY, JAN. 18 - 2:30-11:30PM | Woodlake Lutheran, Richfield

Youth in grades 6-9 from across the Twin Cities are invited to attend this justice-themed party centered on being holy disruptors. Enjoy a JUSTmove presentation by Joe Davis and David Scherer with music, poetry, storytelling, dance and conversation. Hear from justice advocates, enjoy inflatables, games, dinner and more. Youth in 10th-12th grades are invited to participate as leaders. This event sponsored by the Richfield Area Lutheran Youth (RALY) is free; a suggested donation of \$10 will be given for 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering MYLE scholarships. Adult volunteers are also needed. Let us know if you would like us to send you the link.

CROSS OF GLORY SNOW SHOVELING – If anyone can help with shoveling the sidewalks Sunday mornings when we get snow overnight, there is a signup sheet in the narthex. Thank you for your help!

THANK YOU – Recently our parish made a donation to the Community Support Center. Here is a thank you note from them: *“Thank you for your generous donation to the CSC! We are so grateful you were able to host our Annual Luncheon this year. All of this helps the CSC end the year in the black. Our community is stronger when neighbors come together to take care of each other. Thank you for your support – we appreciate it very much!” Karen Meyer, CSC Director*

WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE – Sunday, January 4 there will be a white elephant gift exchange at 9:30am at Cross of Glory. All are welcome to participate.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

December 24– Christmas Candlelight Service at Atonement **(4pm)**

December 24 – Christmas Candlelight Service at Cross of Glory with Cristo Rey **(10pm)**

December 28 – Lessons and Carols at Atonement **(9:30am)**

January 4, 2026 – Epiphany **(8:30 & 10:45)**