

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



December 17, 2025  
Mid-Week Advent Service



## 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

### Land Acknowledgement

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.

## 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

“A Blessing for Traveling in the Dark” by Jan Richardson

*Go slow if you can. Slower. More slowly still. Friendly dark or fearsome, this is no place to break your neck by rushing, by running, by crashing into what you cannot see.*

*Then again, it is true: different darks have different tasks, and if you have arrived here unaware, if you have come in peril or in pain, this might be no place you should dawdle.*

*I do not know what these shadows ask of you, what they might hold that means you good or ill. It is not for me to reckon whether you should linger or you should leave.*

*But this is what I can ask for you:*

*That in the darkness there be a blessing. That in the shadows there be a welcome. That in the night you be encompassed by the Love that knows your name.*

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The first candle we light is to remember those whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember their name, their face, their voice, the memory that binds them to us in this season.

*Pause for a moment of silence while the first candle is lit.*

**All: May God's eternal love surround them.**

The second candle we light is to redeem the pain of loss, the loss of someone who was very important to us, part of our lives, part of our own selves. We pause to gather up the pain of the past and offer it to God, asking that from God's hands we receive the gift of peace.

*Pause for a moment of silence while the second candle is lit.*

**All: Refresh, restore, renew us O God, and lead us into your future.**

The third candle we light is to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember these past weeks and months, the disbelief, the anger, the down times, the poignancy of reminiscing, the hugs and handshakes of family and friends, all those who stood with us. We give thanks for all the support we have known.

*Pause for a moment of silence while the third candle is lit.*

**All: Let us remember that dawn defeats darkness, life overcomes death.**

The fourth candle is lit to remember our faith and the gift of hope which the Christmas story offers to us. We remember that God, who shares our life, promises us a place and time of no more pain and suffering.

*Pause for a moment of silence while the fourth candle is lit.*

**All: Let us remember the One who shows the way,  
Who brings the truth and who bears the light.**

*The Christ candle will remain unlit as a sign of waiting for a future that is yet unknown to us, from which God beckons us.*

GATHERING MUSIC

“In the Bleak Midwinter” vv. 1-3

ELW 294

A PRAYER OF LONGING AND WAITING

Holy One, we have waited through many a long night, for your coming: like those of old our eyes have been red from weeping, our minds numb from anxiety, and our hands held out in longing.

And this Advent season sees us waiting again, alongside our own struggles, and alongside a world torn apart by greed and need, poverty and affluence, hunger and obesity.

When will You come to us? When will we see a star we can trust? When will wise ones rise up in our midst? When will humble workers see angels? How long, O God, must we wait for the promises to be fulfilled? How long will You keep us waiting?

So as once more we play the waiting game, unable to bring about the changes we seek, unable to put an end to society’s pain, unable to appease all the hunger, help us to be tenacious, unyielding in our expectation that Christ has come, and Christ will come again. **Amen.**

OFFERING HYMN

“Each Winter As the Year Grows Older” vv. 1-5

ELW 252

READING: ECCLESIASTES 3:1-11

<sup>1</sup>For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: <sup>2</sup>a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; <sup>3</sup>a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; <sup>4</sup>a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; <sup>5</sup>a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; <sup>6</sup>a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; <sup>7</sup>a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; <sup>8</sup>a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

<sup>9</sup>What gain have the workers from their toil? <sup>10</sup>I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. <sup>11</sup>He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

PSALM 22 (*Please read responsively*)

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, so far from the words of my groaning?

**All: O my God, I cry by day but you do not answer,  
and by night, but I find no rest.**

In you, our ancestors trusted.

They trusted and you delivered them.

**All: It was you who brought me from the womb,  
you who kept me safe on my mother's breast.  
Since my mother bore me, you have been my God.**

Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

**All: God does not despise the affliction of the afflicted.**

**God does not hide from me.**

**When I cry to God, God hears me.**

**Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION MUSIC

"Stay With Me" (3 times through)

ELW 348

GOSPEL: JOHN 14:26-27 (read 3 times with silence in between)

<sup>26</sup>But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup>Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

REFLECTION

Deacon Brad Mills

HYMN

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People" vv. 1-3

ELW 256

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION FOR BLUE CHRISTMAS

In the spirit of this season let us now confidently ask God for all the things we need; for ourselves as we participate in whatever way we can this Christmas.

God hear our prayer....

**All: And in your mercy answer.**

For our families and friends, that they may continue to help and support us.

God, hear our prayer....

**All: And in your mercy answer.**

For the person we have loved that has died. For all the losses that we know, that all may be redeemed by your Easter promise.

God, hear our prayer....

**All: And in your mercy answer.**

For all our family and friends  
that they may know love and peace and happiness in you.

God, hear our prayer....

**All: And in your mercy answer.**

For the peace proclaimed by the Christmas angels, to come throughout the whole world.

God, hear our prayer....

**All: And in your mercy answer.**

God of great compassion and love, listen to the prayers of these your people. Grant to all, especially the bereaved and troubled ones this Christmas, the blessing we ask in the name of Christ who taught us to pray together saying:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven....**

#### INDIVIDUAL PRAYER

Having prayed together as a community, we now shift our attention to the individual prayers that weigh on our hearts.

#### PRAYER PROMPTS

*For the next few minutes, you are invited to write prayer notes for yourself on the paper provided, using the prayer prompts below. Quiet music will play as you write, reflect, or as you take the time to silently pray or to be still and breathe. The notes are for you to bring with you when you leave, as a reminder that God is always with you. In every season.*

- Write five words that describe how you're feeling in this moment.
- Write down the names of people you carry in your heart today.
- Write down one area of your own life where you could use God's help, comfort, or guidance.
- Write down a prayer for your faith journey.
- Write down a prayer concern you have for our world.
- Take a minute to write any lingering prayers you have at this moment.

#### TRINITY CHIMES

*The singing bowl rings out three times to signal a close to our prayer time.*

#### CANDLE LIGHTING

*You are invited to come forward to light candle(s) to acknowledge the prayers you lift to God. Take your Time, sing if you feel moved to do so, and rest in the loving embrace of God's grace and comfort.*

"Light of the World"

"What Child Is This" vv. 1-3

Special Music

ELW 296

## SENDING

One: We are here.

**All: We are here.**

One: I see you and your pain.

**All: I see you and your pain.**

One: I see you and your hope.

**All: I see you and your hope.**

One: You are my neighbor.

**All: You are my neighbor.**

One: We belong to one another.

**All: We belong to one another.**

One: We are not in this alone.

**All: We are not in this alone.**

One: Thanks be to God for the love that binds us.

**All: Thanks be to God for the love that binds us.**

One: Amen.

## BENEDICTION

### SENDING HYMN

“What Wondrous Love Is This” vv. 1-4

ELW 666

CANDLE LIGHTING - *written by Rick Marshall in Blue Christmas: A Service of Remembrance for the Time of Advent and Christmas. Posted on the **Process and Faith** website. <http://processandfaith.org/resources/liturgy/blue-christmas>*

A PRAYER OF LONGING AND WAITING - *written by Ann Siddall, and posted on the **Stillpoint Spirituality Centre and Faith Community** website. <http://stillpointsa.org.au/prayer/prayers-and-liturgies/>*

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION: BLUE CHRISTMAS - *from a Blue Christmas service by the First United Church in Kelowna, BC. Published in Whole People of God 1996-1997.*

*Posted on the **Kir-shalom** website. <http://www.rockies.net/~spirit/sermons/bluexmas.php>*

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES:

Sunday, December 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent  
8:30am at Cross of Glory  
10:45am at Atonement

December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship  
4:00pm at Atonement  
10:00pm at Cross of Glory with Cristo Rey

Sunday, December 28 - Lessons & Carols  
9:30am at Atonement

Sunday, January 4 – Epiphany  
8:30am at Cross of Glory  
10:45am at Atonement

