

Keeping in Touch with you all for the 1st week of June, 2020

We've been busy! Even in lockdown. Salem, part of Marion County, Oregon, is on Phase I which means we may have small gatherings of less than 25 people, although social distancing and masks are still appropriate. We have received really good information from Oregon, from Marion County, from the ELCA, and from the Bishop of the Oregon Synod as well as the Methodist Bishop for our region, and other sources. Your leadership (executive team) meets today, June 2, 2020, by Zoom (a video conferencing platform) to begin a plan for worship at Holy Cross going forward. We have heard from many of you in the phone calls placed by our faithful leadership and Stewardship team, that you are in no hurry – that safety is paramount to you, as it is to us. Stay tuned for more information.

Sunday, May 31, 2020 – we held our 2nd Drive Up Communion (where you bring your own elements), maintaining social distance, and keeping people in their cars for this event. It took about an hour (again – 4+ minutes per car) and we had 20 cars this time, and 41 people. (Thanks Evan, for counting!) Our first Drive up Communion was on mothers day May 10th. Thank you for participating. Also, thank you for STAYING HOME if you felt that was appropriate for you. Going forward, we will continue to send those messages – STAY HOME to feel safer, feel free to attend when we offer something in person.

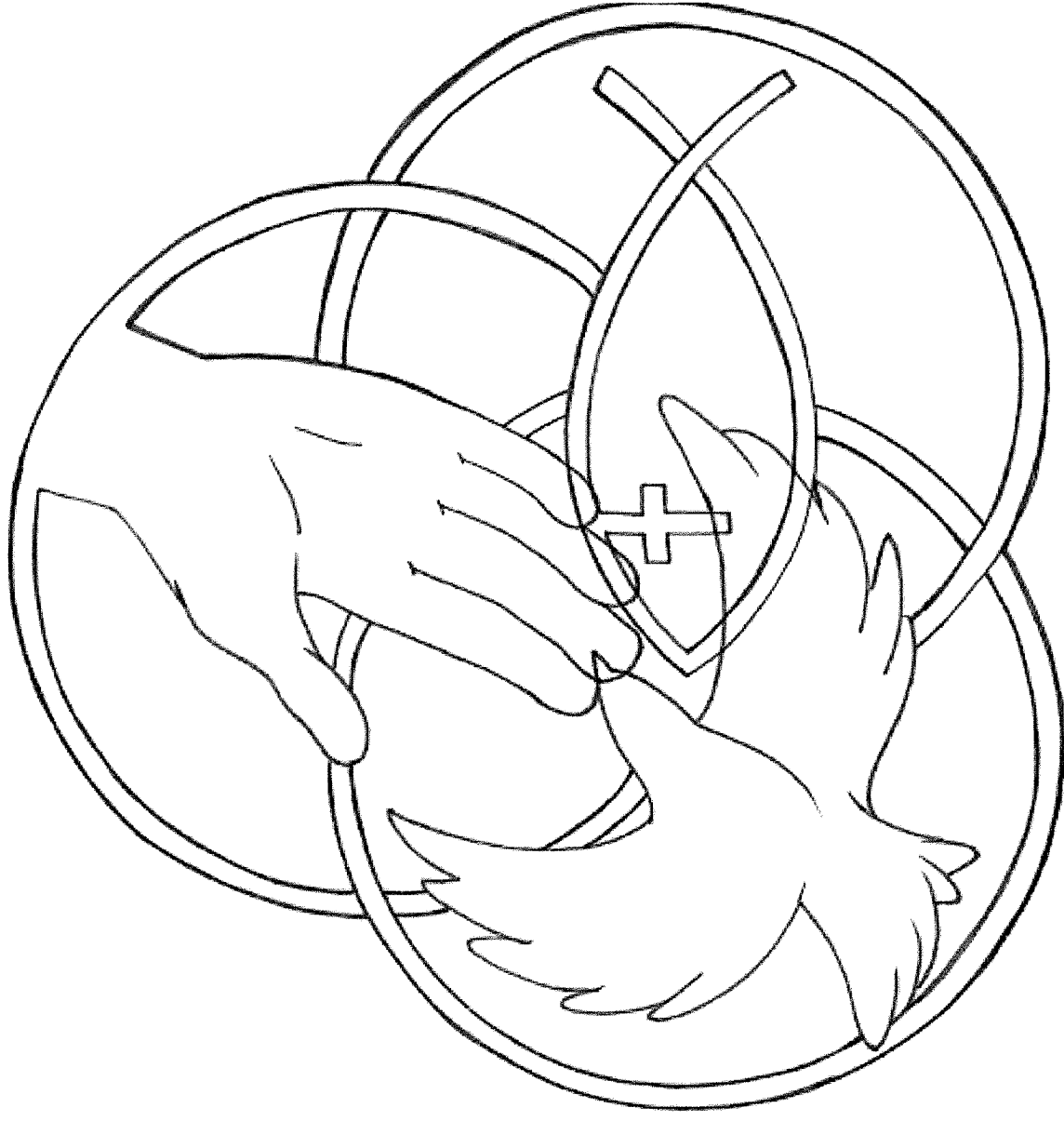
Planning is underway for our Commemoration of the Emanuel 9 – It's been 5 years since 9 individuals were killed in a bible study at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC. The 9 individuals killed were all African American. The shooter was a 21 year old white boy, who was a baptized and confirmed member of an ELCA Lutheran Congregation. We mourn this event, and beginning this year, will commemorate it every year on June 17th. Stay tuned for more information about the service which will be offered remotely.

We honored Clay, Chloe and Cole, our confirmands, this week, and are mailing cards to our graduates this week, too. They are Ezeiel Mushaney Makenna Falkenstein-Barker, Chloe Elmore and Caleb Sell.

Don't forget to join us for "What is God Saying Today" Thursdays at 5 pm – by zoom. 782 5295 9541 Meeting Password **9ZvcXn**

Thank you all for your prayers, and God bless you! – Pastor P

The Trinity is something unique about God - God is Father, (Creator), Son (Redeemer) and Holy Spirit (Sustainer) All at the same Time!



Pentecost Sermon – May 31, 2020- It's been quite a week here in Holy Cross Lutheran land. Our church sanctuary is beautiful, and ready for Pentecost – red banners, red flames and more. this week, we had two services of Affirmation of Baptism or Confirmation for 3 young people who worked hard for two years until they are now ready to be considered full participants – voting members – in the life of the church. just up the road my friend and fellow pastor Craig and his wife have been in ICU with Covid-19. And volunteers from the church are making calls to folks on our list to extend a hand and a heart to people dealing with isolation, and change, and sometimes illness. And three members of my church made the trip to the hospital this week for various reasons, one is still there, and I couldn't go be with them – which is what I do. In our country this week, a black man was brutally treated by an individual as he was arrested, and died of his injuries. And this week, the number of individuals who died of Covid 19 in the US reached 100,000. And my heart feels sadness, and loss, and all this is about the work of the Holy Spirit – Why was the church birthed but to be God's hands and feet to the world? Why are you watching this? All I can do is guess, but I think for many of you its because church, and the life of faith are important to you. At church, we feel supported by others who are trying to live this Christian walk in an honorable way. The life of faith gives us meaning, and purpose. All of this can be traced back to that moment in time in the Acts of the Apostles when the Holy Spirit came and filled the believers. Like the rush of a mighty wind, those followers of Jesus who were grappling with what to do now that he had ascended, they were filled, and inspired, and changed. And the group of Jewish pilgrims who had journeyed to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of Pentecost heard these disciples, and were filled themselves with the spirit of God, so that when they went back to the lands from which they came, having journeyed many days for the celebration, they took this good news with them – you are not alone. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob has heard your struggle, and sends the spirit to fill you. But, there's more. When we think about this day, the day the church was born, I often think of celebration, and joy and Christian unity but its not about any of those things. Because the spirit fills us, and the church was born not to make your life better. The spirit came and the church was born for one reason – to reach out to others. And when I say reach out, I'll be blunt, that's what I mean. Church is not about you. Church is about others. We are called to feel God's love, certainly, but not just to feel good, but rather to feel called to reach out to others – with care, with concern, with purpose. My husband Joe and I took a ride to Mary's peak for a hike this Monday since we had a holiday. While we drove, we talked. My wonderful Joe is very different from me and has lived a different life. And one difference is that I am a reader and he is less of one. And somehow, it came up that Joe asked me about the book "The Secret Garden". What's that about, he asked. I told him about the classic children's book by Frances Hodgson Burnett. It's about a young girl, Mary Lennox, whose parents have died in a plague in India, is shipped to England to live with her uncle, who lives in a large house, behind many closed doors. She arrives a petulant unpleasant child, but over time, she evolves, and finds a cousin living there, hiding, disabled, and together they bring a garden back to life that was walled off, and abandoned, and along the way they bring an old gardener, and eventually her uncle back to life as well. Why do I want you to think about the secret Garden? Well, we are all Mary Lennox – abandoned, unpleasant people. It is the work of the spirit that softens our hearts, and teaches us to reach out to care for others, to awaken the good within them, to coax them back to life. How do we do that? I think we do that by celebrating with young people as they grow, we do that by reaching out to care for the hurting, and by calling out injustice in our world when we see it. I think we do it by grieving the illness and death our country is currently enduring. I think we do it by advocating for the least of these, and by providing food and care for those in need. We do it by praying for the sick when we can't be with them. You are not alone, my friends, take comfort from that – and then get off your butt and work for each other – the stranger, and the friend. It's the work of the spirit – Blessed Pentecost to you all! – Pastor Patricia Hughes

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION WITH HOLY CROSS FOR TRINITY SUNDAY

These prayers were prepared for us by the Presiding Bishop, Reverend Elizabeth Eaton.

Gathered into the mystery of the Trinity, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

God of community, you form us as your church. Guide our bishops, pastors, and deacons as they lead the church in these trying times. With all the baptized, may they be strengthened to share the good news of Jesus Christ, and in prayer and action, strive for peace and justice in all the earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of creation, you called everything into being. Sustain this world with your renewing care. Instill in us a deeper wonder for the created world you've called good, and a greater humility for our place within it. Kindle in us a creative and resilient spirit as we care for the earth and its creatures. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of counsel, all authority belongs to you. Encourage leaders to seek wisdom and respond with courage and compassion to those most in need. We pray for community leaders in this time of unrest. Further the work of advocates who pursue justice in often ignored communities. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of care, you created us in your image; we are your beloved children. May we recognize your likeness in one another. We pray for all mourning the death of your beloved child, George Floyd. Hold in your loving embrace all experiencing trauma, fear, uncertainty, and loss (*especially*). Protect vulnerable children and adults from violence or neglect; provide what is needed for those lacking access to food, shelter, and other services. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of healing, you accompany us in sickness and suffering. Bring relief to all afflicted with the coronavirus and all those isolated now more than ever, especially those in prison or care facilities. Strengthen caregivers, health workers, and all whose work ensures the safety and well-being of others. Console, heal, and nourish all in need this day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of connection, you call us to make your presence known. Accompany people of faith as they nurture relationships in new ways. Where the sin of racism fractures our relationships, bring repentance and reconciliation. Free us for the difficult work ahead in our congregations and communities. Open our hearts for attentive listening so that our places of connection are filled with your Spirit. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of compassion, you comfort us in our grief with the promise of the resurrection. We give you thanks for the saints of all time and in our lives. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Service of the Word – The Holy Trinity – June 7, 2020
updated June 1, 2020

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Gathering

CONFESSING RACISM: A LAMENT FOR THE CHURCH

As church, we confess the sin of racism and condemn racist rhetoric and the ideology of white supremacy. God, have mercy.

God, have mercy.

As church, we confess, repent, and repudiate the times when this church has been silent in the face of racial injustice. God, have mercy.

God, have mercy.

Racism is deeply ingrained within the ELCA, a predominantly white church. It is deeply embedded within the individual congregations whose members continue to foster stereotypes and support policies that actively hurt people of color. God, have mercy.

God, have mercy.

As church, we declare that the enslavement of black bodies and the removal of indigenous peoples established racism in the United States, a truth this nation and this church have yet to fully embrace. God, have mercy.

God, have mercy.

Rooted in slavery, racism is manifested through the history of Jim Crow policies, racial segregation, the terror of lynching, extrajudicial killings by law enforcement, and the disproportionate incarceration of people of color. God, have mercy.

God, have mercy.

As church we lament the institutional racism of discriminatory treatment within the call process; inequitable compensation of clergy of color; racial segregation; divestment from black communities and congregations; systemic policies and organizational practices; and a failure to fully include the gifts of leadership and worship styles of black people, indigenous people, and people of color. God, have mercy.

God, have mercy.

Confessions are empty promises without meaningful actions—actions that are grounded in prayer, education, and soul-searching repentance. The sin of racism separates us from one another. Though we trust that we are reconciled

to God through Christ's death and resurrection, we seek such life-giving reconciliation with one another. As we repent, let us not turn back to ideologies that promote white supremacy. We trust that God can make all things new. **Amen.**

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the triune God: Author of creation, eternal Word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom. Guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1--2:4a

PSALM 8

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:16-20 *Bishop Eaton reads the gospel on video prior to her sermon.*

SERMON *Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton preaches a sermon on video.*

CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Save us, O God, from ourselves,
from racism often cloaked in pious words,
from the machinations of white supremacy hidden in calls for civility,
from micro aggressions thinly veiled in arrogance,
from apologies when they don't give way to action,
from forgiveness without facing the truth,
from reconciliation without reparation.

Deliver us, O God, from expecting siblings of color to continue to bear this
emotional work, which is not theirs to do.

Grateful for the long arc that bends toward justice, we pray:
Grant us wisdom,
give us courage for the facing of these days,
by the power of the Spirit, all for the sake of the kin-dom that we share in
Christ Jesus.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.
O God of justice and love,
we give thanks to you
that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son.
Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others,
and at the end bring all the world to your feast;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

A PRAYER FOR THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT AMONG THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.

Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.

Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world:

a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.

Wherever and however we gather,

unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission,
that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

The holy Three, the holy One
increase your hope,
strengthen your faith,
deepen your love,
and + grant you peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.