

October 27, 2020 - Counting down with Holy Cross – A week to remember

We are intentional people of God who seek to be used by God for God's purposes – to build up individuals, and communities, to praise God together, to foster goodwill and care for those who may be in need or want at this time. To be God's disciples – following Christ's example. This is a big week coming up – the virus is active again, kids and adults just want to enjoy Halloween, All Saints is upon us, and the memories of those who have died are very real. Election night will finally be here next Tuesday, and the television ads must finally end, and the important task of voting is upon us. Our country, our neighborhoods have been hit hard this year, and this week is no exception. Here's a countdown of the next 7 days (assuming your mail comes on Wednesday!) and the opportunities available to each of us as people of faith and citizens of a great nation. Bless you – Pastor P+

Wednesday, October 28, 2020 – Looks like Wednesday will be a quiet day in a busy week. So, let's begin this week by praying - We pray as the family of God for all who may be ill in our community and in our world. We seek God's moving in the scientific and medical communities to produce a vaccine for Covid-19. WE pray for health, and wellness today – God in your mercy – open your healing hands. Amen. Our Racial Equality Book study with St. Mark and Christ the Good Shepherd meets on zoom tonight <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84759278812>. Check it out – we are reading “White Fragility” together.

Thursday, October 29, 2020 – Thursday is a great day for bible study! Join us at Holy Cross in person at noon, or on Zoom at 5 pm for What is God saying today? (that link is here - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78252959541?pwd=NVps>) Read Matthew 5;1-12 and join us. Also at 6:30 pm join us for the Oregon Synod Disaster Preparedness seminar! Here's that info - To Register, email your name & congregation name to beprepared@oregonsynod.org

Friday, October 30, 2020 – A second quiet day in a busy week! Time to pray! God, thank you for Autumn, and for Children. Help them to find a way to enjoy the Halloween moments this year, while being safe from the Pandemic. And, by the way, don't let us eat all the candy we bought for the kids in one sitting! Amen.

Saturday, October 31, 2020 – It's Halloween, and lots of kids will be staying home, to be safe from spreading the virus. If you know some kids, neighbors, or family, won't you call them, and wish them a happy Halloween? Or facetime them to see their costumes? Or send their parents a few dollars to buy them some candy? Pandemics are hard on kids. They tire of the restrictions, and can't quite understand, especially when some adults ignore the safety guidelines. Do something safe and spooky for a kid you know! Before going to bed be sure to set your clocks back! Unless your clocks are smart enough to set themselves back!

Sunday, November 1, 2020 – Day light savings time ENDS so set your clocks back an hour. Have a leisurely morning getting used to that, and then Come to church. We offer a devotional “come and go” experience from 12 to 1:30 pm. Bring a picture or a memento of a loved one, and place on our Ofrenda. Then light a candle for your loved ones who have died. Remember them. Then pray in the sanctuary and listen to some wonderful music. The Usher will be letting in 10 of you at a time, for a time of prayer. If the sanctuary is full, you’ll be asked to wait in your cars until the usher beckons you to come for your turn! Tim Bibelheimer will play the organ, and Sheila Clausen will play the piano. We have prayers and devotions for you to contemplate. Pray for the health of the world, the gift of the gospel, and for the nation as we enter into Election Day. Since it’s Oregon and we do mail in ballots be sure and fill yours out, and mail it in or drop it off at a ballot box. Thank you. We will have our usual 5 worship elements posted online – www.holycrosslutheran-salem.org or on Facebook at Holy Cross Lutheran – Salem, or on my youtube channel Pastor Patricia Hughes – look for November 1st. Bishop Laurie has a service opportunity for you that evening – She is hosting a prayer service on Facebook life at 7pm – 7:30. Check it out on <http://oregonsynod.org/index.php/calendar/>.

Monday, November 2, 2020 – We in the church have called this day All Souls Day. Hundreds of years ago, this day was observed more often than we do today. Martin Luther, however, encouraged people who were able to visit the graves of loved ones that had died, as a connection between this life and the one to come. Be gentle with yourself on these two days in the church where the ones we loved who have died are close to us. I’m praying for you all, my friends.

Tuesday, November 3, 2020 – and so today, after all the weeks of political commercials and interviews, and debates, we have election day! Friends, there are so many reasons that voting is an important duty for a Christian – our vote shows we are invested in this world and willing to work for it! Remember my favorite Martin Luther quote “God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does!” I ask you to cast your vote as your conscience shows you, and then to pray. Pray for the safety of the election workers, the sanctity of the process, and, that men and women of Good Will be a shining example throughout this day and however long it takes for results to be assured. Our nation has endured some of the most divisive days since the Civil War. Pray with me, won’t you for a peaceful and calm Election, as well as its aftermath. God of Love, surround us with your care, and help us to model goodwill and fine citizenship as people of God. Be with all election workers, all those who oversee the election process, and all leaders in political parties. Give them calm, give them wisdom and most of all give them righteousness. Let all the world marvel at the peacefulness of our process this year in America. Amen.

Well that’s it! It’s going to be a busy week! Pray, won’t you? God bless you all

Reverend Patricia Hughes+, Pastor

If you continue in my word, The sermon today is about 6 words. Don't get your hopes up that it will be extra short, though. From a different translation – If you abide in my word. And another one – If you hold to my teaching. These are the first words in John 8:31, the gospel passage I have preached every Reformation Sunday of my career, and besides that, the gospel I have heard nearly every Reformation Sunday of my life. The translations vary because I think we are trying so hard as Christ followers to get Jesus' tone of voice just right, partly because as complex people we just can't quite believe that being a Christian, a real follower of Jesus is this simple. Because Jesus lays it out here Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. I think you all are visual people, too, so let's take Jesus' words to his disciples there, and step back, and hear them in the place and time they were delivered. Jesus has journeyed with his disciples to Jerusalem. It is Sukkoht the festival of booths or tabernacles. I have had the joy of participating in Sukkoht at my nephew's home – a Jewish home. It is a time when a little hut is erected – in every backyard or sometimes on synagogue grounds, and the people gather to remember that they journeyed in the desert for 40 years in their ancient history which we just studied in the book of Exodus. The tabernacle or booth is designed to bring to mind the history of God traveling with God's people, without need of a temple, or a church or anything substantial, but rather that God is with the people on their journey in this life. In Jesus day, as the people were terribly oppressed by Roman overlords there was a wistful quality to the festival of booths – does God still live with us as God did when God cared for them daily with manna and quails and water from the rock? It is clear that Jesus' conversations during this trip to Jerusalem were focused on helping the people make this connection – that Jesus was God and had come to live among them, caring for them again, much as God cared for the people when they lived in booths out in the dangerous and fearful desert. And Jesus' words – if you abide in my word – are given to those who have gathered around him to comfort them, to give them peace. And I think, to give them faith. One more visual for today, if you don't mind. Over the last several years, the community at Holy Cross has attempted to abide in Jesus' words in this way – three years ago we spent time watching and talking about a series called This Changed Everything – a historical look at the Reformation in 1517, and the echoes of those truths. The Reformation swept away hundreds of years of the church and its people trying to earn our way to God's love, and returned us to cling to these words, "For it is by grace that you are saved, and not of your own making". Unfortunately, that re-orienting of Christian love resulted in more division and fracturing of the Christian faith – as groups or denominations tried to divide the disciples in a search to follow what Jesus was 'really' talking about. Then last year at Holy Cross we spent months in a study of "Honoring our neighbor's faith" and we enjoyed speakers from other faith traditions helping us to see how they found God's love and purpose in different faith practices than our own. And now this year, as we find the safety necessities of living in Pandemic times making our faith practices shift to online sermons, and prayers and such, and careful gatherings that must leave out the hymn singing and passing of the peace that we have loved so much in our lives. And, this week I come to tell you that over the last month or so, a group of East Salem Pastors began to meet, and asked me to join them, to talk about how we can be connected in the cause of Christ during these times. Who'd have thought it? The East Salem pastors are diverse, they are male and female, black, white and Hispanic, young and old, liturgical and pentecostal. And so we have begun work on a plan that would record dialogue sermons to offer to each faith community in our neighborhood – dialogue between two pastors of the neighborhood, focusing on this one thing. If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples and the truth shall set you free.

Well, my friends, disciples of the living Christ. You are free indeed. God's love has made you so. And your response, through the years, and through this epidemic time, has been faithful. If you abide in my word. Thank you my friends, for abiding with me, through this time. Every day brings a new reassurance that Christ's love is real, and you are loved. Amen. – Pastor Patricia Hughes+

WORSHIPPING AT HOME WITH HOLY CROSS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2020 – ALL SAINTS DAY
ELW SETTING THREE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, One God, who creates, redeems and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

Faithful God, have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ. Let by the Holy Spirit, live in Freedom and newness to do God's work in the world with our own hands.

GATHERING HYMN – “For All the Saints” ELW 422

- 1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 3 Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine,
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 4 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

- 5 The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful servants cometh rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 6 But then there breaks a yet more glorious day:
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 7 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

READINGS AND PSALM

Revelation 7:9-17

The multitudes of heaven worship the Lamb

Psalms 34:1-10, 22

Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD; for those who fear the LORD lack nothing. (Ps. 34:9)

1 John 3:1-3

We are God's children

Matthew 5:1-12

Blessed are the poor in spirit

APOSTLES' 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 INTERCESSION (see attached prayers)

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Christ, our strength and our song. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

When our congregation gathered for the celebration of Holy Communion, we heard again the story of God's mighty acts and of the love shown us in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. With thanksgiving we remembered that "in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

The people of our congregation were given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit. As you worship in your homes, we remember the gift of communion that we share.

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me shall never hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

At this time, you may remember the gift of holy communion with your own bread and cup.

Communion Blessing The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen**

COMMUNION BLESSING

God of the welcome table,
in this meal we have feasted on your goodness
and have been united by your presence among us.
Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts
so that we may share your neighborly love with all,
through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

The God of compassion, hope and joy,
Our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
Bless your feet to carry you into places of need.
Bless your lips to proclaim love and mercy.
Bless your heart to love and listen to those you encounter.
Bless your hands to care for the needs of your neighbors.
Bless you to be a blessing to others.
Now and always.
Amen.

Praying together at Holy Cross – November 1, All Saints Day (Dia de los Muertos)

Lord of all the saints, we praise you for evangelists and martyrs whose sacrifices witness to your gospel across time and space. Inspire us by their courage to carry our faith to new people and places around us.

God of abundant grace,

Open your healing hands.

Lord of every place, the universe proclaims your greatness from generation to generation. Bless the work of naturalists, conservationists, and park rangers who train our attention to the wonders of the world you have made.

God of abundant grace,

Open your healing hands.

Lord of every nation, guide this country—red states and blue states, rural voters and urban voters, young and old—as we share in another national election. Kindle hearts eager to understand our common needs and seek our common good.

God of abundant grace,

Open your healing hands.

Lord of every blessing, your Son's blessing came to those living with poverty, grief, hunger, thirst, and persecution. Shape our vision of the saints to match his own. Awaken in us your call to serve all who suffer. Be with those particularly affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic, by illness or by financial reversals and job loss.

God of abundant grace,

Open your healing hands.

Lord of every venture, anoint us with the missionary spirit of the early church. Bless all new missions of our synod. Empower testimony from new communities of faith to shape a diverse witness to your saving power.

God of abundant grace,

Open your healing hands.

Lord of every time, countless are the multitudes you have called by name and gathered to yourself. Comfort us as we grieve those who have died in the past year. We especially miss those from our church family and community who have died. In faith, may we join with them in ceaseless praise. God of abundant grace,

Open your healing hands.

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.





ALL SAINTS

Time of prayer and contemplation.

November 1, 2020, 12 noon to 1:30 pm (come and go)

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Sanctuary
1998 Lansing Ave NE, Salem, OR 97301



Bring a memento if you choose to place on our Ofrenda in honor of Dia de los Muertos. Light a candle in honor or memory of a loved one who has died. Take a seat (10 people at a time) in the sanctuary, enjoying Organ and Piano Music while you sit in prayer and devotional reading. Pray for our nation.

Tim Bibelheimer, on the Organ
Sheila Clausen, on the Piano

The Great Cloud of Witnesses, bearing nearly 400 names of Holy Cross family members who have died, will be hanging from the ceiling.

