

## **From your Council President – November 23, 2021**

Last Sunday was the final one in our church calendar year. We observed this by celebrating Christ the King Sunday with special music from both choirs and welcoming our new Interim Pastor, Curtis Zieske. He led us in worship and Holy Communion and after service there was an informal meet and greet in the gym. Recordings of these events may be viewed on YouTube at; <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiHbmFBDWLG1W-jcI8jRhOQ>

This coming Sunday is the beginning of the new church year which starts with the season of Advent. The next four weeks will see us preparing for the coming of the Messiah in the form of baby Jesus on Christmas Eve and focusing of the four themes of the Advent wreath candles: Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love. We are moving from the Setting 8 liturgy we have been using since summer and returning for the Advent season to the “In Light & Darkness” liturgy we used back in 2019. Our journey begins on the first Sunday of Advent, this coming **Sunday, November 21, 2021, at 10:00 AM**. Please join us if you are able. We are still following our Covid protocols of wearing masks, sitting socially distant and the congregation is not singing (yet!).

In addition to the end and beginning of the church year, the end of November marks the beginning of the Holiday Season. This kicks off with Thanksgiving this week and includes Christmas and into the New Year. Please give pause and think about how God has been active in your life over the past twelve months. There have been many challenges for us and the world over the past year and we are reminded daily of the fragility of life. Please take this time to value your loved ones, the blessings God has given to you and the ways you and your church implement these gifts to spread God’s goodness throughout our community. If we continue to put our faith and trust in the Lord, there is no stopping what we can accomplish in his name.

As we move forward with our transition, taking time for thoughtful discernment regarding our present state and future mission here at Holy Cross, may I offer some words of prayer from our church wide body.

*“Lord, thank you for your abundant generosity and never-ending grace. Let us remember you, the source of all our blessings, as we give thanks for all we have, all we have had, and all that is yet to come; Ask God to stir up our hearts as the season of Advent approaches. Nurture our leaders, giving them strength to continue to listen and make sound decisions for all, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.”*

Wishing you all a very Happy Thanksgiving – Bryan Struve, Council President

**Worshipping at Home with Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
November 28, 2021 – First Sunday in Advent**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who alone does wonders,  
who lifts up the lowly,  
who fills the hungry with good things.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God for whom we wait,

**in the presence of one another,**

**we confess our sin before you.**

**We fail in believing that your good news is for us.**

**We falter in our call to tend your creation.**

**We find our sense of self in material wealth.**

**We fear those different from ourselves.**

**We forget that we are your children**

**and turn away from your love.**

**Forgive us, Blessed One,**

**and assure us again of your saving grace.**

**Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit,

† your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High,

inheritors of the eternal promise,

and recipients of divine mercy.

God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

**Amen.**

**GREETING**

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.**

## **KYRIE**

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,  
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;  
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,  
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the  
poor;

that we may live out truth and justice and grace,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,  
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;  
for life and for love, for our work and our play,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,  
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the  
Word;

that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,  
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

## **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

**This is the feast of vict'ry for our God,  
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,  
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of vict'ry for our God,  
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God,  
and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing, honor, glory and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.  
This is the feast of vict'ry for our God,  
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **READINGS AND PSALM**

#### **Jeremiah 33:14-16**

*A righteous branch springing up from David*

#### **Psalms 25:1-10**

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. (Ps. 25:1)

#### **1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

*Strengthen hearts of holiness for the coming of the Lord*

#### **Luke 21:25-36**

*Be alert for the coming of the Son of Man*

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia.* Stand up and raise your heads—your redemption is drawing near. *Alleluia.* (Luke 21:28)

### **HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 257 “O, Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

### **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**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of our waiting and watching,  
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives  
to the service of all your people.

Prepare the way before us  
as we meet you in this simple meal,  
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. **Amen.**

### **MEAL**

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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. Now we bring to you this same bread of life and this same cup of blessing, that you may be strengthened through your participation in the body of Christ.

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.***

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

## **THE 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.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Most High God, you have come among us at this table.  
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,  
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,  
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. **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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.**

## **BLESSING - HENRI FREDERIC AMIEL**

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind. And Go in Peace to love and serve The Lord.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is near.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities (*local, state, and national government officials may be named*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters (*especially*), for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**